Public Service Loan Forgiveness
FACT SHEET

If you work for a government or non-profit organization, you may be eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

This program, offered by the U.S. Department of Education, forgives the remaining balance on your federal student loans (Direct Loans).

To be eligible for PSLF, you must make the equivalent of 120 qualifying monthly payments under an accepted repayment plan, and be working full-time for an eligible employer.

What loans are eligible for forgiveness?

The following loans are eligible for forgiveness under PSLF:

- Direct Subsidized Loans
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans
- Direct PLUS Loans
- Direct Consolidation Loans

If you are unsure of what type(s) of federal student loans you have, log into your StudentAid.Gov[1] account.

What is an accepted repayment plan?

Qualifying repayment plans include all income-driven repayment (IDR) plans (plans that base your monthly payment on your income and household size) and the 10-year Standard Repayment Plan. The four IDR plans we offer include:

- Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan[2]—formerly the REPAYE Plan
- Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Repayment Plan[3]
- Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan[4]
- Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) Plan[5]

How do I know if I work for an eligible employer?

The following are considered eligible employers by the U.S. Department of Education:

- U.S.-based government organizations at any level (federal, state, local, or tribal) – this includes the U.S. military (This would include State of Minnesota employees)
- Non-profit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- Other non-profit organizations that devote a majority of their full-time equivalent employees to providing certain qualifying public services, including: emergency management, military service, public safety, law enforcement, public interest law services, early childhood education, public service for individuals with disabilities and the elderly, public health, public education, public library services, and school library or other school-based services

How do I apply?

To be considered for PSLF, you only need to submit a PSLF form. The easiest way to do this is by using the PSLF Help Tool[6]. The PSLF Help Tool allows you to:

1. Check to see if your employer is already in our employer database.
2. Request that your employer's eligibility be reviewed if it is not already in our database or has not yet had its eligibility determined.
3. Prepare and sign your PSLF form, and request certification and signature from your employer—all electronically.
4. Generate your PSLF form for manual signature and submission.

If you are planning to apply for PSLF, it is recommended that you should fill out and submit the PSLF form[7] annually or whenever you change employers. You may wait and submit the PSLF form once you've made 120 qualifying payments, but you will need to submit PSLF forms for each employer you worked for all at once. Each employer will need to certify your employment before your form can be processed.

URLs:

[1] https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in
[2] https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/save-plan
[3] https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/paye-plan
[4] https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/plans/income-driven
[5] https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/icr-plan
[6] https://studentaid.gov/pslf
[7] https://studentaid.gov/pslf

Note: The information provided in this fact sheet comes from the U.S. Department of Education. If you have questions about your eligibility, please use the PSLF Help Tool. Your employer will be able to help you verify that they are an eligible workplace, but will not be able to process your PSLF form or answer questions about your application status.

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