

## PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS (PSLF) PROGRAM



### **AGENDA**

- 1. PSLF Basics
- 2. Limited PSLF Waiver
- 3. PSLF Help Tool
- 4. PSLF Resources





## WHAT IS PSLF?

The PSLF Program forgives the remaining balance on your Direct Loans\* after you have made 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while working full-time for a qualifying employer.

The PSLF servicer (currently PHEAA/FedLoan Servicing) administers PSLF for all Direct Loan\* borrowers.

As a result, if you submit a PSLF form and the PSLF servicer determines that your employment qualifies, all of your Direct Loans\* as well as any of your FFEL Program loans that are held by the U.S. Department of Education will be transferred to the PSLF servicer.

<sup>\*</sup>On Oct. 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced a temporary period during which borrowers may receive credit for payments that previously did not qualify for PSLF or TEPSLF.



### **PSLF BASICS**





### **PSLF BASICS: ELIGIBLE LOAN TYPES**



- Direct Loans, including:
  - Consolidation Loans
  - Parent PLUS Loans



- FFEL Program Loans
- Perkins Loans
- Any other federal or private student loan



### NOTE ON PARENT PLUS LOANS

- Parent PLUS Loans are not excluded from PSLF, but they are not eligible for all income-driven repayment plans
- Parent PLUS borrowers can consolidate their debt to access IDR plans and thus, PSLF



### **PSLF BASICS: ELIGIBLE PAYMENTS**



- On-time
- In a Standard Plan or any IDR plan
- For at least the amount due
- Can be non-consecutive



- More than 15 days late
- In a Graduated, Extended, or Alternative plan
- For less than the amount due
- Made when not required (e.g. in-school deferment)



### CHANGES TO PAYMENT COUNTS

- Multiple payments in less than the amount due may be counted *only if all smaller payments:* 
  - Add up to the amount due and
  - Are paid within 15 days of the due date
- Lump sum payments will be counted as eligible
  - Limited to 12 months or payments <u>or</u> until IDR plan recertification date, whichever comes first
  - Exceptions for Americorps, Peace Corps, and DoD still apply





### **PSLF BASICS: ELIGIBLE EMPLOYMENT**



- Full-time (30 hours/week) or equivalent
- Government (including military)
- All 501(c)3 non-profits
- Some limited exceptions



- Part-time work that does not add up to full-time
- Volunteer work
- For-profit entities
  - Including those that employ essential workers
- Labor unions



### **PSLF BASICS: ELIGIBLE EMPLOYMENT**

- It's all about the employer...
  - All federal, state, and local governments, including public schools and military branches
  - All 501(c)3 non-profit organizations
  - Other non-profit organizations that provide a qualifying service (e.g. public safety)
- Multiple part-time jobs can add up to full-time employment
- 2020 regulatory change means time spent on religious activities (e.g. proselytizing) now count toward the full-time allocation
- Must be employed at an eligible employer when forgiveness is granted



### TEMPORARY EXPANDED PSLF

Provides loan forgiveness to those who do not qualify for PSLF <u>only</u> because some or all their qualifying payments were made on non-qualifying plans



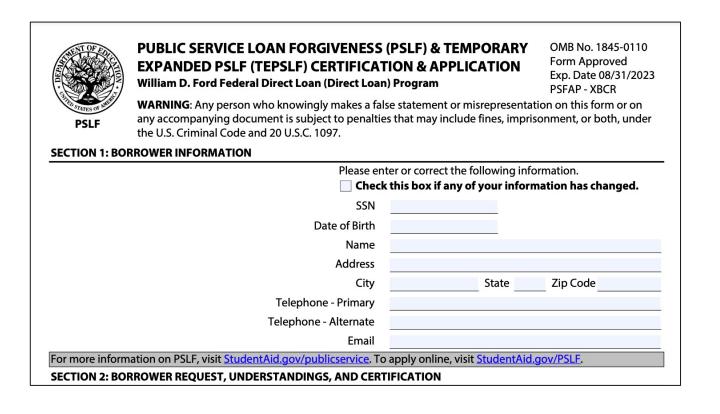
- Extended and Graduated, if:
  - In the 12 months before applying for TEPLSF, the borrower paid at least the amount they would have paid under an IDR plan





### **COUNTING QUALIFYING PAYMENTS**

## Eligible payments become qualifying payments when a borrower submits a PSLF Form



In November 2020, FSA launched a single form for PSLF, TEPSLF, and employment certification



### PAYMENT COUNTS ON MYFEDLOAN.ORG

#### **Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)**

#### Track your loan forgiveness progress

Find out if your payments qualify for PSLF and the Temporary Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness (TEPSLF) opportunity.

**CHECK MY PROGRESS** 



### Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Payment Tracking



#### **Payment assessment in progress**

Your payment counts may update when the following assessments have been completed:

• You have at least one pre-paid payment period that will not be assessed until the payment period has passed and the next bill is generated.

Please continue to make on-time monthly payments. We'll notify you when we have completed our assessment.



**Payment Counts** 

**Eligible Payments** 

**Ineligible Payments** 



## PAYMENT COUNTS ON MYFEDLOAN.ORG



| Loan  | Period  | Amount Due | Program         | Status                      | Action          | L.       |
|---|---------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 2 DIRECT SUB STAFFORD<br>LOAN   | 10/2021 |            | PSLF,<br>TEPSLF | Employment Not<br>Certified | Hide<br>Details | ^        |
| This payment period is eligible but requires approved employment in order to qualify. |         |            |                 |                             |                 |          |
| 2 DIRECT SUB STAFFORD<br>LOAN   | 09/2021 |            | PSLF,<br>TEPSLF | Employment Not<br>Certified | View<br>Details | <b>~</b> |



### PAYMENT COUNTS ON MYFEDLOAN.ORG



| 1 | Loan                             |         | Period | Amount Due | Program         | Status  | Action          |
|---|----------------------------------|---------|--------|------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
|   | 2 DIRECT SUB<br>STAFFORD<br>LOAN | 03/2014 |        |            | PSLF,<br>TEPSLF | You Do Not Have A Bill Due For<br>This Payment Period | Hide<br>Details |

In order for a payment to qualify, it must have been a payment you were required to make.

#### You were not required to make any payments during the following periods:

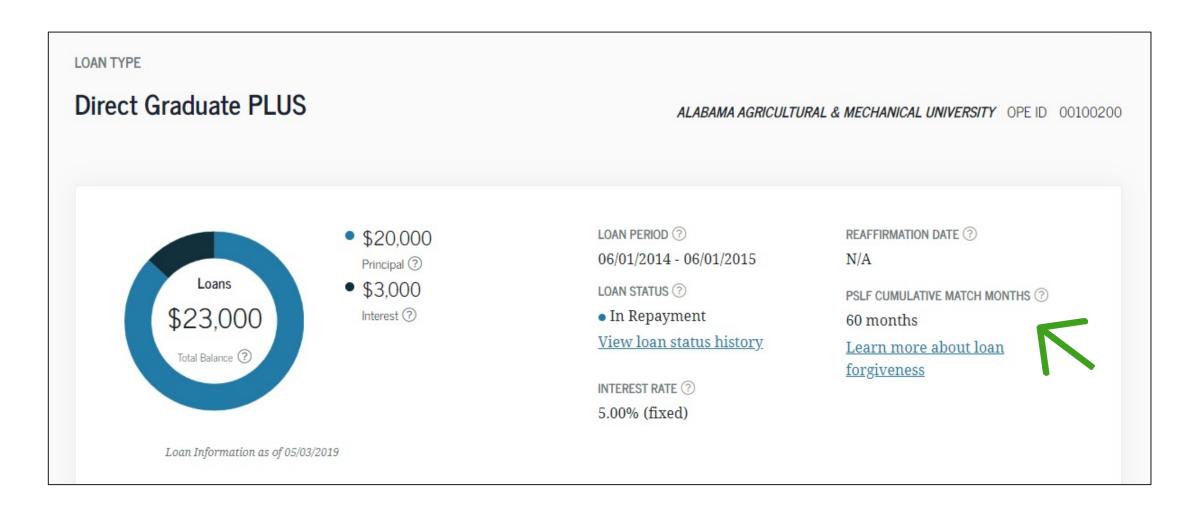
- In your grace period
- In a deferment
- In a forbearance

**Note:** A payment period may have multiple reasons for not qualifying, however, only the primary reason is listed. If you have any additional questions, please <u>contact us</u>.

| 2 DIRECT SUB<br>STAFFORD<br>LOAN | 02/2014 | <br> | PSLF,<br>TEPSLF | You Do Not Have A Bill Due For<br>This Payment Period | View<br>Details | <b>~</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------|------|-----------------|---|-----------------|----------|



### PAYMENT COUNTS ON STUDENTAID.GOV





### COVID-19 FLEXIBILITIES

StudentAid.gov/Coronavirus

- Loans in forbearance due to the payment pause are eligible for PSLF and TEPSLF
- Loans in any other status (except for "In Repayment") continue to be ineligible for PSLF and TEPSLF
- Borrowers do not have to be in an eligible repayment plan if they are in forbearance due to the payment pause



## NEW UPDATES to Public Service Loan Forgiveness







### LIMITED PSLF WAIVER: THROUGH 10/31/22



Payments made prior to consolidation are now eligible

- No matter the loan program (DL, FFEL, Perkins)
- No matter the repayment plan
- No matter the loan type (with the exception of Parent PLUS)



**Employment** requirements still apply

Must have been employed

- full-time and
- for a qualifying employer when prior payments were made



**Borrowers must act now** 

Borrowers who still have FFEL and Perkins Loans can only get credit for past payments if they consolidate into DL and file PSLF Forms for prior employment before Oct. 31, 2022. After Oct. 31, 2022, normal PSLF/TEPSLF requirements will apply.



### **PSLF LIMITED WAIVER: BORROWER GROUPS**

StudentAid.gov/PSLFWaiver



### IF YOU ONLY BORROWED DIRECT LOANS...

File a PSLF Form for each eligible employer you had since you borrowed the loan (or since Oct. 1, 2007, whichever is later)



## IF YOU PREVIOUSLY CONSOLIDATED INTO DIRECT LOAN(S)

File a PSLF Form for each eligible employer you had since you borrowed any loans <u>underlying</u> the Direct Consolidation Loan (or since Oct. 1, 2007, whichever is later)



## IF YOU STILL HAVE FFEL OR PERKINS LOANS...

Consolidate your loans into the Direct Loan Program and file a PSLF Form for each eligible employer since you borrowed the loans you are consolidating (or since Oct. 1, 2007, whichever is later)



### WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

(a servicing transfer or loan forgiveness)

## FEDLOAN SERVICING TRANSITION

- FedLoan Servicing announced that they would be leaving the DL Program as a servicer in July 2021.
- Transfers will pause as we approach return to repayment, then will recommence
- We anticipate all accounts will be transferred by the end of 2022

## PSLF EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION AND FORGIVENESS

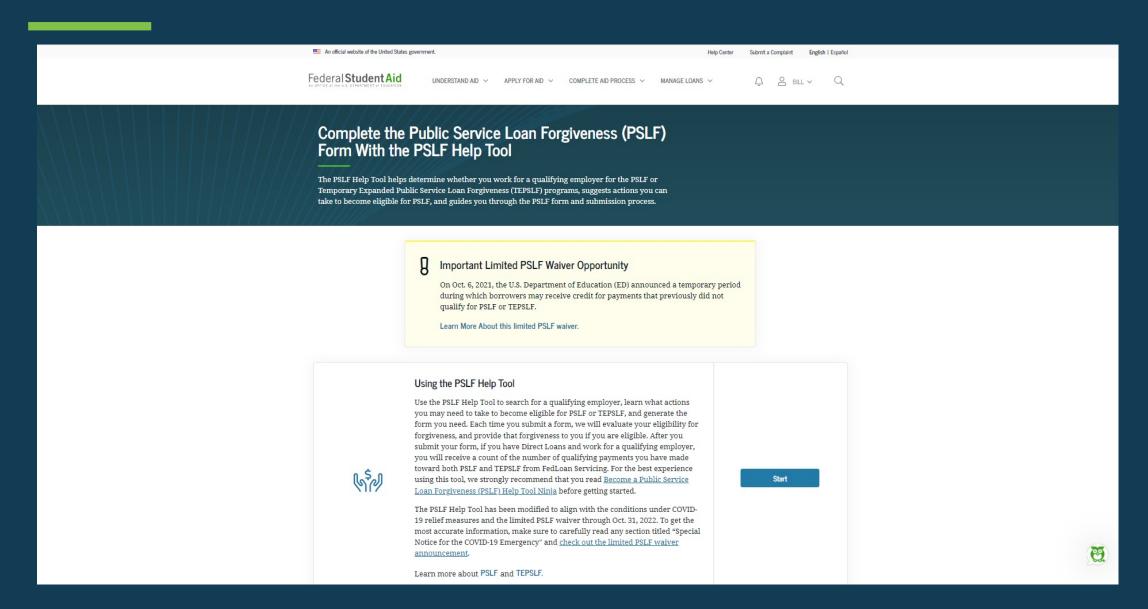
- We strongly encourage borrowers to complete a PSLF Form using the PSLF Help Tool
- If a borrower manually enters an employer using the PSLF Help Tool they will experience delays in receiving their form
- Borrowers will continue to receive targeted emails about the PSLF Limited Waiver
- Forgiveness will be automatically processed when possible
  - As of mid-November, 25K borrowers have received \$1.7B in forgiveness

## PSLF HELP TOOL OVERVIEW





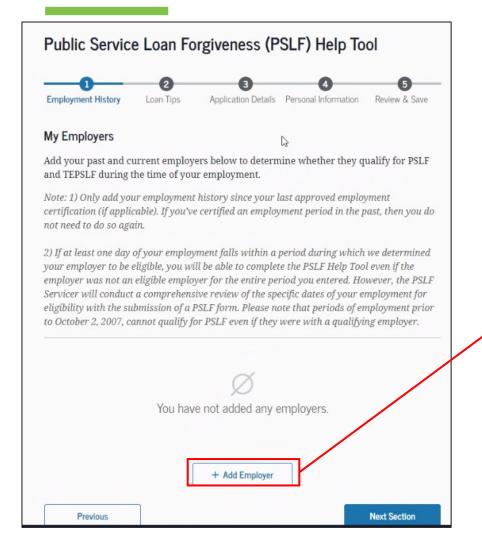
### **PSLF HELP TOOL LANDING PAGE**

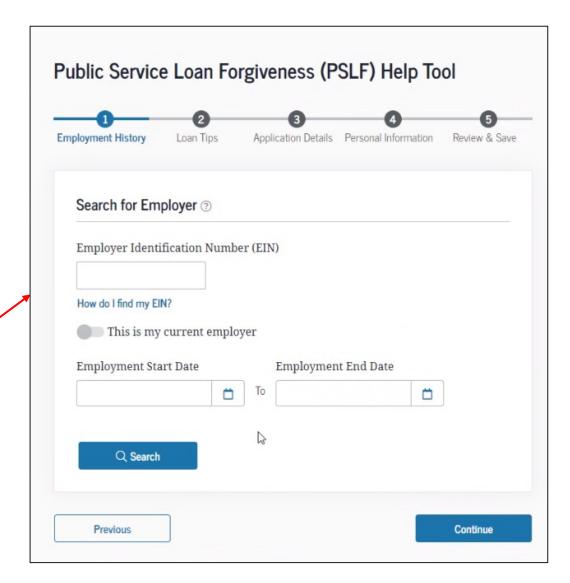




### **SECTION 1: EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Using the Employer Search Feature



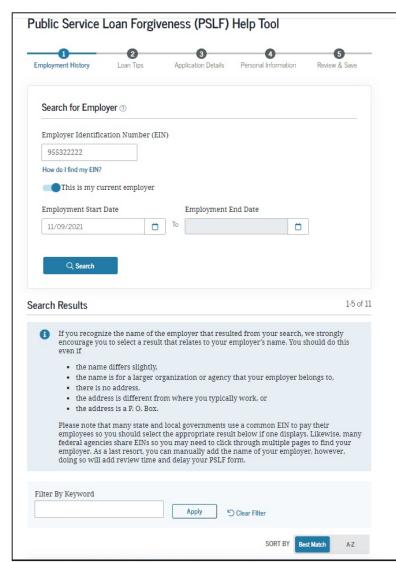


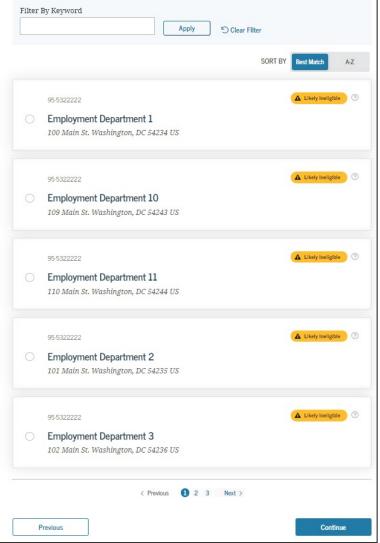


### **PSLF HELP TOOL IMPROVEMENTS**

### **ENHANCED EMPLOYER SEARCH**

Improved usability of the employer search function within the Help Tool by providing borrowers with the ability to filter results by name.





Top of Page

Bottom of Page

### **SECTION 2: LOAN TIPS**

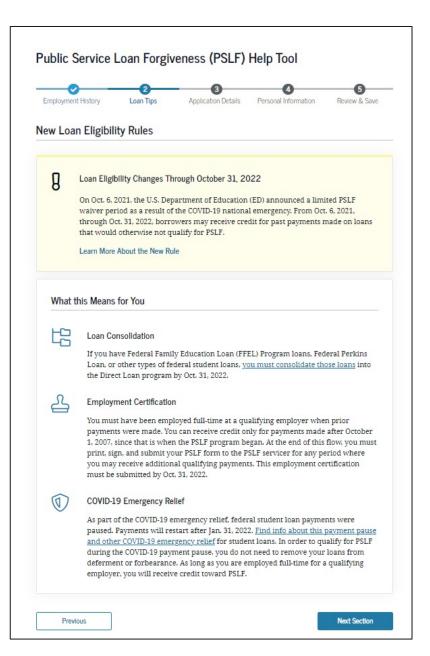
My Loan Actions

The Department of Education announced a limited-time change to PSLF program rules as a result of the COVID-19 national emergency.

#### **Loan Eligibility Changes:**

Now, for a limited period that goes through October 31, 2022, borrowers may receive credit for past payments made on loans that would otherwise not qualify for PSLF. As a result, we have modified the PSLF Help Tool experience for you to complete the form. Please continue to the next section, Application Details.



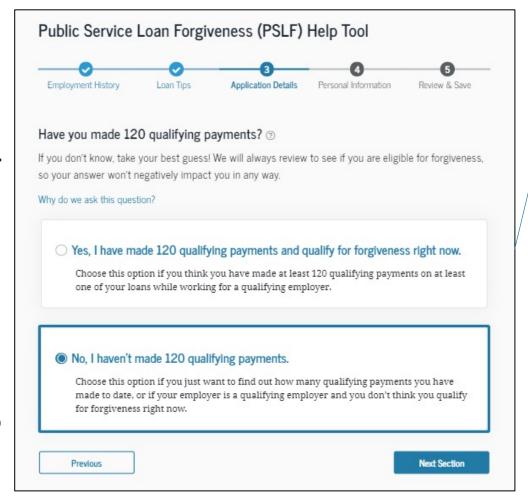


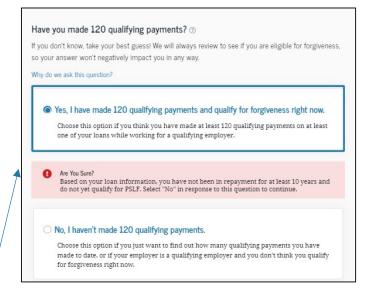


### **SECTION 3: APPLICATION DETAILS**

In Section 3, the borrower is asked to provide additional details about the number of qualifying payments that he or she believes have been made.

If the information on file indicates that the borrower has not made 120 payments, the radio button will default to **No**.





If a borrower indicates that he or she has made 120 payments, but the information on file contradicts this, the borrower will not be able to continue until he or she selects **No**.



### **SECTION 4: PERSONAL INFORMATION**

The borrower will be able to enter and edit mailing information and contact information.

**Note**: If a borrower wants to update his or her contact information, and selects the **visit your Account Settings** link, he or she will be taken to account settings to update the information.

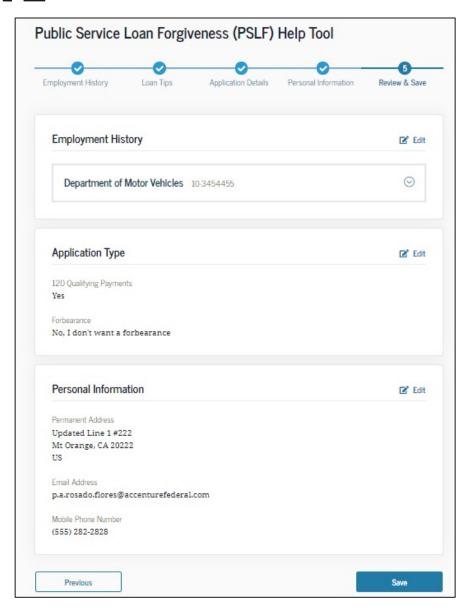




### **SECTION 5: REVIEW & SAVE**

In Section 5, the borrower will be able to review and make any final edits to his or her information.

Selecting **Save** will complete the Help Tool flow and save the borrower's information.

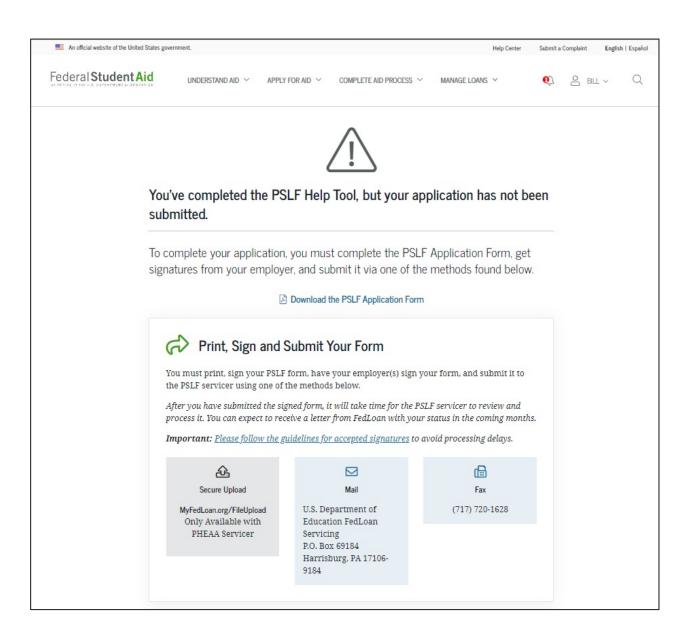




### CONFIRMATION

After selecting Save, the borrower will be taken to a Confirmation page with a warning banner that states "You've completed the PSLF Help Tool, but your application has not been submitted." For the application to be complete, the borrower must complete the application form and submit it using one of the methods provided:

- Secure upload to MyFedLoan.org
- By Postal Mail
- Or by Fax





### CONFIRMATION

### **Signature Examples**

| Signature Type  | Yes/No   |
|---|----------|
| Hand drawn from signature pad, mouse, or finger                             | <b>√</b> |
| Typed using a cursive font or any other font                                | X        |
| A scanned photo of a signature that was hand-drawn on paper                 | <b>√</b> |
| Digital certificate-based signature   | Х        |
| A wet signature that was drawn in ink and sent to us in its original format | <b>√</b> |

A reminder about digital signatures: Digital signatures from you or your employer must be hand drawn (from a signature pad, mouse, finger, or by taking a picture of a signature drawn on a piece of paper that you then scan and embed on the signature line of the PSLF form) to be accepted. Typed signatures, even if made to mimic a hand-drawn signature, or security certificate-based signatures are not accepted.

Send the completed form, with your employer's certification, to FedLoan Servicing, the U.S. Department of Education's federal loan servicer for the PSLF Program. You may mail the form to this address:

U.S. Department of Education FedLoan Servicing P.O. Box 69184 Harrisburg, PA 17106-9184

You may also fax your PSLF form to 717-720-1628. If FedLoan Servicing is already your servicer, <u>you may upload your PSLF</u> form on their website.



# PSLF INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



### **PSLF INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**



### LIMITED PSLF WAIVER

StudentAid.gov/pslfwaiver



### **PSLF HELP TOOL**

StudentAid.gov/pslf



### **GENERAL PSLF INFORMATION**

StudentAid.gov/publicservice

- Make sure to review the FAQs!
- The PSLF Servicer is currently FedLoan Servicing, who
  is still managing the program. Later this year, PSLF will
  transition to MOHELA. More information to come!