

# Public Service Loan Forgiveness Limited Waiver Opportunity

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# Outline

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- Rigid Requirements
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- "Limited Waiver" Explanation Looser Requirements
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- Informing and Identifying Individuals Who may Benefit



Overview of the PSLF

# Initial Promise

The initial "deal" was simple (announced in 2007):

If you made 120 Qualifying Payments toward your loans, the Federal Government would forgive 100% of your remaining federal loans.



# The 3 "Rights"

What Constituted a "Qualifying Payment?"

- 1. Having the "Right" Type of Loan
  A Federal Direct Loan
- 2. Making the "Right" Type of Payment Monthly payments, in-full, under an Income Driven Repayment Program
- 3. While working for the "Right" Type of Employer "Public Service" Government, Non-Profit

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### Promises Broken

were rejected.

#### The main issues:

- 1. Borrowers had the "wrong" type of loan:
- 2. Borrowers were making the "wrong" type of payments

In other words, public servants who were relying on this program were rejected due to administrative issues.

### 'Designed to fail': Two public servants describe the government's troubled student Approximately 98% of initial applicant loan forgiveness program

Aarthi Swaminathan and Reggie Wade

June 14, 2020 · 8 min read



# Limited Waiver Opportunity

A Hopeful Turn!

# Limited Waiver Opportunity

On October 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced that

borrowers may receive credit for past periods of repayment that

would otherwise not qualify for PSLF.

# Payments that didn't 'count' can now be forgiven

- 1. MORE ("Wrong" types of payments) Payments will count
  - Immaterial if the payment was in full or on time or under the right "repayment program"
- 2. Payments made to OTHER federal loans ("Wrong" loans) count
  - Payments to FFEL and Perkins Loan will qualify

But the details still matter ...

### Waiver Details

#### NORMAL PSLF REQUIREMENTS

- Receive credit only on Direct Loans
- •Repay under Standard or IDR Plan
- •On-Time Payments
- Employed Full-time for a Qualifying Employer
- •Can only receive Forgiveness if Working for a Qualifying Employer At the Time of the Application and Forgiveness

#### CHANGES UNTIL OCTOBER 31, 2022

- Receive Credit for Direct, FFEL, or Perkins Loans
- Payments on Any Plan Count for Non-Consolidation Loans through 9/30/21
- Past Payments Pre-Consolidation Count even if on Wrong Repayment Plan
- Past Payments that were late or for less than the amount qualify
- •Can be forgiven even if not employed by a qualifying employer at the time of the application

# Unchanged Requirements

#### Still need:

- 1. 120 payments or the equivalent.
- 2. Be Employed by a Government, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, or other not-for profit organization that provides a qualifying service.
- 3. Work full time.
- 4. Have Direct Loans or Consolidate into a Direct Consolidation Loan.

# Who does this help?

#### Public Servants in Three Categories:

1. Individuals who are *presently* working, who may have loans that *could* be forgiven.

2. Individuals who may have worked as public servants for at least ten years but left service.

3. Individuals *considering* becoming public servants.

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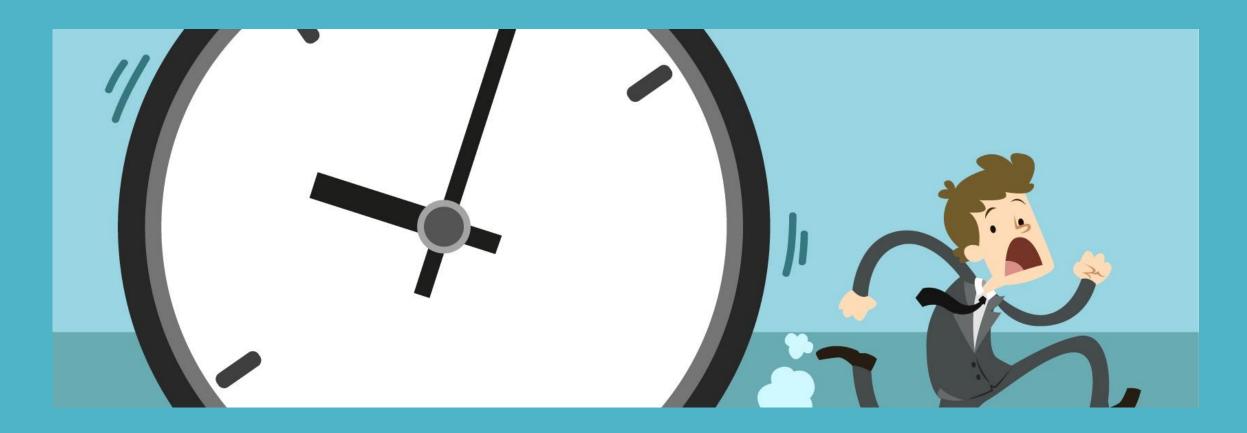
#### First Wave Of Borrowers Gets \$715 Million In Student Loan Forgiveness Under New Program Expansion

Nearly 30,000 borrowers awarded Public Service Loan Forgiveness so far under new rules



# Great News is Already Coming in!

- Some benefits occurring automatically



# Next Steps

**Deadlines Looming** 

## What's the Rush?

#### The Loan Moratorium Ends on January 31, 2022.

- The LOAN TYPE change is the biggest issue to address.
- For Individuals to have their payments qualify for the NON-Direct Loans, the Loans <u>must</u> be **CONSOLIDATED INTO DIRECT LOANS BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 2022.**

• AS OF NOW, IT IS UNCLEAR IF THOSE PAYMENTS MADE TO NON-DIRECT LOANS FROM THE END OF THE MORATORIUM THROUGH CONSOLIDATION WILL COUNT. (2/22-10/22)

# Best Next Steps

- 1. Encourage all membership to review their personal loan situation and determine if they may benefit from the limited opportunity waiver. More guidance is available here: <a href="https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service">https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service</a>
- 2. If a member has non-Direct Federal Loans, start the consolidation process NOW.
- 3. The Moratorium expires January 31, 2022, so prepare to reenter repayment.

# Questions?

Learn more by going to the Federal Student Aid Website: www.StudentAid.gov.