

Washington, DC – On Monday at 1:00 p.m., Rep. David Price (D-NC) and AARP North Carolina will host a roundtable on the transition from paper checks to direct deposit electronic payment for federal benefits. Representatives from the Social Security Administration, the Veterans Administration, Wake County Social Services, the North Carolina Bankers Association, the State Division of Aging, Homeless Advocates and local churches will update Rep. Price on their efforts to encourage local residents to sign-up for direct deposit before the March 1, 2013 deadline. Rep. Price will be available for Q&A after the roundtable. Members of the media are invited to attend and encouraged to use the [attached handout](#) (also included below) in Public Service Announcements informing their audiences of this important change.

As of March 1, 2013, all federal benefit payments will be electronic. The US Treasury will no longer issue paper checks for Social Security, Veterans Administration, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board, Department of Labor (Black Lung) or Office of Personnel Management benefits. Beneficiaries may choose to have your payments made via direct deposit to a bank account, a credit union account, or a Direct Express® Debit MasterCard. People who do not choose an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013, or at the time they apply for benefits, will be out of compliance with the law. At this time, Treasury has no plans to stop federal benefit payments or change the payment method without the beneficiary's permission.

President Obama has set up the "Go Direct" website (www.godirect.gov) and hotline (1-800-333-1795) to provide information about how beneficiaries can sign up for a direct benefit payment option before the deadline.

The move to all-electronic federal benefit payments will save taxpayers \$120 million annually in production and postage costs. In addition, it will help beneficiaries. Electronic payments are safer, easier and more convenient. Beneficiaries will no longer have to make a trip to their bank or check cashing service or worry about stolen checks, and they will have immediate access to their benefits.

Who: Rep. David Price (NC-04), Community Leaders

What: Go Direct Roundtable: What North Carolinians Need to Know About the Transition to Electronic Payments for Federal Benefits

When: Monday, February 11, 2013, 1:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Where: AARP North Carolina, 1511 Sunday Drive, Suite 312, Raleigh, NC

[Click here for a handout with the below information](#)

Go Direct: What You Need to Know About the U.S. Treasury's Transition from Paper Checks to Direct Deposit Electronic Payments for Federal Benefits

As of March 1, 2013, all federal benefit payments will be electronic. The US Treasury will no longer issue paper checks for Social Security, Veterans Administration, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement Board, Department of Labor (Black Lung) or Office of Personnel Management benefits.

The move to all-electronic federal benefit payments will save taxpayers \$120 million annually in production and postage costs. In addition, it will help beneficiaries. Electronic payments are safer, easier and more convenient. Beneficiaries will no longer have to make a trip to their bank or check cashing service or worry about stolen checks, and they will have immediate access to their benefits.

President Obama has set up the "Go Direct" website (www.godirect.gov) and hotline (1-800-333-1795) to provide information about how beneficiaries can sign up for direct deposit benefit payments before the deadline.

Who must enroll?

If you are currently receiving a paper check for your benefits, you must switch to an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013. You may choose to have your payments made via direct deposit to a bank account, a credit union account, or a Direct Express® Debit MasterCard. People who do not choose an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013, or at the time they apply for benefits, will be out of compliance with the law. At this time, Treasury has no plans to stop federal benefit payments or change the payment method without the beneficiary's permission.

How do I enroll?

If you already have a bank or credit union account, you can register for direct deposit online at www.godirect.gov/gpw/RegisterOnline-Step1.gd, or by calling the hotline at (800) 333-1795. You can also visit your local bank or credit union branch or call the federal agency's benefit office directly; the numbers are listed below. You will need your account type, account number and financial institution's routing number to enroll.

If you do not have a bank or credit union account, or if you prefer to have your benefits provided via Direct Express® Debit MasterCard, call the Go Direct hotline at (800) 333-1795, or call the federal agency's benefit office directly.

- Social Security Administration

Raleigh: (877) 803-6311

Durham: (888) 759-3908

Fayetteville: (866) 964-6485

Greensboro: (877) 319-3075

- Railroad Retirement Board: (877) 772-5772
- Department of Labor: (800) 638-7072
- Defense Finance & Accounting Service: (800) 321-1080
- Department of Veterans Affairs: (800) 827-1000
- Office of Personnel Management: (888)767-6738

Are there any exceptions?

The Treasury Department will grant exceptions to the electronic benefits requirement only in rare circumstances. Automatic waivers are granted to people born on or before May 1, 1921. Check recipients living in remote areas without sufficient banking infrastructure may apply for a waiver, as well as check recipients for whom electronic payments would impose a hardship due to a mental impairment. To request a waiver, call the Go Direct hotline at 800-333-1795.

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