

NEXT GENERATION

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

**Public Service Loan
Forgiveness Program
And Pursuing
Universal Federal
Student Loan Debt
Forgiveness**

Prepared by CWA Local 1036,
Informational Only, not intended as
legal advice





What is **NEXT GENERATION** ?

COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA

- A network of members under 35
 - Organizing
 - Advocating for workers
 - Mobilizing through political action



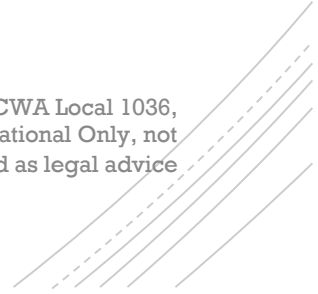
Agenda

1. What is PSLF?
2. Who Qualifies for PSLF?
3. Temporary Changes to PSLF
4. How to Apply
5. What to Expect
6. Pressuring the White House
7. Additional Resources



What is PSLF?

- The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program was created in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (CCRAA).
- The program forgives the remaining balance on your federal student loans after you make 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying public service employer.
- The program was somewhat difficult to use and has recently undergone an extensive revision.
- CWA 1036 with our colleagues in the NJ Student Loan Debt Alliance [sent a letter to Secretary of Education Cardona asking to simplify the process.](#)
- Our efforts and those of hundreds other organizations paid off.



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Who Qualifies for PSLF?

- You're employed by government, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, or other not-for-profit organization that provides a qualifying service
- You work full-time
- You make or made 120 payments or the equivalent under the standard or Income Driven Repayment plan
- You have Direct Loans or consolidate your loans into a Direct Consolidation Loan (Parent Plus Loans are eligible for PSLF but not in the waiver). **Private loans are not eligible for PSLF**

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Temporary Changes to PSLF

- From October 6, 2021-October 31, 2022 you can receive PSLF credit for periods of repayment made on Direct, FFEL, Perkins Loans.
 - Past payments under any plan count for non-consolidation loans through Sept 30, 2021 count.
 - Past payments made on loans before consolidation count, even if on the wrong repayment plan.
 - Past payments made on loans before consolidation count, even if paid late, or for less than the amount due.
 - Need to be employed full-time for a qualifying employer in order to receive credit.
 - Can receive forgiveness even if unemployed or not employed by a qualifying employer at the time of application and forgiveness.
 - While the COVID-19 Emergency Relief and Federal Student Aid is in effect, even if you made \$0 payments, they count towards the total 120 payments of PSLF.



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How to Apply

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1) Contact your student loan servicer. If you're not sure find out here: <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/servicers>

2) File a PSLF or TEPSLF form here: <https://studentaid.gov/pslf/>

3) Use the Help Tool Ninja for guidance throughout the process.

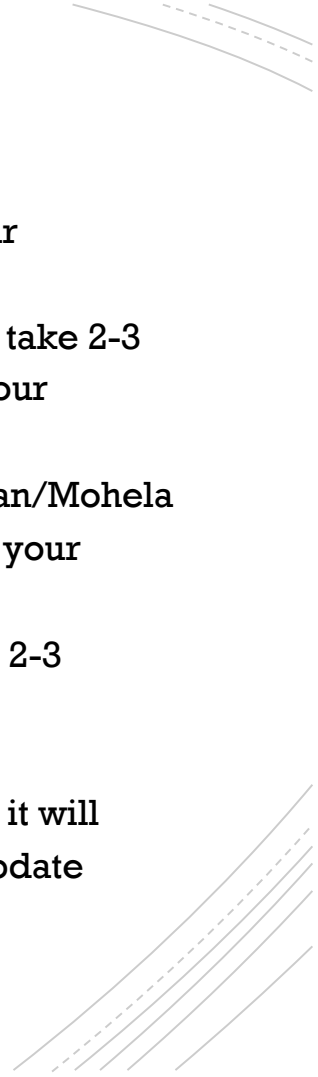
4) Have your Employer Identification Number (EIN) ready. You can find it in your W-2 or paystub.

5) Employer address on file may be different than where you work. DEP's address for example comes up as Londonderry, NH.

6) If eligible, FedLoan Servicing/Mohela will determine how many qualifying payments you made towards PSLF and TEPSLF during the time period certified on your PSLF form.



What to Expect

- HR Department will need to confirm your employment
 - After faxing in your application, it could take 2-3 weeks for Fedloan/Mohela to process your application
 - It will take an additional week for Fedloan/Mohela to review your application and approve your employer
 - Upon approval, it will take an additional 2-3 weeks to transfer your loans under Fedloan/Mohela
 - Once your loans have been transferred, it will take up to 15 days for your account to update
- 

Pressuring the White House

President Biden ran on the campaign promise to forgive at least \$10,000 in federal student loans per borrower.

Activist group Debt Collective FOIA'd an internal memo to determine what the Biden administration's executive order.

While many of the President's School, Tim Cardona student [powers](#)

The Biden Administration's Student Loan Debt Plan

FORGIVING DEBT

\$20,000 if you went to college on Pell Grants

\$10,000 if you didn't receive Pell Grants

Forgiveness only applies to those earning less than \$125,000

Student loan pause extended one final time through Dec 31, 2022

PAYMENT BASED ON INCOME

If you have undergraduate loans, you can cap repayment at 5% of your monthly income

[Legal](#)

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Summary of Biden's Announcement

- All federal student loans: undergraduate, Graduate Plus, Parent Plus, are eligible for \$10,000 forgiveness with individual income less than \$125,000, and less than \$250,000 for combined. Loans must be dated prior to July 1, 2022.
 - FFEL loans were excluded as of September 29, 2022. If you're not sure if you have a direct loan or a FFEL, go on <https://studentaid.gov/> or contact your loan servicer. If you consolidated your FFEL loan through a direct loan from the Department of Education, you should be eligible for the \$10,000/\$20,000 forgiveness
- Pell grant borrowers will receive an additional \$10,000 forgiveness with individual income less than \$125,000, less than \$250,000 for combined.
- A form will be made available to apply for forgiveness sometime in October 2022. The form will need to be submitted before December 31, 2022. Sign up to receive emails and texts here: <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement/one-time-cancellation>
- COVID-19 Emergency Relief and Federal Student Aid extended for a final time to December 31, 2022.
- Undergraduate loans on Income Driven Repayment will now only require the borrower to pay 5% of their discretionary income instead of 10%. In addition, borrowers on IDR with a balance of \$12,000 or less, will be able to discharge their balance after 10 years of payments instead of 20. The changes will also cover the borrower's unpaid monthly interest, so the borrowed amount will not grow.



Additional Resources

- <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/fact-sheet-public-service-loan-forgiveness-pslf-program-overhaul>
- <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/pslf-limited-waiver>
- <https://studentaid.gov/articles/become-a-pslf-help-tool-ninja/>
- <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/20/1082#>
- <https://protectborrowers.org/events/accessing-public-service-loan-forgiveness/>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/08/24/student-loan-forgiveness-plan-explained/>
- <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief-announcement/>
- <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/29/1125923528/biden-student-loans-debt-cancellation-ffcl-perkins>