

COVID-19 Economic Impact Payment Role of SSA– Representative Payee (Rep-Payee)

Is the Rep-Payee responsible managing my Economic Impact Payment (EIP)?

Under the Social Security Act, a rep-payee is only responsible for managing Social Security or SSI benefits. An EIP is not such a benefit. A rep-payee should discuss the EIP with you. If you want to use the EIP independently, the rep-payee should provide the EIP to you. If you ask the rep-payee for assistance to save or use the EIP in a specific manner, they can provide that assistance outside of their role as rep-payee.

How should the Rep-Payee account for the EIP in the annual report?

Because an EIP is not a Social Security or SSI benefit, rep-payees are not required to account for the EIP when they complete their annual Representative-Payee Report (also known as the annual accounting form).

What if the Rep-Payee misuses my EIP?

Because an EIP is not a Social Security or SSI benefit, SSA does not have authority to investigate or determine whether the EIP has been misused. However, if SSA receives an allegation that the EIP was not used on behalf of the beneficiary, SSA may decide to investigate for possible misuse of the beneficiary's Social Security or SSI benefit payments. SSA may also determine the rep-payee is no longer suitable and appoint a new rep-payee. For assistance, contact the SSA Fraud and Abuse Hotline: <https://secure.ssa.gov/pfrf/home> or Disability Rights RI, 1- 800-733-5332.

Can I save money and stay within benefit resource limits?

- Yes, you can! If you became disabled before the age of 26, consider opening an ABLE Account. An ABLE Account allows you to save for Disability Related Expenses with no impact on your SSI, Medicaid or other benefits.
- For more information or to open an account, go to RI's ABLE at <https://savewithable.com/ri/home.html> or the National Able Alliance at <https://savewithable.com/home.html>.

Source SSA: <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/#reppayee>

To the best of our knowledge, this information is accurate as of May 1, 2020. For updates or more information, visit the IRS website at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments> or the Social Security Administration website at <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>.



The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities is the Rhode Island resource for benefits counseling and work incentives information. Learn more at www.sherlockcenter.org or contact Jeanne Fay at jfay@ric.edu or 401-456-4733.