

2020 Federal W-4 FAQs

1. What IRS resources are available to help me determine if I need to submit a 2020 Federal W-4?

- [W-4 Instructions](#)
- [IRS W-4 FAQs](#)
- [Withholding Calculator](#)
- [IRS 2020 W-4 Webinar](#)

2. Who can help me fill out my 2020 Federal W-4?

You can consult the resources in question 1 or consult your tax advisor. Employees of the State of Michigan cannot provide tax advice and therefore cannot assist you in determining what values to fill out on the new 2020 Federal W-4.

3. Do I need to submit a new 2020 Federal W-4?

The IRS does not require a new 2020 Federal W-4 to be submitted. The calculations of withholding in IRS Publication 15-T have been established to work with W-4s submitted before 2020. That being said, the IRS highly recommends that individuals review their tax situation to determine if they should submit a new 2020 Federal W-4. Please see questions 4 & 5 below for more discussion on this question.

4. I currently am claiming a marital status of single, married or married filing separately with zero allowances. Do I need to submit a new Federal W-4 in 2020?

You should review your tax situation to determine if you need to submit a new W-4. Be aware that if you do not submit a new 2020 W-4 your tax withholding will calculate using 0 allowances under the tax calculation method in the 2020 IRS Publication 15-T for individuals who have not submitted a 2020 W-4. You should review publication 15-T and IRS resources mentioned in question 1 along with consulting your tax advisor to determine whether you should submit a 2020 Federal W-4.

5. I am currently claiming a marital status of single, married or married filing separately with a defined number of exemptions. Do I need to submit a new Federal W-4 in 2020?

You should review your tax situation to determine if you need to submit a new 2020 W-4. Be aware that if you do not submit a new 2020 W-4 your tax withholding will calculate using the number of allowances you are currently claiming under the tax calculation method in the 2020 IRS Publication 15-T for individuals who have not submitted a 2020 W-4. You should review publication 15-T and IRS resources mentioned in question 1 along with consulting your tax advisor to determine whether you should submit a 2020 Federal W-4.

6. When will the 2020 Federal W-4 be available in EMSS?

The new 2020 Federal W-4 will be available in EMSS on January 6th, 2020.

7. I have entered values in Steps 2, 3 and/or 4(a)-(c) and am also claiming Exempt on a paper Federal W-4. I have been told this W-4 is invalid. Why is that?

Per the Federal W-4 instructions if you are claiming exempt from withholding by writing "Exempt" under line 4(c) you should not have values filled out in Steps 2, 3 and/or 4(a)-(c) of the W-4.

8. In EMSS I have entered values in Steps 2, 3 and/or 4(a)-(c) and am also claiming Exempt and am getting an error message. Why I am receiving an error message?

Per the Federal W-4 instructions if you are claiming exempt from withholding by writing "Exempt" under line 4(c) you should not have values filled out in Steps 2, 3 and/or 4(a)-(c) of the W-4.

9. In EMSS, how do I zero out or change the adjustment amount claimed in Step 3 of the Federal W-4?

In EMSS you must either enter a zero or new value in the line in Step 3 for "Multiply the number of qualifying children under age 17 by \$2,000" and/or "Multiply the number of other dependents by \$500" to update the amount in Step 3. If you do not make a change to either line or enter zero in at least one line the amount for Step 3 in EMSS will remain unchanged.

10. I submitted a new Federal W-4 in EMSS and my Federal Exemptions disappeared. Why did that occur?

Exemptions/Allowances are no longer valid for the Federal W-4. Therefore, once you submit a new Federal W-4 in EMSS the Exemption amount for Federal is systematically removed.

11. Are exemptions still valid for States and Cities?

You should review each State or Cities tax withholding form to determine if exemptions/allowances are valid for each taxing authority.

12. I need to renew my claim for exempt from Federal withholding for 2020. Can I do this in EMSS on the new 2020 Federal W-4?

Yes. The same exempt from withholding renewal option will display in the 2020 Federal W-4 as did previously on the 2019 Federal W-4.