



Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program was designed to relieve the federal student loans of public service workers. However, for too long the program has been inaccessible to most borrowers. To fix this, recent changes to the PSLF program will give hundreds of thousands of people access to promised loan forgiveness. In October 2021, the Department of Education announced an overhaul of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

On October 31, 2022, the Education Department closed the PSLF Waiver of certain PSLF program requirements to address long-standing issues with the program—but the Department has extended most of the benefits and protections of the waiver through another program called Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) Account Adjustment.

What You Need to Do to Access PSLF:

1. Where do you work? *Determine whether your employment qualifies.*

Student loan borrowers pursuing PSLF must be employed by a qualifying public service employer to take advantage of the program. These employers are generally: Government employers, 501(c)3 organizations, Other non-profit organizations. Please note, private, for-profit employers currently do not qualify for PSLF.

2. What kind of loan do you have? *Find out if you have the right type of loan or if you need to consolidate your loan(s) to qualify.*

Student loan borrowers that have an older federal loan made by a bank or private lender will need to consolidate their loan—essentially refinance with the federal government—and file a PSLF form with the federal government to document their time in the public service. Normally, consolidating would restart a borrower's count of payments toward PSLF. However, if a borrower consolidates before December 31, 2023, consolidating will **not** restart a borrower's count of payments toward PSLF.

3. Take action before December 31, 2023, if you need to consolidate your loans:

If you have a Direct loan: Public service workers who currently have Direct Loans but who have not filed a PSLF form (formerly called an Employment Certification form) since having Direct Loans, will need to file a PSLF form.. Even if you have a combination of Direct Loans and older federal loans that you will need to consolidate, file one PSLF form that reflects all of your public service employment since October 1, 2007. This will give the Department the information it needs to grant you credit for that entire period and for all of your loans, as long as you take the steps to consolidate any non-Direct Loans.

If you have a FFEL or Perkins Loan: If you have any non-Direct Loans (i.e. FFEL or Perkins Loans), you will need to consolidate these loans by December 31, 2023 in order to get PSLF credit for those loans prior to consolidation. Consolidation is the process of



STUDENT BORROWER
PROTECTION CENTER

refinancing your federal loans with the federal government, which results in a new federal Direct Loan. In addition to consolidating your loan, if you have not submitted a PSLF form, you will need to do that after your consolidation is complete.

Remember: Even if you were previously ineligible, you now may qualify for credit toward PSLF for public service work done since 2007. You can also find additional information online at: cancelmystudentdebt.org.