



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
Department of Justice

Hon. Pedro R. Pierluisi Urrutia
Governor

Hon. Domingo Emanuelli Hernández
Attorney General

INFORMATION
JOHN R. JUSTICE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

I. Purpose

The purpose of the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program (JRJLRP) is to attract and retain qualified attorneys as prosecutors and public defenders. The program is funded for the current year by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

II. Requirements

To qualify for loan repayment assistance, an applicant must:

1. be currently employed full-time as an eligible prosecutor or public defender; and
2. have eligible outstanding student loan debt in good standing with each lender; and
3. sign a service agreement committing to remain employed as an eligible public defender or prosecutor for at least three years.

III. Eligible Prosecutor

The statutory authority that enables the JRJ Grant Program defines Prosecutor as follows:

The term “prosecutor” means a full-time employee of a State or unit of local government who—
(A) is continuously licensed to practice law; and
(B) 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).

Considering this definition, the eligible prosecutors are:

- A full-time employee of a state government who is continuously licensed to practice law in Puerto Rico and prosecutes criminal or juvenile delinquency cases at the state or local unit of government level (including supervision, education, or training of other persons prosecuting such cases).
- Prosecutors who are employees of the federal government are not eligible.

Therefore, in the case of Puerto Rico, the eligible prosecutors are:



- *Fiscales Auxiliares o Procurador de Asuntos de Menores* - appointed by statute by the Governor of Puerto Rico.
- *Fiscales Especiales* - appointed by the Attorney General for specific tasks as established in secs. 291 to 295u. 3 LPR § 291 (2004).

IV. Eligible Public Defender

An attorney who is continuously licensed to practice law in Puerto Rico, and is a full-time employee of:

- a state or unit of local government, and provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases (including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation) or
- a non-profit organization operating under contract with a state or unit of local government, and 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
- a defending organization established 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 and is a federal defender on a full-time basis.

Note: Attorneys who are in private practice and are not full-time employees of a non-profit organization do not qualify as "public defenders" for purposes of this program, even if they, as individuals or as employees of a firm, are under contract with a state or are appointed by the court to provide public defense services.

V. Selection Process

The application ranking process for public defenders and prosecutors will occur separately for each group. Only complete applications received on or before the deadline will be considered. Each eligible application will be ranked according to objective criteria established to identify candidates who are the least able to repay their student loans. A predetermined number of prosecutor and public defender applications within our jurisdiction will be selected.

VI. Eligible Educational Loans, including undergraduate, graduate, and law school education

- Federal Stafford Loans
- Federal Graduate PLUS Loans
- Federal Consolidation Loans
- Federal Perkins Loans

VII. Non-Eligible Loans

- Federal Parent PLUS Loans
- Federal Consolidation Loans used to repay Federal Parent Plus Loans
- Any portion of Federal Consolidation Loans used to repay a spouse's federal loans
- Non-federal student loans, including NJCLASS or other private education debt

- Personal debt instruments, including credit card, home equity, or loans from family members

Note: Borrowers who are in default status are ineligible for the JRJ Loan Repayment Program.

VIII. Application Instructions

- 1) You must complete all applicant sections on the first page.
- 2) The Human Resources administrator who is authorized to verify employment information must complete the certification provided.
- 3) Attach a copy of your student loan billing statement from each lender.
- 4) Attach a signed copy of your Income Tax Return with W-2PR; Forms 481 0 482, if applicable. (You must check with the External Resources Division to confirm the year of the Income Tax Return that you must provide).
- 5) Retention receipt (*Comprobante de retención*).
- 6) Copy of the of the *RUA ID*.
- 7) Information about the loans for which you are applying for aid using the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). Submit said information for each of the loans you have.
- 8) Attach the signed and dated applicable JRJ Service Agreement.
- 9) The applicant must ensure that External Resource Division receives the completed application and all other required documents before the published deadline. Only completed application packages will be considered.

This program is supported by the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program Grant 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. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.