# You might be eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program

### Dear Colleague:

As you may know, working at **[ORGANIZATION NAME HERE]** means you can join a federal program that could forgive your federal student loans. That’s because the U.S. Department of Education (ED) considers us a qualifying employer for thePublic Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. Through this program, ED can forgive your student loan debt after 10 years of making payments on your federal student loans while working for a qualifying public sector employer (https://studentaid.gov/pslf/employer-search).

If you haven’t signed up for PSLF yet, you still can. One important step is working with our organization’s HR team each year to submit a PSLF form. Although the path to loan forgiveness can seem complicated, you could save thousands on your student loans.

**To qualify for PSLF, you must:**

Have Federal Direct loans. This includes Direct Subsidized, Direct Unsubsidized, Direct Consolidation, and Direct Grad PLUS loans. If you have Perkins or FFEL loans, you must consolidate them into a Direct Consolidation loan. If you have Direct Parent PLUS loans, you may also need to consolidate.

Work full time for one or more public employers. ED defines “full time” as working an average of 30 hours per week, including combined hours from multiple part time. If you are part-time faculty at an institution of higher education, HR will multiply your in-class teaching hours by 3.35 to calculate your hours worked for PSLF.

Enroll in an Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) Plan. These include Income-Based Repayment (IBR), Pay As You Earn (PAYE), Saving on A Valuable Education (SAVE, previously REPAYE) and Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR). Payments made on the 10-year Standard Repayment plan are also eligible for the PSLF program.

Make 120 qualifying payments. Your payments do not need to be consecutive. However, you must be employed full time for a public employer at the time you apply for PSLF, and during the month you make a payment for that payment to qualify. **After you make 120 qualifying payments and apply for PSLF, ED will forgive your remaining loan balance. Student loan amounts forgiven under PSLF are not considered income for tax purposes.**

**Check out these resources on the** **Student Loan Advocate’s PSLF page** (https://wsac.wa.gov/PSLF):

* Quick PSLF Fact Sheet
* Steps to Apply for PSLF
* PSLF Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**Have questions or need help? Submit a question to the Washington Student Loan Advocate at** <https://www.studentcomplaints.wa.gov>

# Certify your employment for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program

**To complete a Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) form and submit an employment certification request to our HR team**, please use the PSLF Help Tool (https://studentaid.gov/pslf/). Once we have digitally signed your form through the PSLF Help Tool (via DocuSign), it will be submitted directly to ED’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) for processing.

FSA manages the PSLF program and offers automated PSLF form processing through the PSLF Help Tool, with loan servicers performing manual work and customer service. All PSLF information, including payment counts, will be available on your FSA account. Check out FSA’s article on *How to Manage your PSLF Progress on StudentAid.gov* learn more (https://studentaid.gov/articles/manage-your-pslf-progress/).

**For your convenience, our organization’s information is listed below:**

Employer Identification Number (EIN): **[ORGANIZATION EIN HERE]**

PSLF contact email: **[ORGANIZATION PSLF CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS HERE]**

**If you have worked for multiple qualifying employers, you need to submit a separate PSLF form for each employer. If you have worked for one qualifying employer but had a break in service, you will need to submit a separate PSLF form for each period of employment.**

If you have previously worked for qualifying Washington state agencies, including public higher education institutions, you may use the PSLF Washington state agency directory to identify the correct EIN and email address to submit your PSLF form to (https://ofm.wa.gov/PSLF\_Directory).

**Remember to apply for PSLF before you leave public service, or you will lose eligibility. To ensure you’re on the right track, you should certify your employment annually and when you change employers.** That way, you can keep track of your progress and be sure your payments count.