**Internal Newsletter Copy for Financial Institutions**

***Information suitable for communications with tellers, bankers and other branch staff***

**[Word count: 270]**

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

***Help [CUSTOMERS/MEMBERS] Comply with the Law.***

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

 The U.S. Department of the Treasury requires federal benefit payments to be made electronically. Check recipients should comply with the law.

**[YOUR/OUR] Branch Can Help [CUSTOMERS/MEMBERS] Comply**

**[YOUR/OUR]** branches can help check recipients switch to direct deposit for federal benefit payments, and have the opportunity to retain **[CUSTOMERS/MEMBERS]** by doing so. If a **[CUSTOMER/MEMBER]** cashes a government benefit check in **[YOUR/OUR]** branches, inform them they are required to switch and then help them sign up for direct deposit right away.

There are three simple ways **[WE/YOU/FRONTLINE STAFF]** can help check recipients switch:

* Sign up check recipients on the spot using **[FI NAME]**’s enrollment process.
* Use the [Online Enrollment system](https://www.godirect.gov/gpw/) provided by the U.S. Department of the Treasury .
* Urge check recipients not ready to sign up on the spot to switch online at <https://www.godirect.gov/gpw/> or call the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at (800) 333-1795, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 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. When check recipients visit **[FI NAME]**,offer to sign them up for **direct deposit** on the spot.

For more information, visit <https://www.godirect.gov/gpw/partners/>.