



Financial Readiness Program & Army Emergency Relief



June 2020

HAPPY SUMMER



AER's Home Schooling Assistance Program



As a result of school closings due to COVID-19, many Army parents are now managing the educational needs of their children through home school programs. Some Army Families may experience financial hardship and face difficulty paying the additional costs associated with purchasing home school supplies and equipment.

Eligible Soldiers with dependents in grades K thru 12th for home schooling costs for specific school supplies up to \$500 per family. Eligibility period for this special category of assistance will be retroactive back to 1 March 2020 and extend until rescinded by HQ AER. Assistance will be provided as a loan, grant or combination to minimize any additional financial hardship on Soldiers and Families.

For more information, call (803) 751-5256.

Protecting Your Finances During COVID-19: Economic Impact Payment Updates - www.consumer.sc.gov

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Some consumers may still be looking for their economic impact payments (EIP) in the mail. The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) wants consumers to be aware of two situations that may affect how, or even if, they receive the money.

Some consumers may receive their payment in the form of a debit card. If you haven't gotten your payment yet, you're probably expecting a check. While some people may receive checks, most of the remaining EIPs will be sent out on prepaid debit cards. No, this isn't a scam! Here's what to know:

- **Look for a VISA branded prepaid card.** The envelope will read from the "Money Network Cardholder Service."
- **Activate the card immediately.** The mailer will give instructions on how to activate the card. You will have to give your social security number to activate it. You can use the card at an ATM, anywhere that accepts VISA debit cards and you can get cash back at certain stores. Make sure to read the card agreement and fee list for details on how you can use the card and what fees may be charged.
- **The cards expire after three years.** When it does, the bank will send any money left on the card to you. **Questions about the card?** Call Money Network at 1 (800) 240-8100 or visit EIPCard.com. For information on economic impact payment, visit irs.gov/EIP.
- **Did you throw away your card thinking it was a scam or spam?** Call Money Network and choose the "Lost/Stolen" option. Your card will be deactivated, and a new card will be issued. The first replacement card is free.
- **Watch out for scammers!** Unless you've asked for help, no one will ever call, text, email or send you a message about your economic impact payment card. If a "cold caller" reaches out to you, do not give out and personal information and end the contact.
- Consumers who believe they are the victim of a COVID-19 related scam are encouraged to seek guidance from SCDCA's Identity Theft Unit. Call (844) TELL DCA (835-5322).

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. To file a complaint or get information on consumer issues, visit www.consumer.sc.gov or call toll-free, 1 (800) 922-1594.



FOR SOLDIERS

FOR FAMILIES

FOR RETIREES

FOR CIVILIANS



Have you lost income because of the coronavirus? Five things you can do right now to reduce your expenses.

Written by Lila Quintiliani, Military Saves

Financial Readiness Services:

Emergency Financial Assistance

Financial Classes

Financial Counseling

Debt Liquidation Assistance

Consumer Advocacy & Complaint Resolution

Army Community Service

9810 Lee Road

Fort Jackson, SC 29207

Hours of Service:

Mon - Fri, 0730 - 1630

(803) 751-5256

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<https://jackson.armymwr.com/programs/financial-readiness-progra>

1. **Call Your Creditors** In these times of crisis, many creditors are stepping forward and offering temporary relief in the form of reduced or skipped payments, reduced interest, and forbearance.
2. **Prioritize Debts** Now that you've called your creditors, you have a better idea of what needs to be paid and what can be temporarily put on hold. This will hopefully free up some of your income.
3. **Put One of Your Cars into "Storage"** Give your insurance company a call and see if you can temporarily put your vehicle into "storage" at your house.
4. **Cancel or Pause Memberships or Subscriptions** Make sure to read the fine print – with some contracts, there may be a hefty cancellation fee. But there's a possibility that the membership can be paused.
5. **Temporarily Stop Contributing to Retirement Accounts** While it literally pains me to say it, there are times in life when one must prioritize emergency needs over saving for other goals. So, if there's a chance that you may not be able to pay for your rent, your mortgage, or food or medicine, then it may be time to temporarily halt contributions to your TSP, IRA, or workplace 401k.

Full article can be found at www.militarysaves.org

Save Money this Father's Day

Spoil him with breakfast in bed—Breakfast in bed isn't just for Mother's Day! Dad's can enjoy it too! Whip up some of his favorite brunch treats and start Father's Day off right.

Fire up the backyard grill - There's no greater way to get to a Dad's heart than having a barbeque in his honor. Grab his favorite meats, and serve sides he is sure to love.



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