



FACT SHEET

Educational Loan Repayment and Loan Forgiveness Programs

Last Reviewed: May 30, 2018

Background

- ▶ The following loan repayment programs (LRP) are available to PHS Officers:
 - Indian Health Services (IHS)
 - National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
 - Nurse Corps
 - National Institutes of Health (NIH) Intramural
- ▶ Some officers may qualify for a Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. Note that this is not the same as a loan repayment program.

Eligibility and Highlights

Program	Eligibility	Other Description
IHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. citizen • Licensed in the U.S. as a qualified health care provider • Commit to practice at an IHS facility • Commitment for two continuous years of full-time clinical practice • Cannot currently receive funding from or be in a service commitment with another federal loan repayment or scholarship program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial two-year minimum service obligation, can apply for extension thereafter • Up to \$20,000 per year + 20% of the award amount toward the federal tax liability on loan repayment funding • Application period is October 1 through August 15; applications evaluated monthly beginning in January
NHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. citizen • Licensed as a qualified health care provider in the state in which you will serve as a Corps member • Eligible to participate as a provider in the Medicare, Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, as appropriate • Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational and living expenses, segregated from all other debts (that is, not consolidated with non-educational loans) • Currently work in or have an accepted offer at an NHSC approved service site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial two-year minimum service obligation, can apply for extension thereafter • Up to \$50,000 total for two years of full-time service in a high-needs community, as indicated by a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) score ≥ 14; up to \$30,00 total for two years of service in a community with HPSA score < 14; part-time clinical service qualifies for lesser payments • Application openings may vary, but close in April; awards are made in September • Sign up for notification of application opening
Nurse Corps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. citizen (born or naturalized), national, or permanent resident • Received education from an accredited school of nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the initial two-year service obligation – NC LRP will pay off 60% of student loan balance • NC LRP may pay off an additional 25% of the original loan balance for a third year of service

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensed as a registered nurse or nurse faculty (nurse practitioners and other advanced practice nurses are encouraged to apply) • Completed training (diploma, associate, baccalaureate or graduate) • Employed full time (≥ 32 hours/week) at an eligible critical shortage facility located within a HPSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Nurse Corps website to determine if application period has opened
NIH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident • Health professional doctoral degree (PhD, MD, DO, DDS, DMD, PharmD, or equivalent doctoral level degree) or a PA, BSN, or ADN degree from an accredited institution • Must conduct qualified extra- or intramural research (NIH has five extramural and three intramural loan repayment programs) • Intramural research programs requires employment with or have a firm commitment of employment from an authorized official of the NIH • Qualifying educational debt in excess of 20% of base salary at the time of initial award • Have unpaid government or commercial loans for school tuition, reasonable educational and living expenses incurred while attending undergraduate, graduate, medical, dental, or veterinary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial minimum two-year obligation for AIDS or clinical research loan repayment or three-year obligation for general research loan repayment; can submit annual renewal application thereafter • Up to \$35,000 per year + 39% of the total loan repayment toward federal tax liability on the loan repayment award • Annual online application period begins September 1; deadline varies between extra- and intramural awards.
PSLF Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 consecutive payments made after October 1, 2007 on a qualifying loan, under a qualifying repayment plan, while employed in a public service job 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forgiveness of the remaining balance of a borrower's eligible loans after the borrower has made 120 payments under a qualifying repayment plan on those loans • Benefit depends on an individual's debt amount and income – so examine your specific financial situation

Resources

- ▶ IHS – (301) 443-3396; <http://www.ihs.gov/loanrepayment/index.cfm>
- ▶ NHSC – (800) 221-9393; <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/index.html>
- ▶ Nurse Corps – (800) 221-9393; <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/loansscholarships/nursecorps/lrp>
- ▶ NIH – (866) 849-4047; http://www.lrp.nih.gov/about_the_programs/intramural/NIH_employee_researchers.aspx
- ▶ PSLF – (855) 265-4038; <http://studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/charts/public-service>

Note: Feedback and suggestions for this fact sheet are welcome and may be sent to PPACBenefitsSC@gmail.com.

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