

**JOHN R. JUSTICE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM
2011 – 2012**

CONNECTICUT APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Repayment Program Description

The John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program provides financial assistance to state prosecutors and state and federal public defenders employed full time as such who have eligible loans.

***Note:** The number of awards available through this federal program and the financial assistance awarded to eligible beneficiaries is subject to the amount appropriated by the federal government.*

Section I - Eligibility

- A. Eligible Applicants must:
- (1) be an attorney who is continually licensed to practice law in the state of Connecticut and either:
 - (a) a full-time employee of the state of Connecticut or unit of local government (including tribal government) who provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation; OR,
 - (b) a full-time employee of a nonprofit organization operating under a contract with a state or unit of local government who devotes substantially all of the employee's full-time employment to providing legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation; OR,
 - (c) employed as a full-time federal defender attorney in a defender organization in Connecticut pursuant to Subsection (g) of section 3006A of Title 18, United States Code, that provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases. 42 U.S.C. §3797cc-21(b)(2), OR,
 - (d) a full-time employee of the state of Connecticut or unit of local government (including tribal government) who is continually licensed to practice law and prosecutes criminal or juvenile delinquency cases at the state or unit of local government level (including supervision, education, or training of other persons prosecuting such cases). 42 U.S.C. §3797cc-21(b)(1).

- (2) Have a qualifying student loan eligible for repayment and defined as, and limited to the following:
 - (a) A loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B of subchapter IV of chapter 28 of Title 20 (Federal Family Education Loan Program);
 - (b) A loan made under part C or D of subchapter IV of chapter 28 of Title 20 (William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan and Federal Perkins Loans);
 - (c) A loan made under section 1078-3 or 1087e(g) of Title 20 (Federal consolidation loans and Federal Direct Consolidation loans, respectively).
- (3) Not be in default of any federal educational loans;
- (4) The term student loan does not include any of the following loans:
 - (a) a loan made to the parents of a dependent student under section 428B of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-2).
 - (b) a Federal Direct PLUS Loan made to the parents of a dependent student.
 - (c) a loan made under section 428C or 455 (g) of the higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-3 (Federal consolidation loans) and 1087e(g) (Federal Direct Consolidation loans) to the extent that such loan was used to repay a loan described in clause (a) or (b).

B. Ineligible Attorneys are:

- (1) Attorneys who are in private practice and not a full-time employee of a non-profit organization, even if individually or part of a firm that is under contract with a state or court-appointed to provide public defense services, do not qualify as "public defenders" and therefore are not eligible.
- (2) Attorneys employed as prosecutors who are employees of the federal government are not eligible.

C. Service Agreement Required:

- (1) All eligible beneficiaries must sign and submit with his/her Application a Service Agreement with the U. S. Department of Justice prior to any funds being expended pursuant to this grant program.

Section II - Application Process

- A. All applications and required documentation shall be submitted as follows:
- (1) All full time prosecutors employed by the Division of Criminal Justice, a Connecticut State Agency, eligible for consideration pursuant to Section I shall submit the Application and required documentation to:

Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ)
Office of Chief State's Attorney
300 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Attn: Mitchell Forman
Manager – Grants and Contracts
 - (2) All full time public defenders employed by the Division of Public Defender Services, a Connecticut State Agency, qualified full time federal defender and other attorney applicants eligible pursuant to Section I shall submit the Application and required documentation to:

Division of Public Defender Services (DPDS)
Office of Chief Public Defender
30 Trinity Street, 4th floor
Hartford, CT 06106
Attn: Deborah Del Prete Sullivan
Legal Counsel, Executive Assistant Public Defender
- B. Required documents to be submitted include, but are not limited to:
- (1) Completed and executed Application for JRJ Loan Repayment;
 - (2) Completed and executed Service Agreement wherein the Applicant agrees to a 3 year service commitment to his/her current employer or repayment of any amount so awarded if he/she does not fulfill his/her service commitment time period and/or any other stipulations in the Service Agreement;
 - (3) Copy of the 1st page of the Applicant's Federal Tax Return for 2011; and,
 - (4) All required documentation in regard to the applicant's, and his/her spouse's or partner's, if married or in a civil union, gross income, employment verification, number of dependents, eligible educational loan debt obligations, personal financial income and other educational debt obligations. Priority will be given to those eligible beneficiaries who have the least ability to repay their loans.

- C. The deadline for all applications and required documentation to be submitted to the applicant's designated agency shall be 5 p.m. **October 5, 2012.**

Section III - Awarding of Funds

- A. Loan Payment Assistance
- (1) All eligible loan payments shall be made directly to the institution holding the qualified education loan as follows:
 - (a) The Connecticut Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education (OFAAHE) shall make payments for all qualified beneficiaries who made application to either the DPDS or the DCJ.
 - (2) If the qualified beneficiary has more than one eligible education loan, one (1) payment shall be to the qualified beneficiary's eligible education loan with the highest outstanding balance unless the qualified beneficiary has specified which education loan the entire award shall be paid to.
 - (3) In no event, shall any payment be made to the eligible beneficiary.
- B. Payment of any and all federal, state and local taxes due as a result of receiving the award shall be the sole responsibility of the eligible beneficiary.

Section IV - Repayment of Benefit

- A. All benefits must be repaid if:
- (1) a beneficiary defaults on his/her student loans;
 - (2) a beneficiary does not complete the 3 year commitment as agreed to in the Service Agreement regardless of whether the separation is voluntary or is involuntary due to misconduct or unacceptable performance by the beneficiary; or,
 - (3) a beneficiary becomes ineligible regardless of the reason.
- B. All arrangements for repayment shall be made with the U.S. Department of Justice by the beneficiary who has become ineligible.