

# Stay Connected

## TAKE ACTION

Protect the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program for current and future borrowers by contacting your representatives.

 **Text PSLF to 40649**

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Follow the latest in student debt relief

 **EqualJusticeWorks**

 **@EJW\_org**

## GET ANSWERS

Send us your student debt questions at

 **debtrelief@equaljusticeworks.org**

# Want to Learn More?

Equal Justice Works provides resources to help you understand the student loan programs that are available and how you can better manage your debt. Whether you are a prospective or current student, or have already graduated, we can help you make more informed decisions about paying your student loans.

You can follow our blog, sign up for free webinars with our debt relief expert, and download a copy of our comprehensive e-book.



# TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE



Find more information at  
[equaljusticeworks.org/student-debt](https://equaljusticeworks.org/student-debt)

**LEARN HOW TO MANAGE  
YOUR STUDENT DEBT**

# What You Should Know

The amount of debt incurred by students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees is staggering—and growing every year. Student loan debt is outpacing credit card debt and tuition continues to rise far faster than inflation. Student debt has become a crippling burden for far too many, and especially for those who want to pursue careers in public service.

Fortunately, there are programs that can help you achieve your career goals without drowning in debt.



## BEFORE YOU ENTER SCHOOL

The best time to start thinking about your student debt is before you take out a loan.

- Be sure to explore all sources of funding. Grants and scholarships are funds you don't have to repay! Grants, scholarships, and work study programs are available from federal and state governments, your school, and a multitude of organizations and associations.
- Check out online research tools like [fastweb.com](https://www.fastweb.com) that can help you find scholarships, and make sure you fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can find a list of federal grants at [ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html](https://ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html)
- If you do need to take out loans, it is important to maximize the use of federal student loan programs. Federal loans contain borrower protections that private loans do not. In addition, there are a number of programs that can help you pay off your student loans after graduation, but only federal student loans qualify.
- For graduate students, federal Grad PLUS loans should enable you to cover the entire cost of your graduate education using federal loans. You can find out more about Federal Direct loans at [studentaid.ed.gov/sa](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa)



## AFTER YOU GRADUATE

There are several programs that can help you manage your student loan payments.

- Income-driven repayment plans limit the monthly payments on your eligible federal loans to a reasonable percentage of your discretionary income and provide long-term forgiveness. Options to consider include: Income-Based Repayment (IBR), Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR), Revised Pay As You Earn (REPAYE), and Pay As You Earn (PAYE).
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) was designed to encourage careers in public service by forgiving your Federal Direct loans after you make 120 monthly payments in a qualifying repayment plan while working for ten years in public service, including at a 501(c)(3) nonprofit or in federal, state, local, or tribal government.
- Loan Repayment Assistance Programs (LRAPs) are available from universities, federal and state governments, employers, and private organizations such as bar associations to help eligible graduates make their monthly student loan payments.