



PRESS RELEASE

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\$600 Cost-of-Living Payments Successfully Distributed to Over 236,000 Low-Income Oregonians

SALEM, Ore. - For too many Oregonians, covering daily expenses has become a challenge as the cost of living has skyrocketed. That's why in March, Oregon Democrats led the passage of [House Bill 4157](#), a one-time \$600 cost-of-living payment to over 236,000 low-income Oregonians across every corner of the state. The bill passed with bipartisan support in the House and the Senate.

This week, the Oregon Department of Revenue [announced](#) that all checks and deposits have been successfully distributed to eligible Oregonians.

"Low-income households shouldn't have to fight to afford basic everyday costs," said [Representative Andrea Valderrama](#) (D-Portland), a chief sponsor of the bill. "Even before the pandemic Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and low income communities experienced barriers to economic vitality. No one should have to choose between putting food on the table or paying their utility bills. These checks are going to help cover essentials like groceries, prescription medicine, diapers or rent."

"Direct cash assistance is an effective tool when it comes to alleviating poverty," said [Representative Rachel Prusak](#) (D-West Linn), a chief sponsor of the bill. "This is a win for Oregonians across the state, and I'm grateful to my colleagues and coalition partners who helped us champion this effort."

To qualify, households must have received the Earned Income Tax Credit on their 2020 tax filing and lived in Oregon the last six months of 2020. This policy allows for people who filed an amended 2020 tax return by April 15, 2022 and claim the EITC to receive this payment. Households [across the state were eligible](#) for the payment.

"With gas prices at an all-time high, we're doing all we can to help families cover the monthly basics," said [Representative Paul Evans](#) (D-Monmouth). "That's my commitment to Oregonians: to build an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top."

Additionally, through the [Oregon Worker Relief Fund](#), \$15 million dollars was allocated to provide economic relief to ITIN filers and Oregonians who would qualify for the EITC if not for their immigration status.

“I’m also proud that we were able to reach and provide economic relief to Oregon’s immigrant communities whose skills and labor are essential to our economy,” [Representative Ricki Ruiz](#) (D-Gresham) said. “Economic and racial justice are intersectional issues, and this is how we lift all Oregonians up and bolster a strong economic recovery.”

A total of nearly \$141.8 million was distributed to 236,314 qualifying recipients. Households that received a direct deposit were mailed a letter explaining the payment. Households that received a paper check received information about the payment on their check stub.

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