PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

CALL TO SERVE | STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT

The government offers assistance with educational loans through two programs: the Federal Student Loan Repayment Program and the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

QUICK FACTS

In 2009, 36 federal agencies provided more than 8,000 employees with over $61 million in loan repayment benefits through the Federal Student Loan Repayment Program.

Of the 36 agencies that participated in the program, 23 invested more than $200,000 in their employees.

Number of federal employees by field who received student loan aid in 2009*:

Attorney	810
Criminal Intelligence	748
Miscellaneous Administration	542
Intelligence	456
Contract Specialist	435
GAO Analyst	364
Management and Program Analysis	345

*The most current information available is from 2009.

FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

As a potential federal government employee, you may be eligible for the Federal Student Loan Repayment Program. If this benefit is offered to you, you will be eligible to receive up to $60,000 ($10,000 a year) from participating agencies towards the payment of your student loans. This program requires you to make a three year commitment to the agency that provides the repayment.

What type of loan qualifies?

Many common educational loans qualify for repayment, including:

- Federal Family Education Loans, such as subsidized and unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loans.
- Direct Loans, such as the Direct PLUS Loan.

What academic areas are covered?

Each agency may specify the types of degrees necessary to qualify for the program. Many agencies offer the program as an extra incentive to recruit and retain highly qualified candidates for hard-to-fill positions. Jobs that consistently receive the most loan repayment assistance include attorneys, criminal investigators, and intelligence analysts.

What agencies offer the program?

All 15 Cabinet-level Departments participate in the program at some level, plus more than 20 independent agencies. Additional agencies are developing programs every year. Top loan repayment agencies (in order of amount paid) include:

- Department of Justice
- Department of Defense
- Department of State
- Securities and Exchange Committee
- Government Accountability Office
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Agency for International Development
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Energy
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Department of the Interior
- Department of Transportation

How do I apply?

Before you accept a job with an agency, do your research to determine if your agency offers the Federal Student Loan Repayment Program. If they do, try to negotiate student loan repayment to be included in your benefits package. If you are interested in applying to the program once you become a federal employee, contact your agency to receive more information about their specific loan repayment program.

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

Another opportunity for loan repayment is through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Through this program, the government will forgive the remaining balance on your eligible student loans if you are employed full-time for ten years in a public service organization, such as:

- Federal, state, or local government;
- A public child or family service agency;
- A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization;
- A private organization that provides public service, such as public safety, public interest law services, public health, or law enforcement; or
- AmeriCorps or Peace Corps.

In order to qualify, you must have already made 120 monthly payments.