

PSLF Fact Sheet & Steps to Take

WHAT IS PSLF? Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) forgives the remaining balance on your federal **Direct** Student Loans after you make 120 qualifying monthly payments under an **Income Driven Repayment (IDR) plan**, which includes Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE), Pay As You Earn (PAYE), Income Based Repayment (IBR) and Income Contingent repayment (ICR). You must be working **full-time** (or multiple part-time jobs that add up to full-time) for a **qualifying public service employer**.

-  **Determine** if PSLF will work for you. Qualifying employment for the PSLF program isn't based on your occupation or position, rather it's working full-time for a **qualifying employer**. It is recommended to get both your **past** and **present** employers to fill out the PSLF Employment Certification Form (ECF).
 - It is always a good idea to double check with your Human Resources Department to make sure you are working for a qualified employer. You can also look up information about your employer using the [PSLF Help Tool](#) or the [list of Tax-Exempt organizations from the IRS](#).
-  **Find** the lowest IDR plan possible. This can make a big difference in budgeting for your monthly payments and understanding how much you will pay over time. Please note that this may mean the balance on your student loan(s) may increase over time. However, once the 120-month mark is reached, any remaining balance will be forgiven, **tax free**. To view repayment options, visit [StudentAid.gov](#).
-  **Certify** qualifying months by sending in a completed PSLF Employment Certification Form (ECF) to FedLoan Servicing. Qualifying months do not have to be consecutive. This form will determine your PSLF progress towards the required 120 months. A good habit is to submit the PSLF ECF each time you do your annual IDR recertification. Note: an income increase or decrease can change your monthly payment amounts.
-  **Keep in mind** some IDR plans can vary depending on whether you're **married** or not and how you file your taxes. To make sure you are taking the best approach, it is recommended that you consult with a tax professional about filing either **jointly** or **separately** with your spouse.
 - Be aware that any consolidation of student loans will RESET your PSLF timeline of 120 qualifying months; therefore, plan accordingly.
-  **Parent Plus** loans are applicable for PSLF; however, the parent (*not the student who the loans were taken out for*) must be the person who works for the qualifying employer. Parent Plus loans must also be *Consolidated* first into Direct loans before going on an IDR plan. Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) plan is the only type of IDR option available for Parent Plus loans.
-  **We're Here to Help.** If this all sounds confusing, it's okay! Certified Student Loan Counselors can help you understand and navigate your student loans based on your financial situation. To set up a free, confidential appointment, call LSS Financial Counseling at 888.577.2227.