



STUDENT BORROWER  
PROTECTION CENTER

In October 2021, the Department of Education announced an overhaul of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. In short, borrowers who were previously ineligible because they had the wrong loan, were making payments on the wrong payment plan, or were knocked off track due to processing errors can now receive credit toward forgiveness for those years worked in public service.

### **Accessing the PSLF Waiver: What You Need to Do:**

Through October 31, 2022, you will receive credit toward forgiveness for any month during which you had federal loans and qualifying, full-time employment, so long as those loans were in repayment status, regardless of whether you actually made a payment. This should include any months except for those during which you were in a deferment, forbearance, or default.

**1. Where do you work? *Determine whether your employment qualifies.***

Student loan borrowers pursuing PSLF must be employed by a qualifying public service employer to take advantage of the program. These employers are generally:

Government employers, 501(c)3 organizations, Other non-profit organizations. Please note, private, for-profit employers currently do not qualify for PSLF.

**2. What kind of loan do you have? *Find out if you have the right type of loan or if you need to consolidate your loan(s) to qualify.***

Student loan borrowers that have an older federal loan made by a bank or private lender will need to consolidate their loan—essentially refinance with the federal government—and file a PSLF form with the federal government to document their time in the public service. Normally, consolidating would restart a borrower's count of payments toward PSLF. Under the waiver, consolidating will **not** restart a borrower's count of payments toward PSLF.

**3. Take action before October 31, 2022! You must apply before the deadline to access this relief.**

*If you have a Direct loan:* Public service workers who currently have Direct Loans but who have not filed a PSLF form (formerly called an Employment Certification form) since having Direct Loans, will need to file a PSLF form before October 31, 2022. Even if you have a combination of Direct Loans and older federal loans that you will need to consolidate, file one PSLF form that reflects all of your public service employment since



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October 1, 2007. This will give the Department the information it needs to grant you credit for that entire period and for all of your loans, as long as you take the steps to consolidate any non-Direct Loans.

***If you have a FFEL or Perkins Loan:*** If you have any non-Direct Loans (i.e. FFEL or Perkins Loans), you will need to consolidate these loans by October 31, 2022 in order to get PSLF credit for those loans prior to consolidation. Consolidation is the process of refinancing your federal loans with the federal government, which results in a new federal Direct Loan. In addition to consolidating your loan, if you have not submitted a PSLF form, you will need to do that after your consolidation is complete.

We have partnered with the Student Borrower Protection Center to provide Teamsters members with critical information on accessing student debt relief through the PSLF waiver. To learn more, please join us as we host a series of webinars and share resources highlighting updates to the PSLF program and guidance on how to navigate the new process.

***Remember: Even if you were previously ineligible, you now may qualify for credit toward PSLF for public service work done since 2007. You can also find additional information online at: <https://forgivemystudentdebt.org/>.***