

Consumer Alert: Temporary Changes to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.



Act now to get credit for past payments!

On October 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) announced a time-limited waiver to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program rules. Under the waiver, borrowers who work for a qualifying employer may receive credit for past payments on federal student loans that would otherwise not qualify for PSLF. Specifically, **any period of repayment will count as a qualifying payment**, regardless of loan type, repayment plan, or whether past payments were made in full or on time. **However, to take advantage of this waiver, you may need to act now.**

What are the PSLF requirements under the waiver?

The PSLF waiver is an important opportunity for borrowers who work in public service. **This waiver may allow you to receive credit for past student loan payments that would otherwise not qualify for PSLF.**

PSLF requirements:

- Have federal Direct Loans or Direct Consolidation Loans.
- Made 120 payments after October 2007 to receive forgiveness.
- You must have worked full-time for a qualifying public service employer during the month you were in repayment.



What is PSLF?

Created by Congress in 2007, PSLF is meant to provide federal student loan relief to borrowers who work in public service for at least 10 years. Under PSLF, the remaining balance of federal Direct Loans is forgiven **after** the following is met: you make 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan, while working full-time for a qualifying public service employer.

Who are some of the qualifying employers?

- All levels of government
- School districts
- Public hospitals
- Qualifying non-profit organizations and more

Here's what's changed:

- You may receive credit for past payment on Family Federal Education Loans (FFEL), Perkins, or other previously non-qualifying loans. But you must **consolidate those loans** into a federal Direct Consolidation Loan by October 31, 2022.
- You may receive credit for past payments that were made under any repayment plan.
- You do not need to have made a past payment in full or on-time.
- You do not need to be working for a qualifying employer when you apply for or receive forgiveness under the PSLF waiver.

What should I do now?

- **Verify your loan type and consolidate if needed:** Go to [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov), log into your account, and verify your loan types. Only federal Direct Loans and Direct Consolidation loans qualify for PSLF.
 - If you have a FFEL, Perkins, or other federal student loan that is not a Direct Loan, you must apply for a Direct Consolidation Loan by October 31, 2022.
- **Certify your employment:** Go to the PSLF Help Tool at studentaid.gov/pslf.
 - Use the PSLF Help Tool to verify that your current or past employer(s) are considered eligible employers.
 - Then use the Help Tool to generate the Employment Certification Form, which is the PSLF form you use to apply for forgiveness under PSLF. Then, submit to receive updated payment counts, and to certify your employment.

**Contact the Colorado
Attorney General's Student
Loan Ombudsperson:**

Phone: (720) 508-MySL (6975)
Email: studentloans@coag.gov
Website: www.coag.gov/studentloans

