

# **John R. Justice Loan Redemption Program (JRJLRP) Grant Award 2015-RJ-BX-0015**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the amount of the repayment award?**

The FY2015 service contract award amount for prosecutors will be \$1,882.88.  
The FY2015 service contract award amount for public defenders will be \$1,882.88.

The award amount will be made as one lump sum payment and paid directly to your lender. Payments made on behalf of approved beneficiaries cannot exceed the total qualifying loan balance. Program participants are responsible for any remaining payments or balances. Neither the Department of Justice nor the State will be held responsible for any late fees assessed by the lending institution.

### **What type of student loans can be redeemed?**

Only federal student loans where you are the borrower are eligible. Loans that someone else borrowed on your behalf (such as PLUS loans) are not eligible for redemption. Additionally, you must not be in default on any of your student loans.

### **How do I apply?**

If you meet the qualifications above, then download and print the application. Once you have completed your section, have your employer complete the Human Resources Certification section; attach all required documentation, including the correct JRJ Service Agreement and submit it to our office as a single package. The address is on the application form.

### **Do I have to reapply each year?**

Yes, you must provide a new application for each Grant Award. If you are currently enrolled in a previous JRJ award, your service agreement contract would not need to be extended. If you are not currently enrolled in a JRJ award, a new service agreement contract would need to be completed. The service agreement is for three years.

### **Can I send the application now and send the other documents later?**

Please do not send your documents separately. Only complete application packages will be considered for funding. It is in your best interest to send all of your documents as a single application package via a traceable mail service.

### **What happens after I apply?**

Once the application deadline has passed, we will evaluate each application and determine a rank order of eligible candidates for each of the three geographic areas of the state. In accordance with the federal grant requirements, those candidates identified as the least able to repay their student loan debt will be selected and awarded. We will also notify applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria and those who were not selected.

### **How long is the service agreement/commitment?**

The service commitment is three years, with the option to renew for an additional three years if qualified.

### **I was selected to participate, when will my loans be redeemed?**

One lump sum payment will be sent to your lender soon after the approval of your application. We will notify you once the payment is sent. Each year, prior to the service commitment anniversary date, you will receive an "Employment Certification" form to complete and return to our office. You must remain an eligible participant or will be required to repay any funds paid on your behalf during the contracted services period.

### **How does the money get to my lender? Do I have to send the money myself?**

Payments are sent directly to your lender from our office. You will receive a letter confirming that the payment was sent. Please allow some time for the lender to post the payment to your account. You should check your student loan account to verify that the payment was received.

### **Can I remain in the program if I change jobs?**

YES, as long as your new (full-time) position and employer meet the definitions above, and there was no break in qualified employment.

**What happens if I leave the program?**

Only complete years of service receive redemption payments. If you withdraw, or are employed for less than one full year, you will not receive a payment. There is no proration for part-time or part-year service. Your service contract will be cancelled as well as all future scheduled disbursements. You will also be required to repay any funds paid on your behalf during the contracted service period.

**Are there tax implications to participating in this program?**

The payment made on your behalf may be considered taxable income. This income will be reported to you via a 1099 during the month of January for payments made in that tax year. You should consult your tax professional regarding your individual situation.

***This program is supported by Grant No. 2015-RJ-BX-0015 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime.***

**Interested candidates may contact HESAA at 609-584-4020 or 609-584-4480 for more information regarding this program.**