

## **U.S. Treasury Requiring Electronic Federal Benefit Payments**

The United States Treasury Department is phasing out paper checks and requiring federal benefit recipients to get their money electronically. You can choose to get your payments by **direct deposit** to a bank or credit union account or to a **Direct Express**<sup>®</sup> Debit MasterCard<sup>®</sup> card account.

More than just Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments are involved. VA benefits, federal civil service or other federal benefits are included.

If you are already getting federal benefit payments by paper check, you must switch to electronic payments by **March 1, 2013**. You can sign up for **direct deposit** or the **Direct Express**<sup>®</sup> card by contacting the [U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center](#) at (800) 333-1795. You may also [sign up](#) for direct deposit online.

If you will be retiring or applying for federal benefits soon, you will get your money electronically from day one. You will be asked to choose **direct deposit** or the **Direct Express**<sup>®</sup> card when you fill out your application.

If you do not choose an electronic payment option by **March 1, 2013**, you will receive your payments via the **Direct Express**<sup>®</sup> card so you will not experience any interruption in payment. If you are already receiving your federal benefit payments electronically, this change will not affect you.

The U.S. Treasury Department has helpful information at the following site: <http://www.godirect.org/>