Possible COVID-19/Economic Impact Payment Scams

Part of the approved Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes funds designated to assist Americans during the COVID-19 virus pandemic. Because it has been reported that scammers are attempting to steal these payments, IRS-Criminal Investigation has provided the following information to keep consumers safe.

Please review and share the tips below to avoid falling victim to a scam:

• If you receive a phone call, text, or email asking for payment or confirmation of personal or financial information in connection with the Economic Impact Payment, it’s probably a scam.

• Do not give out your account number, card number, PayPal, or other account information in response to a call, email, or text about your Economic Impact Payment.

• Do not click on links in texts or emails relating to Economic Impact Payments, as this could allow scammers to place tracing devices on your phone or computer and gain access to your personal information for later use.

• Do not engage with scammers or thieves; simply hang up or delete texts/emails. If your cell phone has the ability, mark the call as spam and block the number.

• If you received a “check” for an odd amount, for instance $1,322.48, or a check that requires you to verify the check online or by calling a number, it’s most likely a fraud.

The following are recent examples of fraud identified by the IRS and other investigative agencies:

• Individuals and businesses selling fake cures for COVID-19 online and engaging in other forms of fraud.

• Phishing emails from entities posing as the World Health Organization or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

• Malicious websites and apps that appear to share Coronavirus-related information to gain and lock access to your devices until payment is received.

• Seeking donations fraudulently for illegitimate or non-existent charitable organizations.

If you think you have been a victim of a pandemic related fraud, or if someone tries to defraud you, call the National Center for Disaster Fraud at 866.720.5721. Suspicious emails should be forwarded to phishing@irs.gov.
Don’t Wait, Give Online BillPay a Try!

SECU’s online BillPay service is a quick, convenient, and less expensive alternative to writing and mailing paper checks. Available through Member Access at www.ncsecu.org, BillPay offers many advantages:

- Pay all of your bills on one site
- Schedule one-time or recurring payments
- Deduct payments from your eligible SECU accounts – checking, CashPoints® Global (CPG), or health savings (HSA)
- No fee for the first 50 BillPay transactions per month and just $.20 for each additional transaction (much cheaper than a stamp)

Save time and money by signing up for BillPay today! For more details, visit www.ncsecu.org and click on Online Services/BillPay.

SECU Mobile App

Download our mobile app today to securely move money between SECU accounts, make payments on SECU loans, make loan and credit card advances, see account balances, and use BillPay to pay bills and transfer funds to other members’ accounts.

Visit www.ncsecu.org for more information!

SECU and SECU Foundation Provide $10 Million for COVID-19 Disaster Relief!

State Employees’ Credit Union (SECU) and your SECU Foundation recently announced a commitment of up to $10 million to assist with COVID-19 disaster relief efforts across North Carolina. The combined funding of $5 million each from SECU and the Foundation is helping multiple non-profit organizations meet basic food, clothing, shelter, and financial assistance needs statewide. These donations are also supporting front-line medical providers and others as they work tirelessly to carry out their missions to help our most vulnerable North Carolinians during the pandemic crisis.

As part of this commitment, Feeding the Carolinas, North Carolina’s statewide network of food banks and The Salvation Army of the Carolinas both received a total of $2 million in donations from SECU and SECU Foundation – $1 million from each entity. Feeding the Carolinas funding is helping the food banks secure the supplies needed to provide food to those facing hunger in communities across the state. The Salvation Army donation is helping the non-profit with funding needed to maintain statewide operations and disseminate critical services and relief in response to community needs – food, shelter, and emergency financial assistance.

This is a glimpse of the work being done through the combined $10 million funding! As announcements are made, more information will be available on the SECU and SECU Foundation websites – www.ncsecu.org and www.ncsecufoundation.org.