

Ways to spend your stimulus check

Source: Kelly May, senior extension associate for family finance and resource management

You may have gotten or soon will be receiving an economic impact payment or so-called "stimulus check" that is the result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. These payments are meant to help offset the financial hardships for individuals and families caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Carefully consider what to do with this money before spending it. Here are some ideas to help you get the most from your stimulus check.

1. Take care of the basics. If you have lost your job or have been laid off as a result of COVID-19, you may be struggling to take care of your basic needs, such as food, medicine and utilities. This money is intended to help you do that. If you are struggling, spend it on those items.
2. Get up-to-date on your bills. If you have fallen behind on your debts, you can use the stimulus as a chance to get caught up on those payments. Make sure you prioritize

Extension Notes

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your debts in order of the most urgent payments. The CARES Act included additional relief options for certain payments, such as federally backed mortgages and student loans. You can contact your lender to find out what your options are.

3. Build an emergency fund. If you are able to meet all of your debt obligations and provide for your family's basic needs, consider saving the money in an emergency fund. Just because you do not need the money right now does not mean that you will never need it in the future. An emergency fund can help you cover those unexpected expenses such as car repairs or major appliance purchases as they occur down the road.

4. Spend it wisely. If you decide to spend your stimulus check, make sure your purchase is a wise one, such as a home improvement, which could increase the value of your home or job training or education that can help increase your income in the future.

5. Invest it. Make your stimulus money grow for your and your family's future by investing it. There are many different types of investments you can consider, including 529 college saving plans, traditional and Roth IRAs, certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds etc. You can find out more about these investment options online or by contacting your banker or financial advisor.

More information on family financial education topics is available by contacting the Russell County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

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Provides specific support for organic and for transitioning to organic production activities and a special grassland conservation initiative for certain producers

who have maintained cropland base acres.

While applications are accepted throughout the year, interested producers should

submit applications to their local NRCS office by the deadline to ensure their applications are considered for 2020 funding.



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Mickey Pennington front, Patrick Branco, CEO

Stella "Mickey" Pennington Materials Management Supervisor 1st Quarter 2020 Shining Star

Mickey began her career in May 2004, as a Central Stores Clerk. In September 2018, she became the Supervisor.

Mickey was presented a Shining Star Certificate, Shining Star Pin and a check for \$200, by CEO, Patrick Branco.

Mickey works very hard at her job, making sure the hospital and Clinics have plenty of supplies. It was especially important to have someone with experience in getting and keeping the supplies of PPE that has been needed during these trying times. And she did an excellent job.

Mickey had many, many nominations stating what a wonderful job she has always done, but especially during this pandemic. Although we are still going through this time, the hospital is happy to know that she is always at the helm, making sure we have the supplies we need.

Mickey is a wonderful example of a Shining Star Employee and we are happy that she is a part of Russell County Hospital.

2020 South Kentucky RECC Annual Meeting Notice:

Due to COVID-19 concerns and current restrictions, the 2020 South Kentucky RECC Annual Meeting week is cancelled.

This was a decision that we hoped we would not have to make, but the safety of our members, employees and the communities are our first concern. As there are no required actions of the membership that make it necessary to hold the annual meeting, we are not required to have an annual meeting. SKRECC's Annual Report with financial information will be in your May issue of the Kentucky Living Magazine, and it is also available on our website, www.skrecc.com.

When restrictions are eased, South Kentucky RECC plans to hold Member Appreciation Days at each office location later in the year. We will distribute our popular bucket and bulbs at that time. Similarly, we intend to hold our planned truck giveaway drawing as well. Dates and details will be forthcoming.

We hope to see everyone at Annual Meeting 2021!



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