**External Newsletter Copy for Financial Institutions**

***Information suitable for a newsletter article to customers and members***

**[Word count: 220]**

**U.S. Department of the Treasury Requires Federal Benefit Payments to be Made Electronically**

*Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service*

The Treasury Department requires federal benefit payments to be paid electronically. Check recipients should comply with the law. It’s easy to sign up for electronic payments:

* Visit your local **[FI NAME]** branch.
* Visit the Treasury Department’s ***Go Direct***® website, [www.godirect.gov](http://www.godirect.gov).
* Call the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800) 333-1795, Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST.

The Treasury Department will contact check recipients by mail to encourage their compliance. Check recipients will be offered a choice of **direct deposit**, which is the Treasury Department’s preferred payment method for people with bank accounts, or the **Direct Express®** Debit Mastercard**®** card. Talk to a teller today to learn more about this change and how **[FI NAME]** can help.

**Be Prepared**

It’s fast, free and easy to make the switch to direct deposit. Have the following information on hand:

* 12-digit federal benefit check number
* Amount of most recent federal benefit check
* **[FI NAME]**’s routing transit number\*
* Account number\* and account type – checking or savings

*\*This information is often on personal checks.*

For more information, visit [www.godirect.gov](http://www.godirect.gov).