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Many Iowans Missing Out on Stimulus Checks Over 37,000 May Still Need to File — Deadline Oct. 15

IOWA CITY, Iowa — More than 37,000 Iowans may be missing out on economic stimulus payments because they have not filed requests for them.

“In Iowa, this is more than \$11 million that could be helping local economies around the state, because the recipients would spend the money,” said David Osterberg, executive director of the nonpartisan Iowa Policy Project.

The Center on Budget & Policy Priorities (CBPP) notes that the Internal Revenue Service has identified about 4.3 million low-income seniors, disabled veterans and others with disabilities who might be missing payments.

CBPP’s Iowa fact sheet on the issue — available at <http://www.cbpp.org/states/7-28-08stim-fact-ia.pdf> — shows that as of Sept. 7, about 37,100 eligible Iowans had not filed, with total unclaimed payments of about \$11.1 million.

“These are people who are not otherwise not required to file a tax return, so they might miss out on their payments,” Osterberg said. “Three hundred or 600 dollars is a big boost to these folks.

“This is the essence of stimulus, as we have noted before: It should be timely, targeted and temporary. Such payments in tough times to people who actually need the money, and will spend it, will put that money to work right away in the economy.”

Those who are eligible must file by Oct. 15 for their payment.

According to CBPP, many people may not realize they are eligible, because they have not filed a tax return in many years as they have too little income.

They might also mistakenly believe that receiving the stimulus payment might endanger eligibility for retirement or disability benefits, or other public benefits such as Medicaid or Food Stamps.

The CBPP fact sheet for Iowa includes county-by-county numbers of potential filers for checks.

Here are the top 25 counties in Iowa by number remaining to file as of Sept. 7:

County	# yet to file	total value
Polk	4,691	\$1,407,300
Linn	2,230	669,000
Scott	2,080	624,000
Black Hawk	1,678	503,400
Woodbury	1,352	405,600
Pottawattamie	1,262	378,600
Dubuque	1,077	323,100
Johnson	824	247,200
Clinton	770	231,000
Cerro Gordo	667	200,100
Des Moines	646	193,800
Lee	635	190,500
Wapello	627	188,100
Webster	592	177,600
Marshall	587	176,100
Story	577	173,100
Muscatine	539	161,700
Marion	476	142,800
Dallas	468	140,400
Jasper	449	134,700
Warren	440	132,000
Boone	355	106,500
Washington	313	93,900
Floyd	301	90,300
Mahaska	299	89,700