

Dear Public Attorney:

You are receiving this information because you may be eligible for educational loan assistance through the federal John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program. This program provides for assistance in the payment of eligible educational loans (both Federal Family Education Loan Program [FFELP] and Federal Direct Loans) for state and federal public defenders and state or municipal prosecutors who agree to remain employed as public defenders and prosecutors for at least three years from the date of the award. If the employment commitment is not fulfilled, all loan assistance under this program must be repaid in full without pro-ration.

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen
- Have a balance due on an eligible FFELP or Direct educational loan(s) (includes Federal Stafford loans, Graduate PLUS loans, and consolidation loans) and Federal Perkins loans
- Be an attorney continually licensed to practice law, and be:
 - A full-time employee of the State of Alaska or unit of local government who prosecutes criminal or juvenile delinquency cases at the state or local government level (Prosecutors who are employees of the federal government are not eligible.), or
 - A full-time employee of the State of Alaska or local government who provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases, or
 - A full-time employee of a nonprofit organization operating under a contract with Alaska or local government who devotes substantially all of the employee's full-time employment to providing legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile cases, or
 - Employed in Alaska as a full-time federal defense attorney in a defender organization 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.
- Not be in default on a federal guaranteed educational loan, nor owe a refund on any scholarship or grant program.

To apply for this program, you must submit a complete John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program Application which includes:

- Applicant Information Form
- Employment Information Form
- Income Information Worksheet
- Asset Worksheet
- Loan Indebtedness Worksheet
- Certified Assurances Form

- SSN Permission Form

This program is intended to be federally funded indefinitely from year to year; however, funding each year is contingent upon Congressional approval. The total amount of awards available may vary from year to year. For each subsequent year you wish to apply, a separate application must be completed; service agreements remain in effect for three years. The complete application packet is attached to this letter, or you may access the application packet <http://doa.alaska.gov/opajustice/index.html>.

You must submit your application and to:

PREFERABLY IN ELECTRONIC FORM – Beth.Goldstein@alaska.gov

Hard Copy -

Beth Goldstein
Supervising Attorney
Office of Elder Fraud and Assistance
Alaska Office of Public Advocacy
900 West 5th Ave., Suite 525
Anchorage, AK 99501

Your application will be considered for processing as of the date it is received. Applications received after **April 20, 2015** due date will only be considered if funding remains.

Allocation of program funds is equally distributed between prosecutors and public defenders. Recipients are selected from among qualified applicants. For 2015 16 total grants will be awarded: 8 prosecutors and 8 public defenders of \$1875 each. The first 8 grants will be distributed on a need basis calculation as follows: 2 (1 prosecutor, 1 PD) – 1st Judicial District; 2 (1 prosecutor, 1 PD)- 2nd Judicial District; 2 (1 prosecutor, 1 PD) – 3rd Judicial District and 2 (1 prosecutor, 1 PD – 4th Judicial District). The second 8 grants will be distributed pursuant to the need based calculation irrespective of geographical location (judicial district). Applicants will be notified by of their selection status prior to June 1, 2015.

Awarded funds will be remitted electronically in a one-time payment directly to the lender. Recipients must contact the lender to arrange for payment to be applied to their loan(s). Responsibility for making the monthly loan payments and fulfilling the terms of the repayment agreement remains with the recipient.

We thank you for your public service to citizens of the state of Alaska and look forward to assisting you in your student loan repayment through participation in this program.