

Loan forgiveness starts here

Step 1. Explore your options

Public Service Loan Forgiveness allows qualifying federal student loans to be forgiven after 10 years (120 months) of qualifying, on-time payments. Your Peace Corps service can cover 27 months or more.

What is a qualifying loan? Only federal Direct Loans qualify for loan forgiveness. You may consolidate most other federal loans into a new Direct Loan to qualify.

What is a qualifying payment plan? Plans based on your income let you pay less now and have more forgiven later. The newest income-driven repayment plan, Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE), will set payments at 10 percent of your discretionary income. For most, your monthly “payment” will be \$0 during your service.

Step 2. Enroll and certify

Once you have a qualifying loan, you need to enroll in a qualifying payment plan. You can also track your progress towards PSLF by certifying that you work in public service.

Step 3. Follow up with your servicer

Once you certify, your servicer knows you are interested and can track your progress. The company that services your loan may change. Pay close attention to any information you receive about your student loan, even if it's from an unfamiliar company.

Get started

- **As a Peace Corps member, you can choose between using deferment and making a lump sum payment** at the end of your service, or enrolling in an income-driven plan and making qualifying payments while serving. If you choose to make a lump sum payment, you can only receive credit for up to 12 qualifying payments. However, if you enroll in an income-driven plan, each payment made while serving will qualify.
- **Deferment isn't best for most loans.** For most, a payment plan based on your income will also offer a \$0 monthly payment, and, each month, you make progress toward loan forgiveness.
- **Extended repayment plans don't qualify toward loan forgiveness.** Avoid non-IDR options that lengthen your repayment term, such as an extended repayment plan.
- **You can cancel part of your Perkins loans for each year you serve.** If you consolidate your Perkins loan into a Direct Loan, you will lose this benefit.

Next steps

- Enroll in a qualifying repayment plan.** Get started at studentloans.gov.
- Certify that you work for a public service organization.** Peace Corps staff can help you certify. E-mail certify@peacecorps.gov.

Things to consider

- **Enroll and certify each year.** This is the best way to keep your payment low and check to make sure you stay on track for loan forgiveness.
- **Ask for help.** You can contact a loan forgiveness specialist at FedLoan Servicing at (855) 265-4038.