**Fact Sheet**

**The U.S. Department of the Treasury requires all federal benefit payments to be made electronically.**

* The Treasury Department is phasing out paper checks as a payment option for federal benefit payments.
* Everyone receiving federal benefit payments by paper check was required to switch to an electronic payment.. Check recipients can still comply with the law by switching to electronic payments.
* Check recipients can choose **direct deposit**, which is the Treasury Department’s preferred payment method for people with bank accounts, or the **Direct Express®** Debit Mastercard**®** card.
* The Treasury Department will continue this outreach to check recipients until they are in compliance with the law, and exceptions will be granted only in rare circumstances.

**Why the Treasury Department Requires Electronic Payments**

Electronic payments save taxpayers money. They also offer federal benefit recipients the following advantages:

* **Safety** – No risk of lost or stolen checks.
* **Reliability** – No delays caused by severe weather or other unforeseen events.
* **Ease** – No need to make a trip to cash or deposit a check.
* **Fast Access** – Money is accessible sooner.

**How to Sign Up for Direct Deposit for Federal Benefit Payments**

It’s fast, easy and free to switch to direct deposit today. People can sign up:

* At their local financial institution.
* Online at the ***Go Direct®***website, [www.godirect.gov](https://www.godirect.gov/gpw/).
* By calling the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800) 333-1795,

Monday – Friday, from 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. EST.

**Be Prepared to Make the Switch**

To ensure a smooth direct deposit enrollment process, people should have on hand:

* 12-digit federal benefit check number
* Amount of most recent federal benefit check
* Financial institution's routing transit number\*
* Account number\* and account type – checking or savings

*\*This information is usually found at the bottom of personal checks.*