

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

If you decide to work in public service, you may be eligible for federal student loan forgiveness after 10 years of full-time work. The information below outlines the qualifying components of the PSLF program, and a timeline of action to enter PSLF is included on page 56 of the Education Debt Manager.

Five steps to ensure eligibility for Public Service Loan Forgiveness

- Step 1:** Request a qualifying repayment plan for your eligible loans (recertify annually).
- Step 2:** If necessary, consolidate eligible FFEL, LDS, and Perkins Loans into a Direct Consolidation Loan.
- Step 3:** Submit an Employment Certification Form (ECF) to FedLoan Servicing (resubmit annually).
- Step 4:** Make 120 qualifying payments while completing eligible work.
- Step 5:** Upon completion of requirements, apply with FedLoan Servicing for the actual forgiveness.

Checklist for Public Service Loan Forgiveness

ELIGIBLE LOANS Only the following loan types are eligible:

- Direct Loans (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)
- Direct PLUS and parent PLUS Loans
- Direct Consolidation Loans
- Other federal student loans* can be made eligible by including them in a Direct Consolidation Loan.**

* FFEL Stafford, Grad PLUS, federal consolidation, Perkins, LDS, and certain other FFEL loans

** More information is available at studentloans.gov.

NOTE: Defaulted loans, private loans, and any consolidation loan containing a spousal consolidation loan are not eligible.

QUALIFYING PAYMENTS While simultaneously working in a qualifying public service position, you must make 120 on-time and scheduled payments* under a qualifying repayment plan.

The following plans qualify:

- Income-Based Repayment (IBR)
- Pay As You Earn (PAYE)
- Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE)
- Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR)
- Standard Repayment plan (or a repayment plan where the monthly amount paid is not less than the monthly amount required under the 10-year Standard Repayment plan)

* Payments do not have to be consecutive, allowing for changes in employers and periods of nonwork.

QUALIFYING WORK You must be employed full-time* for a total of 10 years in a public service position. For the work to be considered public service, your employer must be one of the following:

- Nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization (includes many medical schools and residency programs)
- Federal, state, local, or tribal government organization, agency, or entity
- A branch of the military
- Public service organization—a private organization providing a public service

Submit questions about eligible employers to FedLoan Servicing (myfedloan.org). They are the servicer that oversees PSLF.

* Full-time work is considered to be 30 hours per week or the number of hours the employer considers to be full-time.

This checklist is a general guideline only. For more information about eligibility, visit studentaid.ed.gov/publicservice or use the Department of Education's PSLF Help Tool, at aamc.org/pslflhelptool, to receive personalized guidance in your pursuit of PSLF.