

## **City Urges Residents to Beware of Stimulus Check Scams**

*Scammers are already trying to take advantage of federal stimulus package*

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM** – The City of Albuquerque through the Consumer Financial Protection Initiative is urging residents to be on the lookout for scammers trying to defraud people of their federal stimulus checks that were included in the most recently passed legislation by Congress in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The direct payments are designed to help offset the lost income many Burqueños are experiencing due to the public health emergency.

### **How to Spot a COVID-19 Federal Stimulus Scam:**

- **Government agencies will not contact you** through social media, phone, text, or email.
- **Government agencies will not ask you to verify your personal information or provide banking information.** It is not necessary to provide this information in order to receive your stimulus check.
- **Government agencies will not ask for your Social Security Number.**
- **Government agencies will not contact you to get your funds “immediately” or “faster.”**
- **Government agencies will not ask you to pay a “processing fee.”**

If a scammer calls or contacts you, don't engage – hang up – delete the email – do not click on a link. Report scams to the [Federal Trade Commission](#).

### **Watch Out For:**

- **Government imposters** – confirm websites from lookalike websites. Make sure it is a legitimate government website before believing any information provided to you.
- **When in doubt**, assume it is a scam.

### **Online Government Resources:**

- **IRS:** [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus)
- **U.S. Treasury:** <https://home.treasury.gov>

Report all scams to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>.

The [Consumer Financial Protection Initiative](#) is the City's consumer protection bureau charged with helping consumers protect themselves from unfair and deceptive business practices, expand city services to help consumers who have been harmed by an unfair or deceptive business transaction, strengthen protections for consumers, and take action, where appropriate, against businesses that violate consumer laws.

This information and more can be accessed at [cabq.gov/scams](http://cabq.gov/scams). This website will be regularly updated to include recent information and to offer resources in multiple languages.

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*Emergencies challenge the delivery and management of emergency public information, warning and emergency protective action notifications. The Albuquerque Joint Information Center (JIC) functions as a coordinated Albuquerque Metro Area public information system that will gather and analyze data related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in New Mexico and serve as a source of accurate and comprehensive information.*