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## **"Go Direct" Better Way to Get Social Security Payments**

Many recipients of Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments receive their payments by paper check through the mail. This may be because they do not have a bank account into which such payments can be deposited directly. Paper checks received through the mail are particularly vulnerable to theft, potentially depriving the recipient of essential income. Also, we have seen that hurricanes or other natural disasters can destroy mailboxes or require evacuation that separates the recipient from the check.

When it comes to receiving benefit payments from Social Security, these and other situations prove why it's best to be direct. For years, Direct Deposit has been the safest, fastest, and easiest way for people to receive their payments — and it still is the best way to get your benefit payment if you have a bank account.

To learn more or to sign up for Direct Deposit visit [www.socialsecurity.gov/deposit](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/deposit).

Now, there's an alternative for people who don't have a bank account: Direct Express.

With Direct Express the Social Security Administration will automatically deposit your Social Security or Supplemental Security Income benefit payment to your **Direct Express card account**. The card can be used to make purchases, pay bills or get cash at thousands of locations, and most services are free.

In June, the Department of Treasury began the roll-out of Direct Express and by this fall, Direct Express will be available nationwide.

Although Direct Deposit is still the best payment method for people with bank accounts, we hope you'll encourage those who do not have bank accounts and who still receive paper checks to give Direct Express a try.

To learn more or to sign up for Direct Express visit [www.fms.treas.gov/directexpresscard/](http://www.fms.treas.gov/directexpresscard/) .