

Federal Student Loan Repayment Program

Federal employees are eligible to receive **up to \$60,000** (\$10,000 a year) from participating agencies in this program towards the payment of their educational loans. This program requires the employee to make a three year commitment to the agency/department that provided the repayment. If a student transfers to a different agency while benefiting from the program, the new employer is not required to continue financial support. Should the employee become unemployed by the agency during the three year timeframe, the recipient is required to pay back the amount in full to the agency.

Who is Eligible?

- Permanent employees (including part-time employees)
- Employees serving on excepted appointments with conversion to term, career, or career conditional appointments (including, but not limited to, Career Intern or Presidential Management Fellows appointments)
- Temporary employees who are serving on appointments leading to conversion to term or permanent appointments
- Term employees with at least three years left on their appointments

How Do I Apply?

Current or potential federal employees may contact their employing agency for further information. Each participating agency must develop a plan that describes how the agency operates its repayment program.

What Academic Areas Are Covered?

There are no laws regulating which degrees can and cannot be covered by this program; however, agencies are encouraged to tailor their plans to recruit highly qualified candidates for hard to fill positions. Therefore, an agency may specify the types of degrees and levels necessary to participate in the program.

Jobs that Get the Most Assistance

Number of federal employees who received student loan aid in 2008:

Criminal Investigator	1,020
Attorney	655
Intelligence	491
Miscellaneous Administration	351
Nurse	310
GAO Analyst	275
Management and Program Analysis	240

Source: "Federal Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2008: Report to the Congress," Office of Personnel Management, July 2009.

QUICK FACTS

- ★ In 2008, **35 federal agencies** provided **6,879 employees** with almost **\$51 million** in student loan repayment benefits.
- ★ Agencies may offer student loan repayment benefits in conjunction with **recruitment and relocation bonuses and retention allowances**.
- ★ Some agencies also have **tuition assistance programs**. Contact an agency representative to find out if their organization participates in such a program.

For more information, visit:

www.opm.gov/oca/pay/studentloan/index.asp

TOP LOAN REPAYMENT AGENCIES

In 2008, 21 of the 35 agencies that participated in the Federal Student Loan Repayment Program invested more than \$100,000 in their employees; including (in order of amount paid):

- Justice
- Defense
- State
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Health and Human Services
- Government Accountability Office
- Federal Energy Regulation Commission
- Veterans Affairs
- Agency for International Development
- Housing and Urban Development
- Homeland Security
- Energy
- Interior
- General Services Administration
- Agriculture
- Transportation
- Treasury
- Office of Special Counsel
- Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation



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