Scammers are taking advantage of the ongoing pandemic and a new round of COVID relief ("Economic Impact") payments to prey on unsuspecting individuals.

HFA wants to remind you to be safe and review the safety tips and resources below from the federal government to ensure you and your family are protected from scams:

- Do not respond to calls or texts from suspicious unknown numbers.
- Do not share your personal or financial information via email, text messages, or over the phone.
- Be cautious of anyone pressuring you to share personal information or submit immediate payments.
- The IRS, Social Service Administration, or U.S. Treasury will not call or email offering grants or Economic Impact Payments in exchange for personal information, an advance fee, or gift cards.
- Scammers often spoof numbers to trick unsuspecting individuals into answering or responding. Remember government agencies will never call you to ask for personal information or money.
- Do not click suspicious or unknown links contained in any text messages that come from text message links. If the text message appears to come from a trusted source, be sure to call to confirm prior to opening.
- Always confirm the existence of genuine charities (for example, by calling or looking at its actual website) prior to donating.
- Don’t pay to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine, and ignore sales ads for the vaccine. The vaccine is only available at federal- and state-approved locations, including vaccination centers and pharmacies.
- Beneficiaries should be cautious of unsolicited requests for Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid numbers. No one from a vaccine distribution site, a doctor’s office, insurer, etc. will contact you asking for such information in exchange for signing.

For more information take a look at these helpful resources:

- FCC COVID-19 Consumer Warnings and Safety Tips
- HHS COVID-19 Fraud Alert
- FBI Sees Rise in Fraud Schemes Related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic
- Coronavirus Scams: What the FTC is Doing