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# Tax Strategies for Creative Entrepreneurs

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# Overview

## Part 1: Income Tax Basics

- Gross Income
- Deductions
- Credits

## Part 2: Business Tax Issues

- Business vs. Hobby
- Types of Business Entities
- Business Deduction Issues
- Self-Employment Taxes & Estimated Taxes
- Reporting Compensation Paid

## Part 3: COVID-19 Tax Issues

- Online Resources
- Tax Credits for Self-Employed Individuals

**Filing Status** ☐ Single ☐ Married filing jointly ☐ Married filing separately (MFS) ☐ Head of household (HOH) ☐ Qualifying widow(er) (QW)  
Check only one box.  
If you checked the MFS box, enter the name of your spouse. If you checked the HOH or QW box, enter the child's name if the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent ▶

|   |  |                               |  |                                 |          |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------|
| Your first name and middle initial  |  | Last name                     |  | Your social security number     |          |
| If joint return, spouse's first name and middle initial   |  | Last name                     |  | Spouse's social security number |          |
| Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions.   |  |                               |  | Apt. no.                        |          |
| City, town, or post office. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below.  |  |                               |  | State                           | ZIP code |
| Foreign country name  |  | Foreign province/state/county |  | Foreign postal code             |          |
| <b>Presidential Election Campaign</b><br>Check here if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, want \$3 to go to this fund. Checking a box below will not change your tax or refund.<br><input type="checkbox"/> You <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse |  |                               |  |                                 |          |

At any time during 2020, did you receive, sell, send, exchange, or otherwise acquire any financial interest in any virtual currency? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Standard Deduction** **Someone can claim:** ☐ You as a dependent ☐ Your spouse as a dependent  
☐ Spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were a dual-status alien

**Age/Blindness** **You:** ☐ Were born before January 2, 1956 ☐ Are blind **Spouse:** ☐ Was born before January 2, 1956 ☐ Is blind

| (1) First name |  | Last name |  | (2) Social security number | (3) Relationship to you | (4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if qualifies for (see instructions): | Child tax credit         | Credit for other dependents |
|----------------|--|-----------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                |  |           |  |                            |                         | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
|                |  |           |  |                            |                         | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
|                |  |           |  |                            |                         | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
|                |  |           |  |                            |                         | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>    |

|  |            |                                       |           |
|--|------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1</b> Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form(s) W-2 . . . . .  |            | <b>1</b>                              |           |
| <b>2a</b> Tax-exempt interest . . . . .  | <b>2a</b>  | <b>b</b> Taxable interest . . . . .   | <b>2b</b> |
| <b>3a</b> Qualified dividends . . . . .  | <b>3a</b>  | <b>b</b> Ordinary dividends . . . . . | <b>3b</b> |
| <b>4a</b> IRA distributions . . . . .  | <b>4a</b>  | <b>b</b> Taxable amount . . . . .     | <b>4b</b> |
| <b>5a</b> Pensions and annuities . . . . .   | <b>5a</b>  | <b>b</b> Taxable amount . . . . .     | <b>5b</b> |
| <b>6a</b> Social security benefits . . . . .   | <b>6a</b>  | <b>b</b> Taxable amount . . . . .     | <b>6b</b> |
| <b>7</b> Capital gain or (loss). Attach Schedule D if required. If not required, check here . . . . . <input type="checkbox"/> |            | <b>7</b>                              |           |
| <b>8</b> Other income from Schedule 1, line 9 . . . . .  |            | <b>8</b>                              |           |
| <b>9</b> Add lines 1, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7, and 8. This is your <b>total income</b> . . . . . ▶                               |            | <b>9</b>                              |           |
| <b>10</b> Adjustments to income:   |            |                                       |           |
| <b>a</b> From Schedule 1, line 22 . . . . .  | <b>10a</b> |                                       |           |
| <b>b</b> Charitable contributions if you take the standard deduction. See instructions . . . . .                               | <b>10b</b> |                                       |           |
| <b>c</b> Add lines 10a and 10b. These are your <b>total adjustments to income</b> . . . . . ▶                                  |            | <b>10c</b>                            |           |
| <b>11</b> Subtract line 10c from line 9. This is your <b>adjusted gross income</b> . . . . . ▶                                 |            | <b>11</b>                             |           |
| <b>12</b> <b>Standard deduction or itemized deductions</b> (from Schedule A) . . . . .   |            | <b>12</b>                             |           |
| <b>13</b> Qualified business income deduction. Attach Form 8995 or Form 8995-A . . . . .                                       |            | <b>13</b>                             |           |
| <b>14</b> Add lines 12 and 13 . . . . .  |            | <b>14</b>                             |           |
| <b>15</b> <b>Taxable income.</b> Subtract line 14 from line 11. If zero or less, enter -0- . . . . .                           |            | <b>15</b>                             |           |

For Disclosure, Privacy Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions.

Cat. No. 11320B

Form **1040** (2020)

|            |  |            |  |
|------------|--|------------|--|
| <b>16</b>  | Tax (see instructions). Check if any from Form(s): <b>1</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 8814 <b>2</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 4972 <b>3</b> <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <b>16</b>  |  |
| <b>17</b>  | Amount from Schedule 2, line 3   | <b>17</b>  |  |
| <b>18</b>  | Add lines 16 and 17  | <b>18</b>  |  |
| <b>19</b>  | Child tax credit or credit for other dependents  | <b>19</b>  |  |
| <b>20</b>  | Amount from Schedule 3, line 7   | <b>20</b>  |  |
| <b>21</b>  | Add lines 19 and 20  | <b>21</b>  |  |
| <b>22</b>  | Subtract line 21 from line 18. If zero or less, enter -0-  | <b>22</b>  |  |
| <b>23</b>  | Other taxes, including self-employment tax, from Schedule 2, line 10   | <b>23</b>  |  |
| <b>24</b>  | Add lines 22 and 23. This is your <b>total tax</b>   | <b>24</b>  |  |
| <b>25</b>  | Federal income tax withheld from:  |            |  |
| <b>a</b>   | Form(s) W-2  | <b>25a</b> |  |
| <b>b</b>   | Form(s) 1099   | <b>25b</b> |  |
| <b>c</b>   | Other forms (see instructions)   | <b>25c</b> |  |
| <b>d</b>   | Add lines 25a through 25c  | <b>25d</b> |  |
| <b>26</b>  | 2020 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 2019 return  | <b>26</b>  |  |
| <b>27</b>  | Earned income credit (EIC)   | <b>27</b>  |  |
| <b>28</b>  | Additional child tax credit. Attach Schedule 8812  | <b>28</b>  |  |
| <b>29</b>  | American opportunity credit from Form 8863, line 8   | <b>29</b>  |  |
| <b>30</b>  | Recovery rebate credit. See instructions   | <b>30</b>  |  |
| <b>31</b>  | Amount from Schedule 3, line 13  | <b>31</b>  |  |
| <b>32</b>  | Add lines 27 through 31. These are your <b>total other payments and refundable credits</b>   | <b>32</b>  |  |
| <b>33</b>  | Add lines 25d, 26, and 32. These are your <b>total payments</b>  | <b>33</b>  |  |
| <b>34</b>  | If line 33 is more than line 24, subtract line 24 from line 33. This is the amount you <b>overpaid</b>   | <b>34</b>  |  |
| <b>35a</b> | Amount of line 34 you want <b>refunded to you</b> . If Form 8888 is attached, check here <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>35a</b> |  |
| <b>b</b>   | Routing number   | <b>c</b>   | Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> Savings |
| <b>d</b>   | Account number   |            |  |
| <b>36</b>  | Amount of line 34 you want <b>applied to your 2021 estimated tax</b>   | <b>36</b>  |  |
| <b>37</b>  | Subtract line 33 from line 24. This is the <b>amount you owe now</b>   | <b>37</b>  |  |
|            | <b>Note:</b> Schedule H and Schedule SE filers, line 37 may not represent all of the taxes you owe for 2020. See Schedule 3, line 12e, and its instructions for details. |            |  |
| <b>38</b>  | Estimated tax penalty (see instructions)   | <b>38</b>  |  |

**Refund**

Direct deposit? See instructions.

**Amount You Owe**

For details on how to pay, see instructions.

**Third Party Designee**

Do you want to allow another person to discuss this return with the IRS? See instructions ☐ **Yes. Complete below.** ☐ **No**

|                 |           |                                      |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Designee's name | Phone no. | Personal identification number (PIN) |
|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|

**Sign Here**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

|   |      |                     |   |
|---|------|---------------------|---|
| Your signature  | Date | Your occupation     | If the IRS sent you an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see inst.)         |
| Spouse's signature. If a joint return, <b>both</b> must sign. | Date | Spouse's occupation | If the IRS sent your spouse an Identity Protection PIN, enter it here (see inst.) |

**Paid Preparer Use Only**

|                 |                      |      |      |   |
|-----------------|----------------------|------|------|---|
| Preparer's name | Preparer's signature | Date | PTIN | Check if:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed |
| Firm's name     | Firm's address       |      |      | Firm's EIN  |

# Overview (Take Two)

## Part 1: Income Tax Basics

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- Deductions
- Credits

## Part 2: Business Tax Issues

- Business vs. Hobby
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# Gross Income

Start by showing your “Gross Income.”

- Gross Income is defined very broadly.
  - It includes money, property, or even services (e.g., bartering).
  - Unemployment benefits are included in Gross Income.
- “Exclusions”
  - Some items are excluded in calculating Gross Income.
  - E.g., gifts, certain employee benefits.
- See IRS Pub. 525 for more information.

# Deductions

## “Above the Line” deductions

- Also known as adjustments to income; listed on Schedule 1.
- Applied to Gross Income to calculate “Adjusted Gross Income.”
  - Adjusted Gross Income is often abbreviated “AGI.”
- Examples: expenses of operating a trade or business; IRA contributions; self-employment health insurance deduction.
- Available whether or not you itemize (explained below).

## “Below the Line” deductions

- Applied to Adjusted Gross Income to calculate “Taxable Income.”
- A choice: either take the “standard deduction” or “itemized deductions.”
- Beware the “alternative minimum tax,” which can reduce certain itemized deductions.



# Below the Line Deductions

## The “standard deduction” vs. “itemized deductions”

- The standard deduction is a flat amount, which depends on your “filing status,” e.g., single, married filing jointly, married filing separately, head of household.
  - The standard deduction for a single person is \$12,400 for 2020 and \$12,550 for 2021.
- Itemized deductions are for specific qualifying expenses.
  - Examples: mortgage interest; state and local taxes; charitable deductions; certain medical and dental expenses.
    - Note: unreimbursed medical and dental expenses are only deductible beyond a threshold of 7.5% of AGI.
  - Potential tax planning strategy: cluster your expenses that could be itemized deductions in one tax year.

*This is an either/or choice: take whichever gives you the bigger deduction.*



# Credits

Credits are dollar-for-dollar reductions of your tax liability.

- Can be “refundable” or “non-refundable.”
- Generally subject to limits based on income level.
- Examples:
  - Earned Income Tax Credit
  - Education Credits (American Opportunity Credit and Lifetime Learning Credit)
  - Child and Dependent Care Credit
  - The Retirement Savings Contributions Credit (Saver’s Credit)
  - Adoption Credit

# Part 2: Business Tax Issues

## Business Tax Issues

- Business vs. Hobby
- Types of Business Entities
- Business Deduction Issues
- Pass-Through Income Deduction
- Self-Employment Taxes & Estimated Taxes

# Hobby vs. Trade or Business

## What is a “Hobby”?

- Hobbies are carried on without an expectation of making a profit.
- IRS looks at facts and circumstances, such as:
  - Whether you carry on the activity in a businesslike manner;
  - The time and effort you put into the activity indicate you intend to make it profitable;
  - Whether you depend on the income for your livelihood.
- Presumed to be a trade or business if it produced a profit in at least 3 of the last 5 years.
- See IRS Pub. 535 for more info.

# Hobby vs. Trade or Business

## Why It Matters

- “Business” income is reported net of expenses, and business losses reduce your taxable income.
- Generally no deductions are allowed for “hobby expenses.”
  - Example: You pay \$500 for a guitar. You receive \$1,000 to play the guitar. You do this as a hobby, not a business. You owe tax on the full \$1,000, *not* on the \$500 in profit.
  - Narrow exception: “Cost of goods sold” can be deducted. You pay \$500 for art supplies. You receive \$1,000 for a painting created with those supplies. You owe tax on your \$500 in profit.
- If you have income from a “business,” you may be subject to significant “self-employment” taxes.

# Choosing a Business Entity

There are a variety of legal entity options, with different tax and liability characteristics.

## Unincorporated Entities

- Sole proprietorship
- Partnership

## Registered/Incorporated Entities

- C Corporation
- Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- S Corporation
- Nonprofit Corporation
- Hybrid Entities, e.g., Benefit Corporations

# Sole Proprietorship

A sole proprietorship is an unincorporated business with one owner. The business and owner are one and the same.

- This is the simplest form of business to start and maintain.
- Good tax consequences: the owner simply includes the income and expenses of the business on his/her own tax returns (Form 1040, Schedule C). This is one form of “pass-through taxation.”
- The owner is personally liable for the debts of the business. However, some of these risks can be mitigated through insurance.
- Conclusion: Sole proprietorship can make sense when liability is not a concern and the business does not generate large amounts of money.

# Partnership

A partnership is an association of two or more persons to carry on a business for profit as co-owners.

- Similar to a sole proprietorship – a partnership is an unincorporated business, for which the owners are generally personally liable.
- Different types of partnerships (e.g., general partnership, limited partnership). Some states require partnerships to be registered.
- Pass-through taxation, but more complicated: the partnership is not itself taxed. The partnership files Form 1065 to figure out each partner's share of the income and expenses, and each partner reports the taxable income on Form 1040, Schedule C.
- Conclusion: if you own a business with anyone else, it's generally recommended to form an LLC or corporation for liability reasons.



# Why Incorporate or Form an LLC?

## Benefits of incorporating or forming an LLC:

- Limited liability (protecting your personal assets or the assets of your other businesses);
- Possible tax benefits (e.g., S Corporation status); and
- May look more professional and permanent to customers, lenders, insurers, and business partners.

Note: If you want a separate bank account for your business, you don't need to incorporate or form an LLC to do that. Banks will generally let you open an account in the name of the business if you register the trade name.

# C Corporation

A “C Corporation” is a corporation that is taxed as an entity separate from its owners.

- Limited Liability.
- Double Taxation: earnings are taxed to the corporation when earned and then taxed to the shareholders when distributed as dividends.
- C Corporation files Form 1120 (very complicated and expensive to prepare).
- C Corporation has some advantages when it comes to deductions for health insurance.
- C Corporation generally not recommended unless you are (or want to be) a very large company.

# Limited Liability Company

The LLC is the most popular choice of entity for small businesses (and many large ones):

- Easy to administer: fewer formalities than a corporation.
- Flexible tax status: Can elect to be treated as C Corporation, disregarded for tax purposes (like a sole proprietorship or partnership), or S Corporation.
- Generally, limited liability (with caveat about single-member LLCs).

Recommendation: to bolster liability protection, have an “operating agreement” and maintain formalities around distributions (even if you’re the sole owner).

# S Corporation

A corporation or LLC that meets certain requirements can elect to be treated as an “S Corporation” under federal law (Form 2553).

- Requirements: (1) formed in United States; (2) no more than 100 shareholders; (3) shareholders are not partnerships, corporations, or non-resident aliens; (4) only one class of stock; and (5) your type of company is not ineligible, i.e., certain financial institutions, insurance companies and others.
- Benefits: pass-through income taxation AND potential to lower employment tax liability.
- However: S Corporations are sometimes not recognized (and thereby double taxed) at the state level.

# Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) Organizations

Many arts organizations are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations.

- “Nonprofit” refers to the type of business entity under state law (i.e., a non-profit corporation, or non-stock corporation).
- “501(c)(3)” refers to its tax status under federal and/or state law.
- To be a 501(c)(3), you must submit an application to the IRS. Two possible options:
  - Form 1023-EZ (very quick and simple – generally for small organizations)
  - Form 1023 (very difficult and burdensome)

# Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) Organizations

## Benefits of 501(c)(3) Status:

- Net earnings generally tax-exempt under federal and state law;
- Donations are eligible for charitable deduction; and
- Eligible for grants from private foundations and governments.

# Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) Organizations

## Burdens of 501(c)(3) Status:

- Very complicated to administer: must be run by board of directors, pursuant to articles of incorporation, bylaws, and corporate policies;
- Activities must be consistent with 501(c)(3) exempt purpose;
- Director or officer compensation must be “reasonable” and approved by an independent board;
- Need to have a variety of funding sources to avoid being classified as a “private foundation” (private foundations are a special type of 501(c)(3) organization subject to much more burdensome restrictions); and
- Numerous reporting requirements (Form 990, corporate reports, charitable solicitation registrations).



# Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) Organizations

“Promotion of the Arts” is recognized as a valid 501(c)(3) purpose, but a nonprofit created mainly to promote the work of its founders or members will not be recognized as tax-exempt.

A 501(c)(3) arts organization should:

- (1) have at least some educational activities;
- (2) be involved with the public or local community;
- (3) focus on art that lacks commercial recognition; and
- (4) focus on a variety of artists, not just the founders or members.

# Benefit Corporations

Varies by state, but “benefit corporations” generally pursue a business purpose and are required to have a material positive impact on society and the environment, as measured by a third-party standard (a “general public benefit”).

- Also, may choose to pursue “specific public benefit” purpose written into the Articles or Bylaws (similar to 501(c)(3) purpose).
- The Board of Directors is required to consider certain other stakeholder interests in addition to the interests of shareholders.
- Required to issue annual report detailing public benefit (sometimes public, sometimes just to shareholders).
- Taxed as a C Corporation or, if elected, S Corporation. *No special tax benefits.*
- Maryland also has “Benefit LLCs.”
- Not to be confused with “B Corps.”

# Tax Deductions for Businesses

You can deduct the costs of running a business, so long as the expense is:

- ordinary (common and accepted in your field); and
- necessary (helpful and appropriate for your business).

Deductible expenses for artists may include studio rent, promotion, copying, printing, equipment and software, etc.

Number one rule: *you must keep good records.* Be prepared with documents showing that:

- (1) You incurred the expense; and
- (2) The expense is related to your business.

# Home Office Deduction

To deduct expenses related to the part of your home used for your business, you must meet specific requirements. Even then, your deduction may be limited.

To deduct expenses for the business use of your home, your business use of this part of your home must be:

- (1) Exclusive (i.e., used *only* for business purposes) and
- (2) Regular (i.e., not just occasional); and . . .
- (3) The business part of your home must be one of the following:
  - (a) your principal place of business,
  - (b) a place where you meet or deal with clients or customers in the normal course of your business (phone calls don't count), or
  - (c) a separate structure (not attached to your home) used in connection with your business.

# Home Office Deduction

Two methods:

- Traditional: calculate the percentage of actual home expenses allocated to the office, based on square footage.
- Simplified: standard \$5 per square foot allowed as a business deduction (up to a max of 300 square feet).
- The simplified method often provides less, but is easy to substantiate and calculate.

See IRS Pub. 587 for more info.

# Pass-through Income Deduction

There is a 20% deduction available for certain pass-through income. For complex businesses with multiple business lines or S corporations, there can be planning opportunities. For simple businesses, generally automatic.

- Pass-through income includes income from . . .
  - Sole proprietorships;
  - S corporations;
  - Partnerships; and
  - LLCs taxed as sole proprietorships, S corporations or partnerships.
- Above-the-line deduction: do not need to itemize.
- Does not apply to income from . . .
  - Services provided as an employee;
  - Reasonable compensation paid from an S corporation; and
  - Capital gain, among other categories.
  - Above a high income threshold, certain lines of work.
  - Above a high income threshold, businesses with low wages paid or capital investment.

# Self-Employment Taxes

## What are Self-Employment Taxes?

- Employers and employees each pay payroll taxes in addition to income taxes to cover Social Security and Medicare for the employee (also known as “FICA”).
- A self-employed person must pay both the employer and employee’s share.
- Total self-employment tax is generally 2.9% of net earnings from self-employment for Medicare and 12.4% of the first \$137,700 of net earnings from self-employment for Social Security (i.e., generally 15.3% if net earnings from self-employment equal \$137,700 or less).
  - The Social Security wage base rises to \$142,800 for 2021.
- Paying self-employment taxes ensures that you are credited for purposes of receiving Social Security or Medicare benefits.



# Self-Employment Taxes

## Who Must Pay Self-Employment Taxes?

- Any individual who receives \$400 or more from a “trade or business” carried on as a sole-proprietor, independent contractor, or sometimes, as a partner in a partnership or LLC (see the Instructions for the Form 1040 Schedule SE for more info)
- You are not subject to self-employment tax if your activity is not a trade or business (e.g., if it is considered a “hobby” for tax purposes.)
- You are not subject to self-employment tax on amounts earned as an employee rather than an independent contractor.
  - General rule: You are generally an employee if the person paying you has the right to control the method and means of your performance of service. See IRS Pub. 15-A for more info.

# Self-Employment Taxes

## Determining net earnings from self-employment

- Basic Method: (1) calculate the combined income and deductions from all of your businesses and (2) multiply this number by .9235.
  - Example: You have a total net income of \$50,000 from all your businesses (after deductions). Your net earnings from self-employment equals \$46,175 ( $\$50,000 \times .9235 = \$46,175$ )
  - Total self-employment tax in this situation would be approximately \$7,065 (15.3% of \$46,175 = \$7,065).
- There are optional more complicated methods that result in a larger number and higher self-employment tax. Useful if you want to increase your Earned Income Tax Credit, or if you need more credit for Social Security purposes.

# Self-Employment Taxes

How to report self-employment taxes:

- File Schedule SE along with your Form 1040.
  - Note: If both spouses have self-employment income, then two Schedules SE must be filed, one for each spouse (even if they file jointly).

See IRS Pub. 334 and the instructions to Schedule SE for more info.

# Estimated Tax Payments

## What are estimated tax payments?

- Employees are subject to income tax “withholding” to ensure that the government receives income tax payments as income is earned throughout the year.
- Individuals who are not subject to withholding, or from whom too little is withheld, must send tax payments four times per year. *This requirement applies to any income regardless of whether you have a trade or business.*
- Failure to pay estimated tax on time results in an annual charge of 4-6% interest based on the number of days you are late.
- Note: if you are required to make estimated tax payments for federal purposes, it is very likely that you must do so for state income tax purposes as well.
- Tip: if you work as an employee, you may be able to avoid paying estimated taxes by submitting a Form W-4 to your employer to withhold additional amounts.

# Estimated Tax Payments

## Three methods of figuring estimated tax payments:

- Basic method: Estimate your personal income tax and self-employment tax liability for the year and pay at least 90% of this amount evenly throughout the year. See Form 1040-ES.
- Safe Harbor method: Pay 100% of last year's tax liability evenly throughout the year (110% if you have more than \$150,000 in gross income).
- If you receive income unevenly throughout the year, you may use the "Annualized Income Installment Method," which allows you to pay in higher or lower amounts each quarter based on your income. See IRS Pub. 505. If you use this method, you must file Form 2210 with your annual return.
- Tip: When in doubt, paying 30% of your gross income each quarter is generally sufficient to avoid penalties.

# Estimated Tax Payments

When are estimated tax payments due?

- April 15 (for the period Jan. 1 – Mar. 31)
- June 15 (for the period Apr. 1 – May 31)
- Sept. 15 (for the period June 1 – Aug. 31)
- Jan. 15, or Feb. 1 if you file your annual return and pay in full by then (for the period Sept. 1 – Dec. 31)

How are estimated tax payments submitted?

- Send payment along with Form 1040-ES, or
- Pay online at [www.eftps.gov](http://www.eftps.gov) (businesses) or [www.irs.gov/payments/direct-pay](http://www.irs.gov/payments/direct-pay) (individuals)

See IRS Pub. 505 for more info.

# Reporting Compensation Paid

If you have employees, you are generally responsible for:

- (1) withholding payroll and income taxes from your employees, and remitting them to the government;
- (2) paying the employer's share of FICA taxes, unemployment taxes (FUTA and state), workers compensation insurance premiums, etc.; and
- (3) various periodic tax reporting requirements, such as Form W-2, Form 940, and Form 941/944.



# Reporting Compensation Paid

If you pay an independent contractor \$600 or more during the year in connection with your trade or business, you must obtain the person's social security or tax I.D. number (use Form W-9) and submit a Form 1099-NEC to the independent contractor and the IRS.

- Form 1099-NEC (**N**on-**E**mployee **C**ompensation) is new for this year (tax year 2020). Previously reported on 1099-MISC.
- Form 1099-NEC is due to the independent contractor by January 31 and must be filed with the IRS by then.
- Note: If your independent contractor is a corporation, you are generally not required to submit a Form 1099-NEC.

# Part 3: COVID-19 Tax Issues

## Online Resources

- The IRS has a very good website with up-to-date information about the latest income tax changes.
  - <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus-tax-relief-and-economic-impact-payments>
- For 'traditional' tax topics, the IRS has a series of thorough and surprisingly readable online publications.
  - <https://www.irs.gov/publications>
- The Small Business Administration also has good resources.
  - <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

# Federal Funds

- Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)
  - Low-interest loans for small businesses.
  - Apply directly with the Small Business Administration.
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan
  - In part a forgivable loan – essentially a grant.
  - Reopened for a second round with tighter eligibility requirements.
  - Apply through a participating financial institution.
- Stimulus Payments
  - If you were eligible for either round of stimulus payments but have not received a payment, you can claim it as a tax credit when you file your income tax return for 2020.
  - <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>

# Tax Credits for Self-Employed Individuals

- Sick Leave

- Eligibility:

- Individuals engaged in a trade or business (not simply passive investment) . . .
    - . . . Who are unable to work because:
      - Under a government mandated quarantine related to Covid-19
      - Quarantined by the advice of a health care provider
      - Experienced Covid-19 symptoms
      - Caring for someone under quarantine
      - Caring for a child whose school or care provider is closed due to Covid-19
      - Other reasons to be determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services

- Benefit:

- A tax credit serving as paid sick pay for up to 10 sick days taken between April 1 and December 31, 2020.
    - *Now extended to cover through March 31, 2021.*
    - The amount of the credit depends on your reason for taking leave and your income. The credit is capped at \$511 per day for the first three reasons, and at \$200 per day for the last three reasons.

- Takeaway:

- Keep documentation.

# Tax Credits for Self-Employed Individuals

- Family Leave
  - Eligibility:
    - Individuals engaged in a trade or business (not simply passive investment) . . .
    - . . . Who are unable to work because:
      - Caring for someone under quarantine
      - Caring for a child whose school or care provider is closed due to Covid-19
      - Other reasons to be determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services
  - Benefit:
    - A tax credit serving as family leave pay for up to 50 days taken between April 1 and December 31, 2020.
    - *Now extended to cover through March 31, 2021.*
    - The amount of the credit depends on your income. The credit is capped at \$200 per day.
  - Takeaway:
    - Keep documentation.

# Q & A



# Ivins, Phillips & Barker



**IVINS, PHILLIPS & BARKER**, founded by two of the original judges on the United States Tax Court in 1935, is the leading law firm in the United States exclusively engaged in the practice of federal income tax, employee benefits and estate and gift tax law. Our decades of focus on the intricacies of the Internal Revenue Code have led numerous Fortune 500 companies, as well as smaller companies, tax exempt organizations, and high net worth individuals to rely on the firm for answers to the most complicated and sophisticated tax planning problems as well as for complex tax litigation. We provide expert counsel in all major areas of tax law, and we offer prompt and efficient attention, whether with respect to the most detailed and intricate of issues or for rapid responses to emergency situations.

# Takis Nonprofit Law PLLC

**Takis Nonprofit Law PLLC** is a Washington D.C. law firm practicing in the fields of tax, corporate governance, employment law, and business transactions for nonprofit organizations and social entrepreneurs. With over a decade of experience representing some of the country's largest nonprofits and tax-exempt entities, Takis Nonprofit Law PLLC is dedicated to making sophisticated legal representation accessible to organizations of all types and sizes.



# Disclaimer

***Nothing in this presentation is intended as legal advice. The information contained herein is general information. Please consult a lawyer or accountant for application to your specific facts and circumstances.***