

## U.S. Treasury Launches Venmo and PayPal Debt Donation Program

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WASHINGTON, D.C. In a bid to modernize public fundraising, the U.S. Treasury has introduced a new option allowing Americans to voluntarily contribute to the national debt through popular payment apps Venmo and PayPal.

As of July 25, 2025, the department expanded its existing “Gifts to Reduce the Public Debt” initiative, originally launched in 1996, by integrating it into Pay.gov, a federal payment

platform. This updated system now gives citizens the ability to donate funds directly using the same mobile platforms widely used for everyday transactions.

While symbolic, the move aims to enhance accessibility for younger, tech-savvy users. Officials hope the convenience of mobile payments will attract a broader demographic to participate in what has historically been a low-profile program.

## **A Modern Twist on an Old Program**

Over nearly three decades, the “Gifts to Reduce the Public Debt” program has collected just \$67.3 million, a fraction of what’s needed to make a meaningful dent in the federal deficit. The U.S. national debt currently stands at \$36.7 trillion, a staggering 87% increase since 2010, when it was \$19.59 trillion.

The Treasury’s decision reflects a broader attempt to modernize government-citizen engagement. By allowing donations through platforms like PayPal and Venmo, the department is aligning with consumer habits in the digital economy.

## **Public Reaction Mixed**

Despite the technological upgrade, reactions from financial experts have been lukewarm. Critics argue that while the platform may increase convenience, it has little impact on the larger debt picture.

Samson Mow, CEO of cryptocurrency firm JAN3, likened the move to “sending bitcoin to a burn address,” highlighting skepticism over the initiative’s effectiveness. The remark reflects concerns that such donations serve more as symbolic gestures than actual solutions to long-term fiscal challenges.

## **Broader Fiscal Concerns Persist**

While the donation feature may reflect innovative thinking, it does little to address the structural issues driving U.S. debt. Rising interest rates, high federal spending, and slowing economic growth continue to challenge long-term fiscal sustainability.

In recent years, discussions surrounding debt ceilings, deficit spending, and foreign ownership of U.S. debt, particularly by nations like China, have brought heightened attention

to America's financial position. The Pay.gov update comes amid renewed debates over how the U.S. government can rein in spending without stifling economic growth.

## **Bottom Line**

The addition of Venmo and PayPal to the Treasury's donation program offers a tech-forward update to a decades-old initiative. But while the digital payment option may ease participation, experts caution that it remains a largely symbolic act in the face of a growing national debt.