

FTC warns of scams regarding COVID-19 payments

Acting Federal Trade Commission Chairwoman Rebecca Kelly Slaughter issued the following statement regarding the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: "For the millions of Americans who have taken a financial hit because of COVID-19, help is on the way in the form of much needed stimulus payments. This is great news. But we want to remind everyone that scammers always try to take advantage of big headlines to trick people out of their money. Specifically, know that:

- The government will not ask you to pay anything up front to get this money.
- The government will not call, text, email, or message you on social media to ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number. Anyone who does is a scammer.
- Anyone who tells you to pay by a wire transfer, gift card, or cryptocurrency is a scammer, regardless of their story.
- If you spot one of these scams, or any scam, please tell the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud). And to learn more about avoiding pandemic-related scams, visit [ftc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ftc.gov/coronavirus)."