



Move to All-Electronic Federal Benefit Payments Has Begun

Urge remaining check recipients in your community to switch ahead of the final deadline

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has begun its move toward all-electronic federal benefit payments. This means that everyone applying for federal benefits will now receive their payments electronically from day one, while anyone currently receiving paper federal benefit checks must switch to electronic payments by **March 1, 2013**. Paper checks will no longer be an option.

Join the Treasury Department's **Go Direct**[®] public education campaign and urge remaining federal benefit check recipients to switch to electronic payments immediately – rather than waiting until the final deadline. You can also communicate to people who may be getting ready to apply for federal benefits about the information they'll need to have on-hand in order to choose their preferred electronic payment option.

As a trusted resource in your community, your help in communicating this change to how federal benefit payments are being delivered is vital. By getting involved today, you can help the people you serve experience a smooth transition to electronic payments.

Why Electronic Payments?

Receiving federal benefit payments electronically means senior citizens, people with disabilities, veterans and others can experience significant advantages compared to paper checks, including:

- ✓ **Safety** – No risk of lost or stolen checks.
- ✓ **Ease** – No need to make a special trip to cash or deposit a check.
- ✓ **Reliability** – Payments are on time, every time.
- ✓ **Cost-Savings** – Saves taxpayers \$120 million each year.

Two Treasury-Recommended Options

- ✓ **Direct deposit.** People who have bank or credit union accounts can choose to receive their federal benefit payments through direct deposit. The money goes straight into a person's checking or savings account on payment day each month. To sign up, people can go to www.GoDirect.org, call (800) 333-1795, or visit their local bank or credit union.
- ✓ **Direct Express**[®] Debit MasterCard[®] card. This prepaid debit card is a safe, low-cost alternative to paper checks for federal benefit payments. Cardholders can make retail purchases, pay bills and get cash wherever Debit MasterCard is accepted. No bank account or credit check is required. To sign up for the card, or to learn about its fees and features, people can go to www.GoDirect.org, call (800) 333-1795, or contact their local federal agency office.

Help Your Community Members Take Action Now

The **Go Direct** campaign provides free fliers, posters, newsletter copy, web banners and more to make it easy for you to share this important information. Get involved today – it's simple!

- ✓ **Publish the news** – Include campaign information in your newsletters and other communication channels.
- ✓ **Distribute information** – Display campaign materials in your organization's facilities and hand them out at events.
- ✓ **Present the facts** – Add campaign slides and talking points to your existing presentations and speaking engagements.
- ✓ **Communicate online** – Upload a campaign web banner to your organization's website or post a campaign message to your social media channels.

Free Materials

Order or download **Go Direct** campaign materials at no cost by visiting www.GoDirect.org.

For More Information

To learn more about the **Go Direct** campaign, contact a representative at (952) 346-6055 or GoDirect@webershandwick.com. Or, visit www.GoDirect.org.

About the **Go Direct**[®] campaign

The **Go Direct**[®] national public education campaign informs Americans of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's move to make all federal benefit payments electronic. The campaign provides Americans with the tools and resources they need to sign up for, or transition to, electronic payment options for Social Security, Veterans benefits, or other federal benefits. The campaign reaches current check recipients as well as people applying for federal benefits.

About the **Direct Express**[®] card

The **Direct Express**[®] Debit MasterCard[®] card is a prepaid debit card for federal benefit payments. Cardholders can make retail purchases, pay bills and get cash back at thousands of locations nationwide. Most services are free. There are fees for a limited number of optional transactions and services. Sign-up is free and no bank account or credit check is required.

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