

ALL FEDERAL BENEFITS WILL BE PAID ELECTRONICALLY BY MARCH 1, 2013--- ACT NOW!

All federal benefit payments (*Social Security*, VA, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Railroad Retirement Board, Department of Labor (Black Lung) and Office of Personnel Management benefit checks) will be electronic by March 1, 2013. People applying for federal benefit payments must choose an electronic payment option – direct deposit to a bank or credit union account or to a Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® card – from the beginning.

With direct deposit, the U.S. Treasury sends an electronic message to your bank or credit union crediting your account with the exact amount of your benefit. The difference is, your check isn't printed or mailed.

People currently getting benefit checks by mail must switch to an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013. People who have not chosen an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013, will receive their money after the deadline date via the Direct Express® card, so they will not experience any interruption in payment. If you are already receiving your federal benefit payments electronically, this change will not affect you.

The move to all-electronic federal benefit payments provides significant savings to American taxpayers who will no longer incur the \$120 million price tag associated with paper checks. Electronic payments also are safer, easier and more convenient for benefit recipients.

People currently receiving federal benefits by paper check, should make the switch today to get their money a safer, more reliable way. *If you do not choose an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013, or at the time you apply for federal benefits, you will receive your payments via the Direct Express® card so you will not experience any interruption in payment.*

- **If the benefit recipient has a bank or credit union account, they should sign up for direct deposit**
by calling (800) 333-1795, or visiting their local bank/credit union branch or federal benefit agency office.

If you want to get your federal benefit payments paid by direct deposit to your checking or savings account, you'll need your:
 - **Social Security number or claim number**
 - **12-digit federal benefit check number**
 - **Amount of most recent federal benefit check**
 - **Financial institution's routing transit number***
 - **Account number* and type - checking or savings**

- **If the benefit recipient prefers a prepaid debit card or doesn't have a bank account, they can call (800) 333-1795, or notify their local federal benefit agency.**

Remember, if you are already receiving your federal benefit payments electronically, this change will not affect you.