

authorized under subpart 1 of part B of title VI [now V] of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [20 U.S.C. 7345 et seq.] of the benefits available under the amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 1087j of this title]; and

“(2) encourage such agencies to notify their teachers of such benefits.”

§ 1078-11. Loan forgiveness for service in areas of national need

(a) Program authorized

(1) Loan forgiveness authorized

The Secretary shall forgive, in accordance with this section, the qualified loan amount described in subsection (c) of the student loan obligation of a borrower who—

(A) is employed full-time in an area of national need, as described in subsection (b); and

(B) is not in default on a loan for which the borrower seeks forgiveness.

(2) Method of loan forgiveness

To provide loan forgiveness under paragraph (1), the Secretary is authorized to carry out a program—

(A) through the holder of the loan, to assume the obligation to repay a qualified loan amount for a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under this part (other than an excepted PLUS loan or an excepted consolidation loan (as such terms are defined in section 1098e(a) of this title)); and

(B) to cancel a qualified loan amount for a loan made under part D of this subchapter (other than an excepted PLUS loan or an excepted consolidation loan).

(3) Regulations

The Secretary is authorized to issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(b) Areas of national need

For purposes of this section, an individual is employed in an area of national need if the individual meets the requirements of one of the following:

(1) Early childhood educators

The individual is employed full-time as an early childhood educator.

(2) Nurses

The individual is employed full-time—

(A) as a nurse in a clinical setting; or

(B) as a member of the nursing faculty at an accredited school of nursing (as those terms are defined in section 296 of title 42).

(3) Foreign language specialists

The individual—

(A) has obtained a baccalaureate or advanced degree in a critical foreign language; and

(B) is employed full-time—

(i) in an elementary school or secondary school as a teacher of a critical foreign language;

(ii) in an agency of the United States Government in a position that regularly requires the use of such critical foreign language; or

(iii) in an institution of higher education as a faculty member or instructor teaching a critical foreign language.

(4) Librarians

The individual is employed full-time as a librarian in—

(A) a public library that serves a geographic area within which the public schools have a combined average of 30 percent or more of the schools' total student enrollments composed of children meeting a measure of poverty under section 6313(a)(5) of this title; or

(B) a school that qualifies under section 1087ee(a)(2)(A) of this title for loan cancellation for Perkins loan recipients who teach in such a school.

(5) Highly qualified teachers serving students who are limited English proficient, low-income communities, and underrepresented populations

The individual—

(A) is highly qualified, as such term is defined in section 9101¹ of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [20 U.S.C. 7801]; and

(B) is employed full-time—

(i) as a teacher educating students who are limited English proficient;

(ii) as a teacher in a school that qualifies under section 1087ee(a)(2)(A) of this title for loan cancellation for Perkins loan recipients who teach in such a school;

(iii) as a teacher and is an individual from an underrepresented population in the teaching profession, as determined by the Secretary; or

(iv) as a teacher in an educational service agency, as such term is defined in section 7801 of this title.

(6) Child welfare workers

The individual—

(A) has obtained a degree in social work or a related field with a focus on serving children and families; and

(B) is employed full-time in public or private child welfare services.

(7) Speech-language pathologists and audiologists

The individual—

(A) is employed full-time as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist in an eligible preschool program or a school that qualifies under section 1087ee(a)(2)(A) of this title for loan cancellation for Perkins loan recipients who teach in such a school; and

(B) has, at a minimum, a graduate degree in speech-language pathology, audiology, or communication sciences and disorders.

(8) School counselors

The individual—

(A) is employed full-time as a school counselor who has documented competence in counseling children and adolescents in a school setting and who—

(i) is licensed by the State or certified by an independent professional regulatory authority;

¹ See References in Text note below.

(ii) in the absence of such State licensure or certification, possesses national certification in school counseling or a specialty of counseling granted by an independent professional organization; or

(iii) holds a minimum of a master's degree in school counseling from a program accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs or the equivalent; and

(B) is so employed in a school that qualifies under section 1087ee(a)(2)(A) of this title for loan cancellation for Perkins loan recipients who teach in such a school.

(9) Public sector employees

The individual is employed full-time in—

(A) public safety (including as a first responder, firefighter, police officer, or other law enforcement or public safety officer);

(B) emergency management (including as an emergency medical technician);

(C) public health (including full-time professionals engaged in health care practitioner occupations and health care support occupations, as such terms are defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics); or

(D) public interest legal services (including prosecution, public defense, or legal advocacy in low-income communities at a non-profit organization).

(10) Nutrition professionals

The individual—

(A) is a licensed, certified, or registered dietician who has completed a degree in a relevant field; and

(B) is employed full-time as a dietician with an agency of the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children under section 1786 of title 42.

(11) Medical specialists

The individual—

(A) has received a degree from a medical school at an institution of higher education; and

(B) has been accepted to, or currently participates in, a full-time graduate medical education training program or fellowship (or both) to provide health care services (as recognized by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) that—

(i) requires more than five years of total graduate medical training; and

(ii) has fewer United States medical school graduate applicants than the total number of positions available in such program or fellowship.

(12) Mental health professionals

The individual—

(A) has not less than a master's degree in social work, psychology, or psychiatry; and

(B) is employed full-time providing mental health services to children, adolescents, or veterans.

(13) Dentists

The individual—

(A)(i) has received a degree from an accredited dental school (as accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation);

(ii) has completed residency training in pediatric dentistry, general dentistry, or dental public health; and

(iii) is employed full-time as a dentist; or

(B) is employed full-time as a member of the faculty at a program or school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

(14) STEM employees

The individual is employed full-time in applied sciences, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

(15) Physical therapists

The individual—

(A) is a physical therapist; and

(B) is employed full-time providing physical therapy services to children, adolescents, or veterans.

(16) Superintendents, principals, and other administrators

The individual is employed full-time as a school superintendent, principal, or other administrator in a local educational agency, including in an educational service agency, in which 30 percent or more of the schools are schools that qualify under section 1087ee(a)(2)(A) of this title for loan cancellation for Perkins loan recipients who teach in such a school.

(17) Occupational therapists

The individual is an occupational therapist and is employed full-time providing occupational therapy services to children, adolescents, or veterans.

(18) Allied health professionals

The individual is employed full-time as an allied health professional—

(A) in a Federal, State, local, or tribal public health agency; or

(B) in a setting where patients might require health care services, including acute care facilities, ambulatory care facilities, personal residences and other settings located in health professional shortage areas, medically underserved areas, or medically underserved populations, as recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(c) Qualified loan amount

(1) In general

Subject to paragraph (2), for each school, academic, or calendar year of full-time employment in an area of national need described in subsection (b) that a borrower completes on or after August 14, 2008, the Secretary shall forgive not more than \$2,000 of the student loan obligation of the borrower that is outstanding after the completion of each such school, academic, or calendar year of employment, respectively.

(2) Maximum amount

The Secretary shall not forgive more than \$10,000 in the aggregate for any borrower under this section, and no borrower shall receive loan forgiveness under this section for more than five years of service.

(d) Priority

The Secretary shall grant loan forgiveness under this section on a first-come, first-served basis, and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(e) Rule of construction

Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the refunding of any repayment of a loan.

(f) Ineligibility for double benefits

No borrower may, for the same service, receive a reduction of loan obligations under both this section and section 1078-10, 1078-12, 1087e(m), or 1087j of this title.

(g) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Allied health professional

The term “allied health professional” means an allied health professional as defined in section 295p(5) of title 42 who—

(A) has graduated and received an allied health professions degree or certificate from an institution of higher education; and

(B) is employed with a Federal, State, local or tribal public health agency, or in a setting where patients might require health care services, including acute care facilities, ambulatory care facilities, personal residences and other settings located in health professional shortage areas, medically underserved areas, or medically underserved populations, as recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(2) Audiologist

The term “audiologist” means an individual who—

(A) has received, at a minimum, a graduate degree in audiology from an institution of higher education accredited by an agency or association recognized by the Secretary pursuant to section 1099b(a) of this title; and

(B)(i) provides audiology services under subsection (II)(2) of section 1395x of title 42; or

(ii) meets or exceeds the qualifications for a qualified audiologist under subsection (II)(4) of such section.

(3) Early childhood educator

The term “early childhood educator” means an individual who—

(A) works directly with children in an eligible preschool program or eligible early childhood education program in a low-income community;

(B) is involved directly in the care, development, and education of infants, toddlers, or young children age five and under; and

(C) has completed a baccalaureate or advanced degree in early childhood development or early childhood education, or in a field related to early childhood education.

(4) Eligible preschool program

The term “eligible preschool program” means a program that—

(A) provides for the care, development, and education of infants, toddlers, or young children age five and under;

(B) meets any applicable State or local government licensing, certification, approval, and registration requirements, and

(C) is operated by—

(i) a public or private school that is supported, sponsored, supervised, or administered by a local educational agency;

(ii) a Head Start agency serving as a grantee designated under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

(iii) a nonprofit or community based organization; or

(iv) a child care program, including a home.

(5) Eligible early childhood education program

The term “eligible early childhood education program” means—

(A) a family child care program, center-based child care program, State prekindergarten program, school program, or other out-of-home early childhood development care program, that—

(i) is licensed or regulated by the State; and

(ii) serves two or more unrelated children who are not old enough to attend kindergarten;

(B) a Head Start Program carried out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.); or

(C) an Early Head Start Program carried out under section 645A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9840a).

(6) Low-income community

The term “low-income community” means a school attendance area (as defined in section 6313(a)(2)(A) of this title)—

(A) in which 70 percent of households earn less than 85 percent of the State median household income; or

(B) that includes a school that qualifies under section 1087ee(a)(2)(A) of this title for loan cancellation for Perkins loan recipients who teach in such a school.

(7) Nurse

The term “nurse” means a nurse who meets all of the following:

(A) The nurse graduated from—

(i) an accredited school of nursing (as those terms are defined in section 296 of title 42);

(ii) a nursing center; or

(iii) an academic health center that provides nurse training.

(B) The nurse holds a valid and unrestricted license to practice nursing in the State in which the nurse practices in a clinical setting.

(C) The nurse holds one or more of the following:

(i) A graduate degree in nursing, or an equivalent degree.

(ii) A nursing degree from a collegiate school of nursing (as defined in section 296 of title 42).

(iii) A nursing degree from an associate degree school of nursing (as defined in such section).

(iv) A nursing degree from a diploma school of nursing (as defined in such section).

(8) Occupational therapist

The term “occupational therapist” means an individual who—

(A) has received, at a minimum, a baccalaureate degree in occupational therapy from an institution of higher education accredited by an agency or association recognized by the Secretary pursuant to section 1099b(a) of this title; and

(B)(i) provides occupational therapy services under section 1395x(g) of title 42; or

(ii) meets or exceeds the qualifications for a qualified occupational therapist, as determined by State law.

(9) Physical therapist

The term “physical therapist” means an individual who—

(A) has received, at a minimum, a graduate degree in physical therapy from an institution of higher education accredited by an agency or association recognized by the Secretary pursuant to section 1099b(a) of this title; and

(B)(i) provides physical therapy services under section 1395x(p) of title 42; or

(ii) meets or exceeds the qualifications for a qualified physical therapist, as determined by State law.

(10) Speech-language pathologist

The term “speech-language pathologist” means a speech-language pathologist who—

(A) has received, at a minimum, a graduate degree in speech-language pathology or communication sciences and disorders from an institution of higher education accredited by an agency or association recognized by the Secretary pursuant to section 1099b(a) of this title; and

(B) provides speech-language pathology services under section 1395x(l)(1) of title 42, or meets or exceeds the qualifications for a qualified speech-language pathologist under subsection (l)(4) of such section.

(h) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2009 and each of the five succeeding fiscal years to provide loan forgiveness in accordance with this section.

(Pub. L. 89-329, title IV, §428K, as added Pub. L. 105-244, title IV, §425, Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1699; amended Pub. L. 110-315, title IV, §430, Aug. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 3236; Pub. L. 111-39, title IV, §402(f)(7), July 1, 2009, 123 Stat. 1944; Pub. L. 111-148, title V, §5205(b), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 611; Pub. L. 114-95, title IX, §9215(oo)(8), Dec. 10, 2015, 129 Stat. 2180.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, referred to in subsec. (b)(5)(A), was amended by Pub. L. 114-95 and, as so amended, is now section 8101 of the Act and no longer defines “highly

qualified”. A reference in this section to the term “highly qualified” as defined in section 9101 of the Act is to be treated as a reference to such term under such section 9101 as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Pub. L. 114-95. See section 9214(a)(1) of Pub. L. 114-95, set out as a Use of the Term “Highly Qualified” in Other Laws note under section 1070g-2 of this title.

The Head Start Act, referred to in subsec. (g)(4)(C)(ii), (5)(B), is subchapter B (§635 et seq.) of chapter 8 of subtitle A of title VI of Pub. L. 97-35, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 499, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§9831 et seq.) of chapter 105 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 9801 of Title 42 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (b)(5)(B)(iv). Pub. L. 114-95, §9215(oo)(8)(A), made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to section 7801 of this title.

Subsec. (b)(8). Pub. L. 114-95, §9215(oo)(8)(B), added par. (8) and struck out former par. (8). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The individual is employed full-time as a school counselor (as such term is defined in section 7245(e) of this title), in a school that qualifies under section 1087ee(a)(2)(A) of this title for loan cancellation for Perkins loan recipients who teach in such a school.”

2010—Subsec. (b)(18). Pub. L. 111-148, §5205(b)(1), added par. (18).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 111-148, §5205(b)(2), added par. (1) and redesignated former pars. (1) to (9) as (2) to (10), respectively.

2009—Subsec. (g)(9)(B). Pub. L. 111-39 substituted “under subsection (l)(4) of such section” for “under subsection (l)(3) of such section”.

2008—Pub. L. 110-315 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to loan forgiveness for child care providers.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2015 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 114-95 effective Dec. 10, 2015, except with respect to certain noncompetitive programs and competitive programs, see section 5 of Pub. L. 114-95, set out as a note under section 6301 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-39 effective as if enacted on the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-315 (Aug. 14, 2008), see section 3 of Pub. L. 111-39, set out as a note under section 1001 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1998, except as otherwise provided in Pub. L. 105-244, see section 3 of Pub. L. 105-244, set out as an Effective Date of 1998 Amendment note under section 1001 of this title.

ALLIED HEALTH WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PROGRAMS

Pub. L. 111-148, title V, §5205(a), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 611, provided that: “The purpose of this section [amending this section] is to assure an adequate supply of allied health professionals to eliminate critical allied health workforce shortages in Federal, State, local, and tribal public health agencies or in settings where patients might require health care services, including acute care facilities, ambulatory care facilities, personal residences and other settings, as recognized by the Secretary of Health and Human Services by authorizing an Allied Health Loan Forgiveness Program.”

[For definition of “Allied Health Loan Forgiveness Program” as used in section 5205(a) of Pub. L. 111-148,

set out above, see section 5002(a) of Pub. L. 111-148, set out as a note under section 294q of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.]

§ 1078-12. Loan repayment for civil legal assistance attorneys

(a) Purpose

The purpose of this section is to encourage qualified individuals to enter and continue employment as civil legal assistance attorneys.

(b) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Civil legal assistance attorney

The term “civil legal assistance attorney” means an attorney who—

(A) is a full-time employee of—

(i) a nonprofit organization that provides legal assistance with respect to civil matters to low-income individuals without a fee; or

(ii) a protection and advocacy system or client assistance program that provides legal assistance with respect to civil matters and receives funding under—

(I) subtitle C of title I of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15041 et seq.);

(II) section 732 or 794e of title 29;

(III) part A of title I of the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act (42 U.S.C. 10801 et seq.);

(IV) section 3004 of title 29;

(V) section 1320b-21 of title 42;

(VI) section 300d-53 of title 42; or

(VII) section 21061 of title 52;

(B) as such employee, provides civil legal assistance as described in subparagraph (A) on a full-time basis; and

(C) is continually licensed to practice law.

(2) Student loan

(A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term “student loan” means—

(i) subject to clause (ii), a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under this part, part D, or part E; and

(ii) a loan made under section 1078-3 or 1087e(g) of this title, to the extent that such loan was used to repay—

(I) a Federal Direct Stafford Loan, a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or a Federal Direct PLUS Loan;

(II) a loan made under section 1078, 1078-2, or 1078-8 of this title; or

(III) a loan made under part E.

(B) Exclusion of parent plus loans

The term “student loan” does not include any of the following loans:

(i) A loan made to the parents of a dependent student under section 1078-2 of this title.

(ii) A Federal Direct PLUS Loan made to the parents of a dependent student.

(iii) A loan made under section 1078-3 or 1087e(g) of this title, to the extent that such loan was used to repay—

(I) a loan made to the parents of a dependent student under section 1078-2 of this title; or

(II) a Federal Direct PLUS Loan made to the parents of a dependent student.

(c) Program authorized

From amounts appropriated under subsection (i) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall carry out a program of assuming the obligation to repay a student loan, by direct payments on behalf of a borrower to the holder of such loan, in accordance with subsection (d), for any borrower who—

(1) is employed as a civil legal assistance attorney; and

(2) is not in default on a loan for which the borrower seeks repayment.

(d) Terms of agreement

(1) In general

To be eligible to receive repayment benefits under subsection (c), a borrower shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary that specifies that—

(A) the borrower will remain employed as a civil legal assistance attorney for a required period of service of not less than three years, unless involuntarily separated from that employment;

(B) if the borrower is involuntarily separated from employment on account of misconduct, or voluntarily separates from employment, before the end of the period specified in the agreement, the borrower will repay the Secretary the amount of any benefits received by such employee under this agreement;

(C) if the borrower is required to repay an amount to the Secretary under subparagraph (B) and fails to repay such amount, a sum equal to that amount shall be recoverable by the Federal Government from the employee by such methods as are provided by law for the recovery of amounts owed to the Federal Government;

(D) the Secretary may waive, in whole or in part, a right of recovery under this subsection if it is shown that recovery would be contrary to the public interest; and

(E) the Secretary shall make student loan payments under this section for the period of the agreement, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(2) Repayments

(A) In general

Any amount repaid by, or recovered from, an individual under this subsection shall be credited to the appropriation account from which the amount involved was originally paid.

(B) Merger

Any amount credited under subparagraph (A) shall be merged with other sums in such account and shall be available for the same purposes and period, and subject to the same limitations, if any, as the sums with which the amount was merged.