

FS Mid-Month Newsflash!

October 2020

Hello Fair Shake readers ~

Sorry - no room for reflections in this issue! But first, a word for our awesome sponsors:

THANK YOU, DONORS, FOR MAKING THIS – AND ALL – NEWSLETTER(S) POSSIBLE!
(100% of Fair Shake's funding comes from the generous donations of caring supporters.)

WHAT I CAN SHARE ABOUT THE ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT (EIP):

I will share what I have 'heard' but remember: I am only a messenger. I cannot answer any questions and I cannot help you with forms. Most importantly: File by October 30, 2020!

The information below is a compilation of various texts that have come across my desk:

You have probably heard that a federal judge ruled that stimulus checks cannot be denied solely due to incarceration. The government may appeal so don't get your hopes up yet! We can't know that now, so you might as well file if you can.

I hope that the DOC and the BOP will provide your 1040 forms upon request.

For those who did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return and whose income was below \$12,200 (or below \$24,400 if filing jointly), you can take action. (Incarcerated people do not need to have held a job to qualify for emergency payment.)

You are eligible for the EIP if:

- You are a U.S. Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident
- You were not claimed as a dependent on another tax return
- Your 2019 income was below \$75,000 for individuals / \$150,000 for couples filing jointly

The IRS says that no one else can file for you, even if they have Power of Attorney.

Guide to filling out the 2019 1040 form (yes, the same old 1040, or 1040-SR for seniors)

PAGE 1

- 1 Write "EIP 2020" at the very top of the page!
- 2 Filing Status (if you check married filing jointly your spouse will have to sign as well)
- 3 Fill in Name and Social Security Number
- 4 Address: the law firm says use your prison address with your DOC ID#
- 5 Leave everything else blank until you get to line 2b.
- 6 On line 2b write \$1 if you made less than \$12,000 in 2019 (or \$24,000 if you filed jointly)
Line 7b: \$1 Line 8b: \$1 Line 11b: \$0 Do not fill in any other lines on Page 1.

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1 Line 21b (where it says REFUND): If you have a bank account in your own name, enter that information in lines 21b through d. If you don't have a bank account leave this section blank and the check will be mailed to the prison.

2 Sign and date

3 Your occupation: what you do now....or "unemployed"

More info: <https://www.rootandrebond.org/resources/cares-act-resources/>

If you filed an INCOME TAX RETURN for 2018 or 2019 you do NOT need to take any action.

RUNAWAY SUE RESPONSES

Thank you everyone for sharing your thoughts. I'll share very brief comments with you here, but if you'd like the long version, please send a NEW email with 'Runaway' in the subject line. These are our voices, our ideas, combined here to support OUR youth!

We must show them that we are there for them to help, heal, and educate because they are the future. We cannot erase whatever bad or wrongs that they've been through, but we can sympathize with their hurt.

It only takes a flicker of hope to ignite an inferno of ambition! Trust is a hard thing to build when one has been lied to on a daily basis. We have to show how to trust again by our actions not just the words.

*To earn trust, you must be there for them consistently.

*Never condescend.

*Never hide your tears, even when you have to administer tough love.

You can't force nothing on no one because by doing that your pushing them away. We have to have patience and let them know we're here to help whenever; to love and support them no matter what.

I'm so proud of you runaway Sue for speaking up and for reaching out. That takes courage and mindfulness. You are worth being loved. We will work on this together if that's okay with you. To trust me with your thoughts and feelings is an honor. I'm a work in process (WIP) and I still have so much more to learn. I feel like you and I both can be of healthy service for one another.

Moral of a Native story sent in: "Life can give you strength. It comes from facing the storms head on; from knowing loss, feeling sadness and heartache, and from facing the depths of grief. You must stand up in the storm. You must face the wind and the cold and the darkness. When the storm blows hard you must stand firm, for it is not trying to knock you down, it is really trying to teach you to be strong."

Please don't run away from your problems. Seek out help and discuss your problems.

Life is meant to be lived head on. If you are being abused and that is the cause of you running, then seek out the police, make a report, and demand you be removed from that home permanently.

Runaways need to know where they have the ability to find a trustworthy, well lit, and established places open twenty four seven, with a sticker on the front door; a way to find the "Connected" help.

“Will to survive makes us run Panting, as we look behind Just lookin' for anyone Who just might, to us, be kind”

We must protect the little ones and not get frustrated and give up....because you know where that leaves us: right here where I sit now.

I believe runaway Sue can be reached by giving Sue the freedom of choice which is to decide her own life.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS WANTED!

I'm requesting book recommendations from the FS readers to share with the FS readers. Unfortunately, as we all know too well, we're severely limited by the character count here, so let's try micro-reviews; consisting of 100 words or less!

To submit your review, **START A NEW MESSAGE** with **BOOK REVIEW** in the subject line and include the following information: Book Title, Author's Name, why you like the book and why you think others should read it!

QUOTES ON THE VALUE OF READING:

Books are the flung-open windows to a parallel universe. — Kevin Ansbro

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book. — Groucho Marx

Think before you speak. Read before you think. — Fran Leibowitz

An artist is a sort of emotional or spiritual historian. His role is to make you realize the doom and glory of knowing who you are and what you are. — James Baldwin

In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you. — Mortimer J. Adler

Reading one book is like eating one potato chip.” — Diane Duane

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. — Dr. Seuss

I'm keeping this one short - but, as always, take good care of yourself: your mind, body and spirit are all connected and all need equal consideration! **YOU ARE IMPORTANT** and I know you have a lot of gifts and talents to share with the world.

To our successful transitions! Ubuntu! ~ sue