

As I'm sure you know, the \$2 trillion "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security" ("CARES") Act was recently signed into law. The CARES Act is designed to help those most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, while also providing key provisions that may benefit retirees.¹

To put this monumental legislation in perspective, Congress earmarked \$800 billion for the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 during the financial crisis.¹

The CARES Act has far-reaching implications for many. Here are the most important provisions to keep in mind:

- **Stimulus Check Details** - Americans can expect a one-time direct payment of up to \$1,200 for individuals (or \$2,400 for married couples) with an additional \$500 per child under age 17. These payments are based on the 2019 tax returns for those who have filed them and 2018 information if they have not. The amount is reduced if an individual makes more than \$75,000 or a couple makes more than \$150,000. Those who make more than \$99,000 as an individual (or \$198,000 as a couple) will not receive a payment.¹
- **Business Relief** - The act also allocates \$500 billion for loans, loan guarantees, or investments to businesses, states, and municipalities.¹
- **Inherited 401(k)s** - People who have inherited 401(k)s or Individual Retirement Accounts can suspend distributions in 2020. Required distributions don't apply to people with Roth IRAs; although, they do apply to investors who inherit Roth accounts.²
- **Suspended RMD** - The CARES Act suspends the minimum required distributions most people must take from 401(k)s and IRAs in 2020. In 2009, Congress passed a similar rule, which gave retirees some flexibility when considering distributions.^{2,3}
- **Withdrawal Penalties** - Account owners can take a distribution of up to \$100,000 from their retirement plan or IRA in 2020, without the 10-percent early withdrawal penalty that normally applies to money taken out before age 59½. But remember, you still owe the tax.⁴

Many businesses and individuals within our community are struggling with the new realities that COVID-19 has created. The CARES Act, however, may provide some much-needed relief for our neighbors, friends, and loved ones.

If you'd like to chat about how the CARES Act impacts you or to see if these special 2020 distribution rules are appropriate for your situation, give me a call or just hit reply.

Under the CARES act, an accountholder who already took a 2020 distribution has up to 60 days to return the distribution without owing taxes on it. This material is not intended as tax or legal advice. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation. Under the SECURE Act, your required minimum distribution (RMD) must be distributed by the end of the 10th calendar year following the year of the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) owner's death. Penalties may occur for missed RMDs. Any RMDs due for the original owner must be taken by their deadlines to avoid penalties. A surviving spouse of the IRA owner, disabled or chronically ill individuals, individuals who are not more than 10 years younger than the IRA owner, and children of the IRA owner who have not reached the age of majority may have other minimum distribution requirements.

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Accountholders can always withdraw more. But if they take less than the minimum required, they could be subject to a 50% penalty on the amount they should have withdrawn – except for 2020.

1. CNBC.com, March 25, 2020.
2. The Wall Street Journal, March 25, 2020.
3. The Wall Street Journal, March 25, 2020.
4. The Wall Street Journal, March 25, 2020.

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