



# Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Navigating the Path to Forgiveness

Janice Nottenkamper, UAMS Student Loan  
Debt Manager

# Agenda

- The Basics of PSLF
- What Qualifies? Employer, Repayment Plan, Payments
- Temporary Extended PSLF(TEPSLF)
- Limited PSLF Waiver! Some time sensitive changes that may help you achieve forgiveness!
- PSLF Help Tool
- Teacher Loan Forgiveness

# What is Public Service Loan Forgiveness?



## Just the facts...

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program allows eligible borrowers to cancel their remaining balance of their ***Direct Loans*** after serving ***full time at a public service organization*** for at least 10 years while making ***120 qualifying monthly payments after October 1, 2007***. Find out more at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).

# Qualified Employment

- It's all about the employer...
- All federal, state, local governments, including public schools, and all branches of the military.
- All 501©3 non-profits.
- Other types of non-profit organizations.
- Must be considered full-time..
- 2020 regulatory change means time spent on religious activities(proselytizing)now count toward full time allocation.
- Must be employed at an eligible employer when forgiveness is granted.

# Full Time Employment

Working one or more jobs at least 30 hours per week.

If employment is with 2 or more employers, the combined average of at least 30 hours.

Employer sponsored vacation, leave time, and FMLA can be used to determine if you meet full-time employment requirements.



# Eligible Loans for PSLF

- Federal Direct Loans, only those payments made on Federal Direct Loans count toward 120 qualified payments.
- Direct Subsidized Loans
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans
- Direct PLUS Loans (parents and graduate/professional students)
- Direct Consolidation Loans – *you can consolidate ineligible loans to make them direct and eligible for forgiveness!*

To learn more, go to [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).

# Qualified Repayment Plans

- ICR – Income Contingent Repayment
- IBR – Income Based Repayment
- PAYE – Pay As You Earn Plan
- REPAYE – Revised Pay As You Earn Plan
- STANDARD – based on a 10 year repayment plan

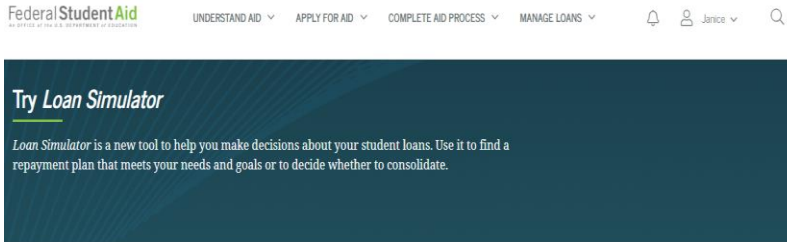
*To maximize forgiveness, borrowers should be in an Income Driven Repayment (IDR) Plan.*



# IDR's – The Details

- Based on income, not debt load.
- 10 – 20% of your discretionary income depending on the plan.
- Must apply at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).
- Reapply each year, verify income, household size, state of residence.
- Each plan has its own set of rules. Check out the Loan Simulator at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) to determine the best plan for YOUR situation.

# The Loan Simulator



Hi Janice. Let's get started.  
We will guide you through a series of questions based on your selection below.

The image shows three cards from the Loan Simulator interface. Each card has a green icon, a title, a description, a 'Guide Me' button, and a list of bullet points.

- Card 1:** Icon: Bar chart with upward arrows. Title: 'I Want to Find the Best Repayment Strategy'. Description: 'We will recommend a repayment plan based on your needs and goals and help you explore options like making extra payments or consolidating your loans.' Button: 'Guide Me'. Bullets: 'See how you can lower your payment', 'See how you can pay off your loans faster'.
- Card 2:** Icon: Magnifying glass over a dollar sign. Title: 'I'm Struggling With My Payments'. Description: 'Discover whether it's worth it to temporarily suspend payments or lower your monthly payment.' Button: 'Guide Me'. Bullets: 'Consider a new repayment plan instead of suspending payments', 'Find out about the impacts of'.
- Card 3:** Icon: Dollar sign with upward arrows. Title: 'I Want to Simulate Borrowing More Money'. Description: 'Find out what happens when you borrow more money to pay for additional educational expenses, returning to school, or finishing your studies later than expected.' Button: 'Guide Me'. Bullets: 'Explore impacts when you borrow more', 'Find out about federal loan limits'.

- Go to [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) to log into the Loan Simulator.
- Will help you determine which plan would be the best option for you for PSLF.
- PAYE, REPAYE, IBR, or ICR – which one is right for me??
- Knowledge is POWER!

# Qualified Payments

- Payments must be made after October 1, 2007.
- Must be on time(no later than 15 days after scheduled due date).
- Must be the full amount due each month.
- Must not be in default, in grace, in deferment.
- Zero dollar payments count if in a qualified IDR plan.

# Lump Sum Payments(Prepayment)

- Count up to 12 qualifying payments.
- Will be in paid ahead status.
- Cannot receive forgiveness any sooner than 10 years.
- Months covered during the pause (Cares Act) will be updated once borrower submits PSLF form.

# COVID-19 Flexibilities

- Payments and interest currently paused until August 31, 2022.
- Loans in forbearance due to the pause are PSLF eligible. Keep sending in that PSLF Form to capture eligible payments.
- Loans in repayment are PSLF eligible.
- Borrowers do not have to be in an eligible payment plan if loans are in forbearance due to payment pause.



# How do I apply for PSLF?

- It all starts at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov). ( I know – I have said this multiple times!)
  - Submit the PSLF form found on [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).
  - Use the PSLF Help Tool on [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov). It's easy and more automated.
  - Submit the form by upload,mail or fax.
  - Once approved, loans transferred to Fed Loan Servicing(the designated servicer for PSLF borrowers).\*\*\*
  - You will receive notification of any qualifying payments already made.
  - They will remind you annually to submit a new certification. Very important when managing this process.
  - The amount forgiven in PSLF is NON taxable! Yep, you heard that right.
- 
- \*\*\*Fed Loans is exiting as a servicer and MOHELA will become the new servicer for those in PSLF. We think this will happen in September/October of this year.

# Temporary Expanded PSLF(TEPSLF)

- A temporary program to provide loan forgiveness to those who do not qualify for PSLF ONLY because some of all of their qualifying payments were made on non-qualifying plans.
- Extended and Graduated, if:
- In the 12 months before applying for TEPSLF, the borrower paid at least the amount they would have paid under an IDR plan.

# The Limited PSLF Waiver

- On October 6, 2021, the US Dept. of Education announced a temporary period during which borrowers may receive credit for payments that previously did not qualify for the PSLF or TEPSLF.
- The waiver ends October 31, 2022.
- Prior payments on FFELP/Perkins will count but MUST be consolidated into Direct Loans.
- Partial and late payments will count.
- Does NOT have to be in eligible repayment plan.
- Active Duty Military members whose loans are in deferment/forbearance will be allowed credit toward PSLF.
- Can get forgiveness even if not employed or not employed by an eligible employer when applying for the forgiveness.
- \*\*\*\*Parent Plus loans are not eligible under this limited time rule change.



# Let's Break It Down...

- **If you have only borrowed Direct Loans:** File a PSLF Form for each eligible employer you had since you borrowed loans or since Oct. 1, 2007, whichever is later.
- **If you previously consolidated into Direct Loans:** File a PSLF Form for each eligible employer you had since you borrowed any loans underlying the Direct Consolidation Loan(or since Oct. 1, 2007, whichever is later).
- **If you still have FFELP or Perkins Loans:** Consolidate your loans into the Direct Loan Program and file a PSLF Form for each eligible employer since you borrowed the loans you are consolidating(or since Oct. 1, 2007, whichever is later).

# Try the PSLF Help Tool!

## Using the PSLF Help Tool



You can use the PSLF Help Tool to search for a qualifying employer, learn what actions you may need to take to be eligible for PSLF or TEPSLF, and generate the form you need. Each time you submit a form, we will evaluate your eligibility for forgiveness, and provide that forgiveness to you if you are eligible. After you submit your form, if you have Direct Loans and work for a qualifying employer, you will receive a count of the number of qualifying payments you have made toward both PSLF and TEPSLF from FedLoan Servicing. For an optimal experience using this tool, we strongly recommend that you read [Become a Public Service Loan Forgiveness \(PSLF\) Help Tool Ninja](#) before getting started.

Learn more about [PSLF](#) and [TEPSLF](#).

Log In To Start

# Employer Section

**Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Help Tool**

1 Employment History 2 Loan Type 3 Application Details 4 Personal Information 5 Review & Save

### My Employers

Add your past and current employers below to determine whether they qualify for PSLF and TEPSLF during the time of your employment.

*Note: 1) Only add your employment history since your last approved employment certification (if applicable). If you've certified an employment period in the past, then you do not need to do so again.*

*2) If at least one day of your employment falls within a period during which we determined your employer to be eligible, you will be able to complete the PSLF Help Tool even if the employer was not an eligible employer for the entire period you entered. However, the PSLF Servicer will conduct a comprehensive review of the specific dates of your employment for eligibility with the submission of a PSLF form. Please note that periods of employment prior to October 2, 2007, cannot qualify for PSLF even if they were with a qualifying employer.*

You have not added any employers.

[+ Add Employer](#)

[Previous](#) [Next Section](#)

**Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Help Tool**

1 Employment History 2 Loan Type 3 Application Details 4 Personal Information 5 Review & Save

Search for Employer

Employer Identification Number (EIN)

How do I find my EIN?

This is my current employer

Employment Start Date To Employment End Date

[Search](#)

[Previous](#) [Continue](#)

...nce Agency (PHEAA) to support the U.S. Department of Education's ability

25

# Employer Section

If you recognize the name of the employer that resulted from your search, we strongly encourage you to select a result that relates to your employer's name. You should do this even if

- the name differs slightly,
- the name is for a larger organization or agency that your employer belongs to,
- there is no address,
- the address is different from where you typically work, or
- the address is a P. O. Box.

The screenshot shows a list of search results for employers. The first result is selected and highlighted with a blue border. Callout boxes point to specific details in the results:

- Top Callout:** Points to the EIN (12522500) and the full name and address of the selected employer: "Department of Really Long Organizational Naming, 98764 Washington Circle, Arlington, VA 22345".
- Bottom Callout:** Points to the "Not Eligible" status of a result with EIN 12522500.

EIN	Name	Address	Eligibility Status
12522500	Department of Really Long Organizational Naming	98764 Washington Circle, Arlington, VA 22345	Eligible
12522500	Office of Really Long Organizational Naming Standards	98764 Washington Circle, Arlington, VA 22345	Eligible
12522500	Office of Pretty Long Organizational Naming	98764 Washington Circle, Arlington, VA 22345	Eligible
12522500	Office of Long Organizational Naming	No address on file	Eligible
12522500	Office of Organizational Naming	98764 Washington Circle, Arlington, VA 22345	Eligible
12522500	Department of Really Long Organizational Naming	98764 Washington Circle, Arlington, VA 22345	Not Eligible

The following information will display for each employer on the list:

- EIN
- Name
- Address
- Eligibility Status

Eligibility statuses include Eligible, Likely Ineligible, and Not Eligible.

# Application Details

Have you made 120 qualifying payments? ?

If you don't know, take your best guess! We will always come to see if you are eligible for forgiveness, so your answer won't negatively impact you in any way.

We do use this question!

Yes, I have made 120 qualifying payments and qualify for forgiveness right now.  
Choose this option if you think you have made at least 120 qualifying payments on at least one of your loans while working for a qualifying employer.

No, I haven't made 120 qualifying payments.  
Choose this option if you just want to find out how many qualifying payments you have made to date, or if your employer is a qualifying employer and you don't think you qualify for forgiveness right now.

Do You Want a Forbearance?

While your application for forgiveness is reviewed, you have the option to request a forbearance. During a forbearance, you aren't required to make any payments, but your interest will continue to accrue (accumulate).

Note: If your PSLF application is denied, the forbearance period won't count toward the PSLF Program and interest that accrued may be capitalized (added to the unpaid principal amount of your loan).

**NEW! Automatic Suspension of Monthly Payments as a Result of the COVID-19 Emergency**

To provide relief to student loan borrowers during the COVID-19 emergency, federal student loan borrowers were automatically placed in an administrative forbearance, which allows you to temporarily stop making your monthly loan payments. This suspension of payments will last from March 31, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2020, but you can still make payments if you choose.

If you have a Direct Loan, were on a qualifying repayment plan prior to the suspension, and work full-time for a qualifying employer during the suspension, then you will receive credit toward PSLF for the period of suspension as though you made on-time monthly payments.

I recommend No, I'll continue to make payments while my application is reviewed. If my application is approved, payments I make during the review period will be refunded to me.

Yes, I want a forbearance.

Previous Next Section

Option to select if you have made 120 qualified payments.

If so, then answer questions about forbearance.

Established by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

# Ready to Submit!

**Print, Sign, and Submit Your Form** Required Fields

**Submit Your Application**

**STEP 1**  
Download and print your application with the link below.  
[PDF and FPDF Certification & Application](#)

**STEP 2**  
Read and sign the application.

**STEP 3**  
Have your employer read and sign the application.  
Note: It is your employer's responsibility to ensure that the organization listed on your form matches your actual employment. Your employer should confirm that the EOC, employment status, and hours worked per week were completed correctly before signing.

**STEP 4**  
Submit the application that you and your employer have signed to our FPDF team service. Use one of the following ways:

**MAIL TO:**  
U.S. Department of Education, FedLoan Servicing  
P.O. Box 80104  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0104

**FAX TO:**  
717-708-8428

**Application Review**  
It may take up to 100 days to review and process your form from the time that FedLoan Servicing receives it. Within that time, you can expect to receive a letter from FedLoan Servicing with your status.

If you have any questions, please visit the [Help Center](#) or [Contact us](#).

- You still have to print and sign the form.
- Employer still has to sign the form.
- Mail, fax, or upload to Fed Loan Servicing as listed on the form.

# Acceptable Signatures

## Signature Examples

Signature Type	Yes/No
----------------	--------

Hand drawn from signature pad, mouse, or finger	✓
---	---

Typed using a cursive font or any other font	x
--	---

A scanned photo of a signature that was hand-drawn on paper	✓
---	---

Digital certificate-based signature	x
-------------------------------------	---

A wet signature that was drawn in ink and sent to us in its original format	✓
---	---

**A reminder about digital signatures:** Digital signatures from you or your employer must be hand drawn (from a signature pad, mouse, finger, or by taking a picture of a signature drawn on a piece of paper that you then scan and embed on the signature line of the PSLF form) to be accepted. Typed signatures, even if made to mimic a hand-drawn signature, or security certificate-based signatures are not accepted.

Send the completed form, with your employer's certification, to FedLoan Servicing, the U.S. Department of Education's federal loan servicer for the PSLF Program. You may mail the form to this address:

U.S. Department of Education  
 FedLoan Servicing  
 P.O. Box 69184  
 Harrisburg, PA 17106-9184

You may also fax your PSLF form to 717-720-1628.

If FedLoan Servicing is already your servicer, [you may upload your PSLF form on their website.](#)

FedLoan Servicing was established by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to support the U.S. Department of Education's ability

# And there you have it...

- Good luck with your path to Public Service Loan Forgiveness.
- Be diligent, be positive, be patient.
- Do your research and ask questions if you are unsure.

Much of this information is from [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) and [www.myFedLoan.org](http://www.myFedLoan.org).

**But wait! There's more....**



# Teacher Loan Forgiveness

- Forgives up to \$17,500 of your Direct or FFEL Subsidized or Unsubsidized Loans after 5 complete and consecutive years of teaching at a qualifying school.
- Must be employed full time at an eligible school for 5 consecutive years with at least one of those years after the 1997-98 academic year.
- Plus Loans and Perkins Loans do not qualify for this forgiveness.
- Can apply for Teach Loan Forgiveness Forbearance to maximize forgiveness amount.
- Check out [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) for a link to eligible schools and more details about this program.

# Contact Info for Fed Loans

- Dedicated customer support line – 855-265-4038
- Dedicated site – [MyFedLoan.org/PSLF](http://MyFedLoan.org/PSLF)
- Customer reps available Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM, EST.

# Thank You For Attending!

*Any Questions?*

