

Primary Care Information Session

Stephanie Hunt Director of Financial Aid

Harvard Medical School

March 7, 2016



Current Options to Consider:

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

• The <u>Public Service Loan Forgiveness</u> program through the federal government offers loan forgiveness for qualifying professionals with qualifying federal loans, who are working in public service careers. The balance that is forgiven is not taxable.

HMS Presidential Scholarship Public Service Loan Forgiveness Initiative.

• Institutional loan forgiveness program that provides upfront debt relief awards to graduating HMS students pursuing careers in public service

NHSC: Primary care clinicians are eligible for <u>scholarship</u> and <u>loan repayment assistance</u> in exchange for working in an HPSA (Health Professional Shortage Areas) and with underserved communities

State and Federal Loan Forgiveness Programs

 There are also loan forgiveness opportunities through some state and federal loan programs. To learn more about these opportunities take a look at the <u>AAMC's list</u> of state and federal loan repayment and forgiveness programs.



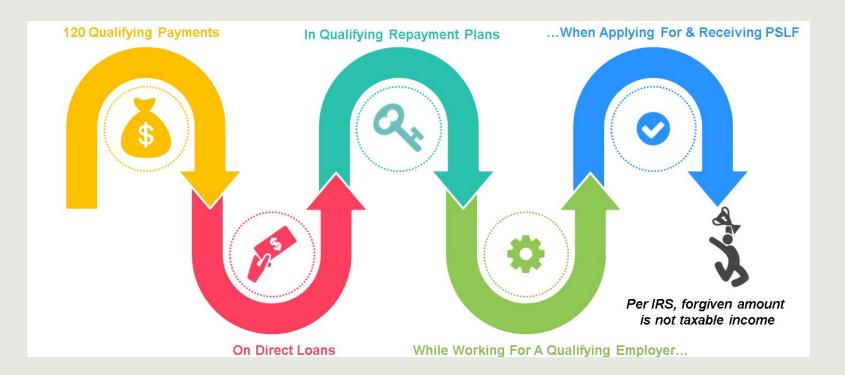
Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

Can I be certain that the PSLF Program will exist by the time I have made my 120 qualifying payments?

We cannot make any guarantees about the future availability of PSLF. The PSLF Program was created by Congress, and Congress could change or end the PSLF Program.



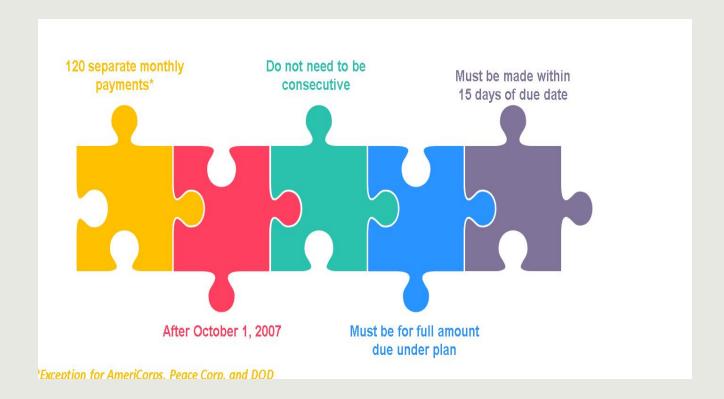
PSLF Basics



• The PSLF slides are from the 2015 Federal Student Aid Training Conference

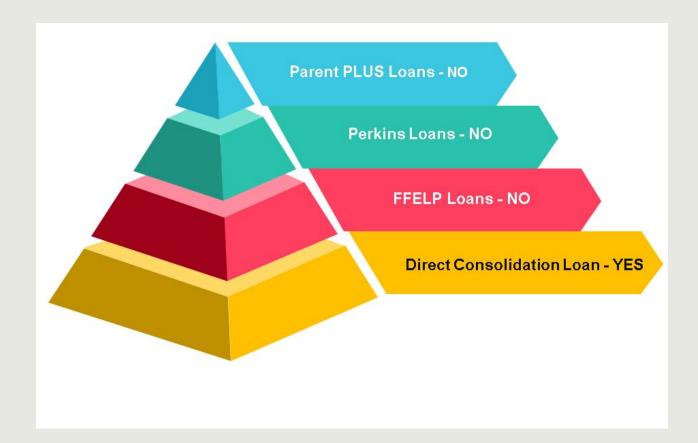


PSLF Qualifying Payments





PSLF – Direct Loans Only



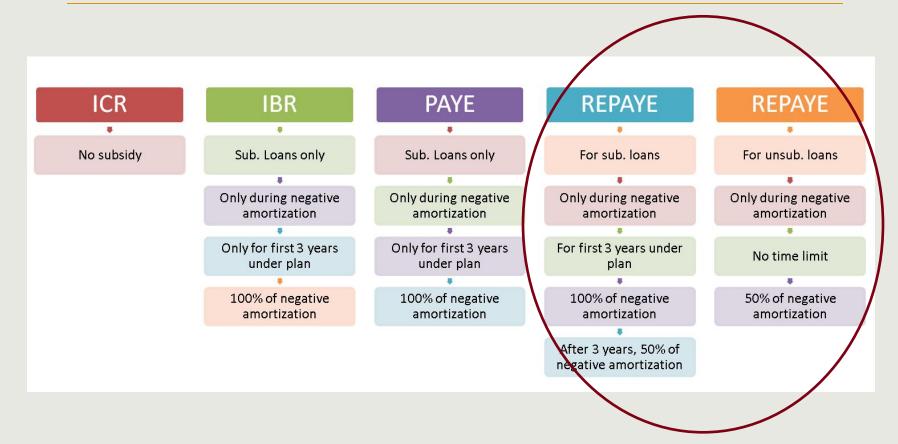


PSLF Repayment Plans

- 10-Year Standard
- IBR
- ICR
- Pay As You Earn
- REPAYE
- Others ≥ 10 Year Standard
- Income-driven plans are most likely to yield a balance for forgiveness



Repayment Subsidies





Qualifying Employer





- Full-time is the greater of:
 - Employer's definition of full-time
 - 30 hours per week
- May work multiple qualifying part-time jobs that equal full-time
- For borrowers at a non-profit organization, hours spent in religious instruction, worship services, or proselytizing do not count



PSLF Example

Direct Loan: \$125,000 Residency Salary: \$60,000 Post Residency Salary: \$180,000 Starting in REPAYE in Residency

Total Repayment over 18 years	\$ 281,807	
Monthly Repayment	\$ 342 - 1,787	
Total Interest	\$ 118,049	
PAYE 20-yr. Forgiveness	\$0	
PSLF 10-yr. Forgiveness	\$ 127,208	
Monthly payment cap for PAYE eligible	Ioans: \$ 1,787	

Total Repayment over 17 years	\$ 264,152	
Monthly Repayment	\$ 342 - 1,986	
Total Interest	\$ 100,395	
REPAYE 25-yr. Forgiveness	\$0	
PSLF 10-yr. Forgiveness	\$ 115,568	



HMS Public Service Initiative

- Designed to relieve a portion of the loan obligation of graduating students intending to pursue careers in public service
 - Ex: Primary care (family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine), practice and/or research that promotes public health or health policy, commitment to underserved communities (local or international), international medicine (in resource poor settings), demonstrated commitment to medical education that promotes public service
 - Priority given to students planning to enter into a primary care field/concentration who demonstrate a commitment to community service
 - Priority given to students with educational debt >\$98,000
- Application deadline: April 1 of graduating year
- Funding currently available through 2016



- <u>Can Medical Students Afford to Choose Primary Care? An</u>
 <u>Economic Analysis of Physician Education Debt Repayment</u>
 - Youngclaus, James A. MS; Koehler, Paul A. PhD; Kotlikoff, Laurence J. PhD; Wiecha, John M. MD, MPH
- Conclusion: a primary care career remains financially viable for medical school graduates with median educational debt levels (ie \$162K)
- Still viable for students with higher debt levels, but will need to consider additional strategies:
 - Extended repayment plans
 - Loan Forgiveness Programs (PSLF/NHSC, etc)
 - Not living in high cost areas

Caveat: Report produced <u>prior to (RE)PAYE</u> which essentially makes it possible under any circumstances



Resources

- HMS, National and State Loan Forgiveness Programs : <u>www.hms.harvard.edu/finaid</u>
- IBR/PAYE FAQs: <u>http://studentaid.ed.gov</u>
- PSLF FAQs: <u>http://studentaid.ed.gov</u>
- NHSC: <u>www.nhsc.hrsa.gov</u>
- AAMC: <u>www.aamc.org/first</u>
- AAMC MedLoans Organizer: <u>www.aamc/org/services/first/medloans</u>