

BETter Living ...

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Economic Impact Payments

As we embark on another week under quarantine, some people have already received their Economic Impact Payments, also known as Stimulus Checks. Have you thought about what you are going to do with that extra money? It is very important to think about your priorities in life.

If you have recently lost your job, then it will be very important that you meet you and your family's basic needs. Buying food, paying your rent or mortgage and utilities should be the priorities. Once those needs have been met, then you will view other debt you may have.

If you are still employed, then here are 8 ideas of ways you can save for future and help reduce your costs. It is important to decide what is most important to you and where you will put your money. Here are some ideas for saving money:

- **Emergency Fund** – if you do not have 3-6 months of savings, contribute to a fund to help you when the need arises. We do not know when the next time may come.
- **Reduce your Debt** – pay down the debt with the highest interest rates
- **Save for Retirement** – start a retirement account either through your employer or open an Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA) through a bank or other financial institution
- **Save for Education** – contribute to an educational fund for your children
- **Invest in New Skills** – learn something new that will help you build your skill level
- **Maintenance on your Home** – complete a maintenance project that you have wanted to do for many years
- **Save for a Vacation** – once the pandemic is over, you can go on a vacation
- **Help Others** – if you still have money left, support others in your community, including small businesses

Did you know that as part of the CARES Act, you will be able to deduct \$300 as a charitable contribution without itemizing on your 2020 taxes? This is an incentive to support those local charities that help others.

In summary, please meet your basic needs followed by setting up an emergency fund and then find ways to save for your future. I encourage you to save anything that you can as it all adds up and will help you out.

For more information visit [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov), americasaves.org, or call 785-765-3821 or email me: btrieb@ksu.edu.