The SAVE Plan is Ending

What borrowers in SAVE need to know

August 2026

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

NCLC National Consumer Law Center
Fighting Together for Economic Justice

AFTER 2+ YEARS OF CHALLENGES, CHANGES, AND NEW RULES

THE SAVE PLAN IS ENDING

TAKE STEPS NOW TO AVOID BEING BLINDSIDED

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE?

1. NOTICES SENT IN WAVES

On **July 1st, 2026**, loan servicers began sending out notices giving borrowers **90 days** to select a new plan.

These notices are being sent in **waves**. Some borrowers are getting them now, but others might not receive them until later.

2. 90-DAY WINDOW TO SWITCH PLANS

Your **90-day countdown** officially begins once you receive your notice.

You must act within this window to select a plan that fits your financial situation.

Be prepared: Pay extremely close attention to any mail, emails, or portal updates from your loan servicer.

3. REPAYMENT CONSEQUENCES

If you fail to select a new plan within 90 days, you will likely be auto-enrolled in the **Standard Plan**.

Why this matters: Standard plan payments are based strictly on your **loan balance**, not your income.

This option can be **significantly more expensive** than Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plans.

REPAYMENT TIMELINE & CONSEQUENCES

STEP 1

Borrower receives **90-day notice** from their loan servicer.

Pay close attention to mail, emails, or studentaid.gov portal updates.

90 Days Later

STEP 2

If no other plan is applied for, borrower is **auto-enrolled** into repayment on the **Standard Plan**.

Standard plan payments are based strictly on loan balance, not income, making it significantly more expensive.

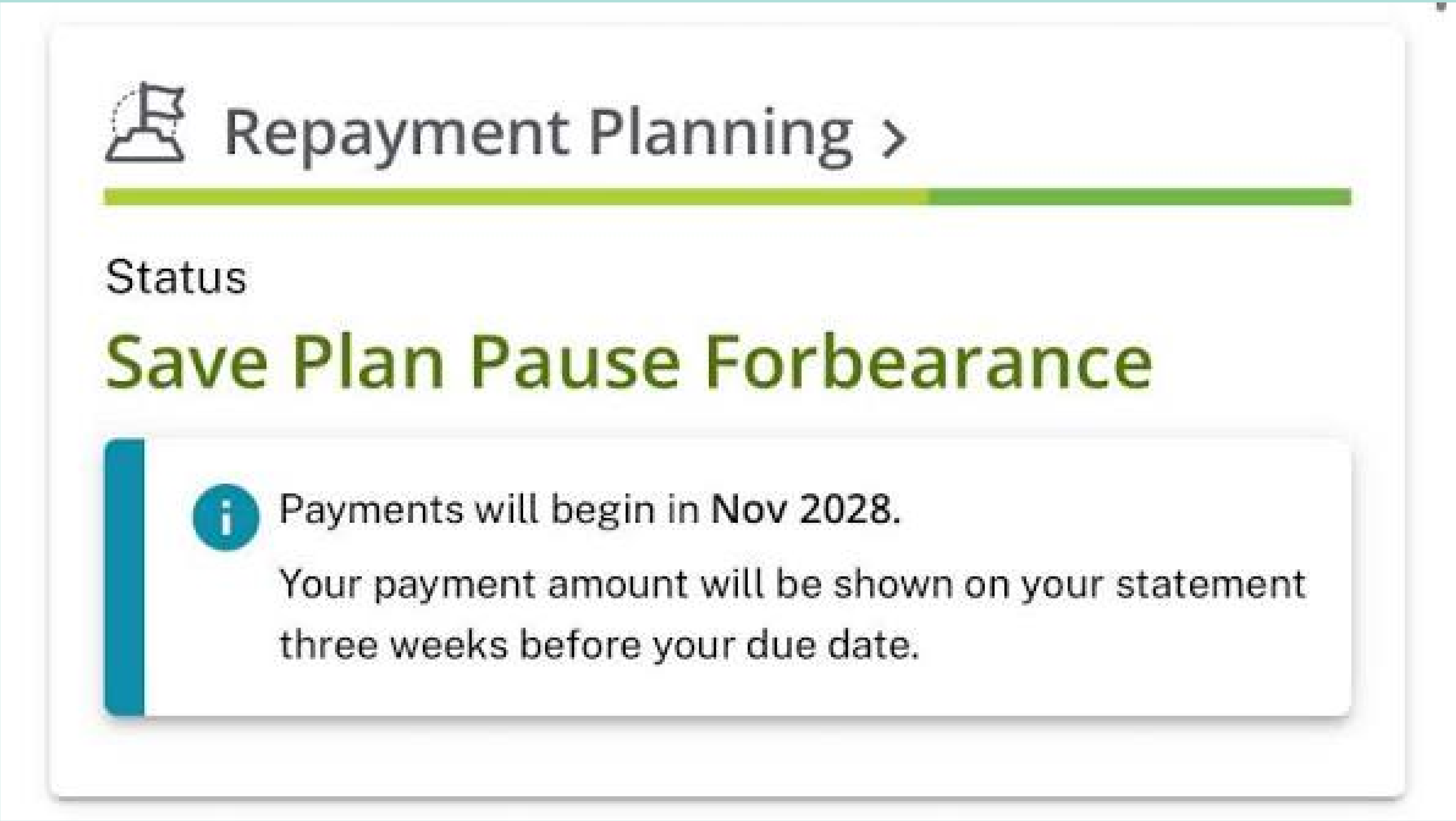
Payment Resumes

STEP 3

Payment is **due** unless borrower qualifies and applies for **$0 IDR plan**.

Apply early to avoid unaffordable bills once payments officially resume.

MY ACCOUNT STILL SAYS THIS:



WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PRIORITY WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR STUDENT LOANS?

A Pay off my loans as fast as possible

C Pay the lowest total amount over time (low interest)

B Have a low monthly payment

D Reach loan forgiveness

HOW DO I PICK A NEW PLAN?

**Each plan has different eligibility & calculation formulas **

Old Income Driven Plans (IBR, ICR, PAYE)	New IDR Plan (RAP)	Fixed Payment Plans (Standard / Extended / Graduated)
Payments Based on family size, and income	**Payments** Based on family size & income **No $0 payments**	**Payments** Based solely on loan balance and payoff timeline (10–30 years)
Forgiveness? **Yes, 20–25 yrs**	**Forgiveness?** **Yes, 30 yrs**	**Forgiveness?** **No**
Good For • PSLF eligible borrowers • Forgiveness seekers • Low income ($0 payments) • High balance loans	**Good For** • PSLF eligible borrowers • Loan payoff • Pays accrued interest monthly	**Good For** • Low balance borrowers • Full loan payoff

OK, SO HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLAN FOR ME?

STUDENTAID.GOV

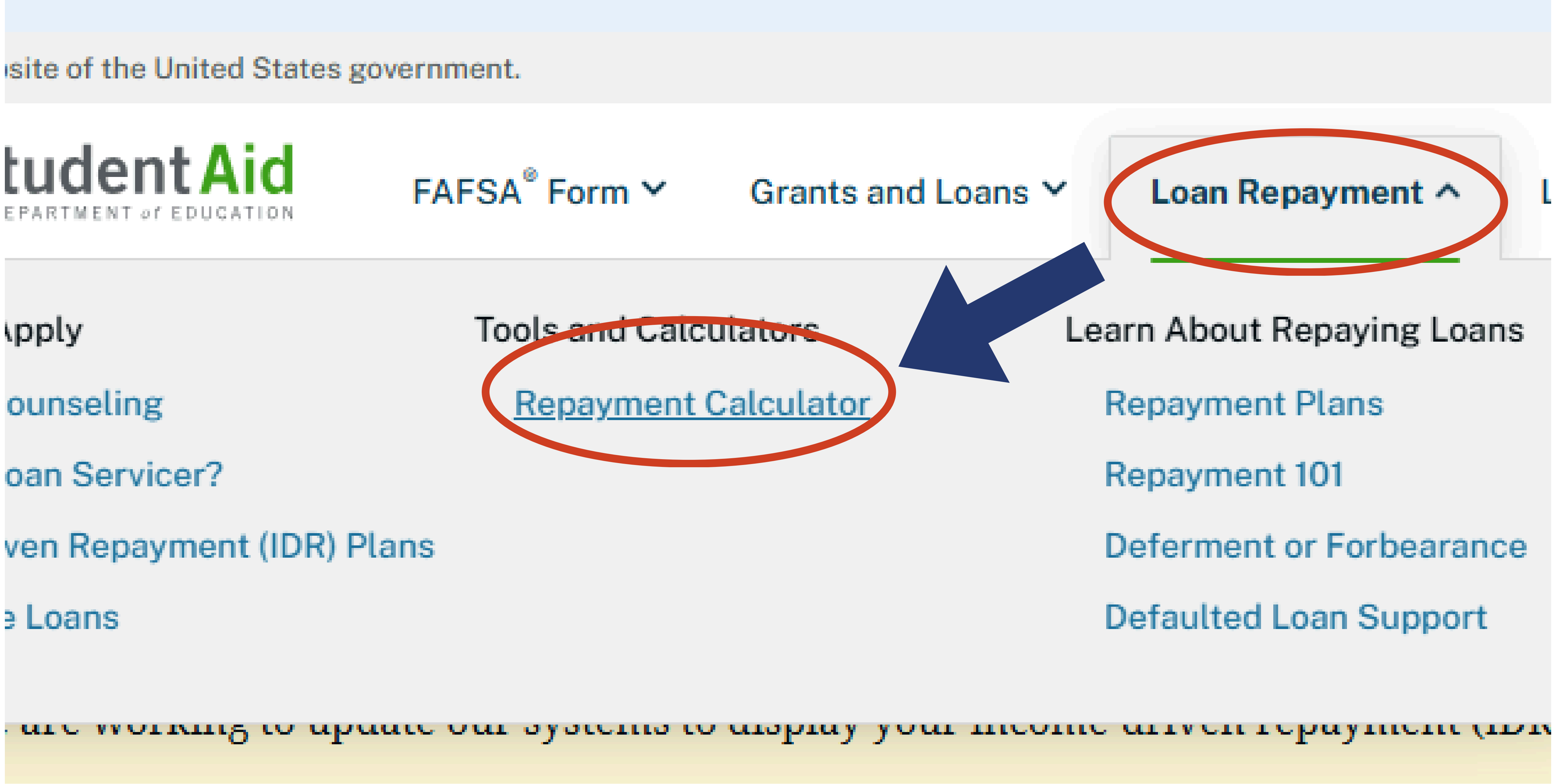
LOGIN TO STUDENTAID.GOV

Using the Tool

Step 1:
Log in with your FSA ID credentials to access personalized loan data.

Step 2:
Hover over the **"Loan Repayment"** menu in the top navigation bar.

Step 3:
Select **"Repayment Calculator"** to compare plans side-by-side.



Personal Information

Tax Filing Status

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)

$ .00

Dependents

Other Dependents

State of Residence

CALIFORNIA

Import my information >

OR

Import my information >

We're Securely Importing Your Information

Success! We've Imported Your Information

We've securely received your information. Your details are hidden from view for your privacy, and you're now ready to see your repayment plan options.

See Results

Example Case

Filing Status

Married filing jointly

Adjusted Gross Income

Joint AGI = $70,000

Dependents

1 Dependent

Total Debt

Loans: $50,000

Timeline

First loan disbursed in 2012

Plan Ends on June 30, 2028

Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Repayment Plan

Monthly Payment

$242

The PAYE Plan will become unavailable no later than July 1, 2028. If you're enrolled in the PAYE Plan at that time, you'll need to switch to a different repayment plan to continue making payments.

Learn more >

Apply

Extended Graduated Repayment Plan

Monthly Payment

$250 - 486

Payments start low and gradually increase every two years. You will repay your loans over an extended period of 25 years.

Total To Be Paid

$105,150

Principal Paid	Interest Paid
$50,000	$55,150

Ending of Payment Balance

$0

End of Term Date

Jun 2051

Apply

Repayment Assistance Plan

Monthly Payment

$300

Monthly payments are based on a percentage of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), ranging from 1% to 10% depending on your income level, with a minimum payment of $10 per month.

Total To Be Paid

$75,088

Principal Paid	Interest Paid
$50,000	$25,088

Ending of Payment Balance

$0

End of Term Date

Jan 2039

Apply

View More Plans

Graduated Repayment Plan

Monthly Payment

$317 - 952

Payments start low and gradually increase every two years. You will repay your loans over 10 years (for most loans, but it is usually longer for consolidation loans).

Total To Be Paid

$71,059

Extended Fixed Repayment Plan

Monthly Payment

$322

This plan allows you to pay a fixed monthly payment over an extended period of 25 years.

Total To Be Paid

$96,645

Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan

Monthly Payment

$363

Your monthly payments are limited to 15% of your discretionary income, depending on when you received your first loans.

Total To Be Paid

$76,009

Plan Ends on June 30, 2028

Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) Plan

Monthly Payment

$488

The ICR Plan will become unavailable no later than July 1, 2028. If you're enrolled in the ICR Plan at that time, you'll need to switch to a different repayment plan to continue making payments.

Learn more >

Lowest Total Paid

Standard Repayment Plan

Monthly Payment

$555

Fixed monthly payments are usually set at a 10-year repayment term, with longer terms possible for consolidation loans.

Total To Be Paid

$66,612

Based on your results you can...

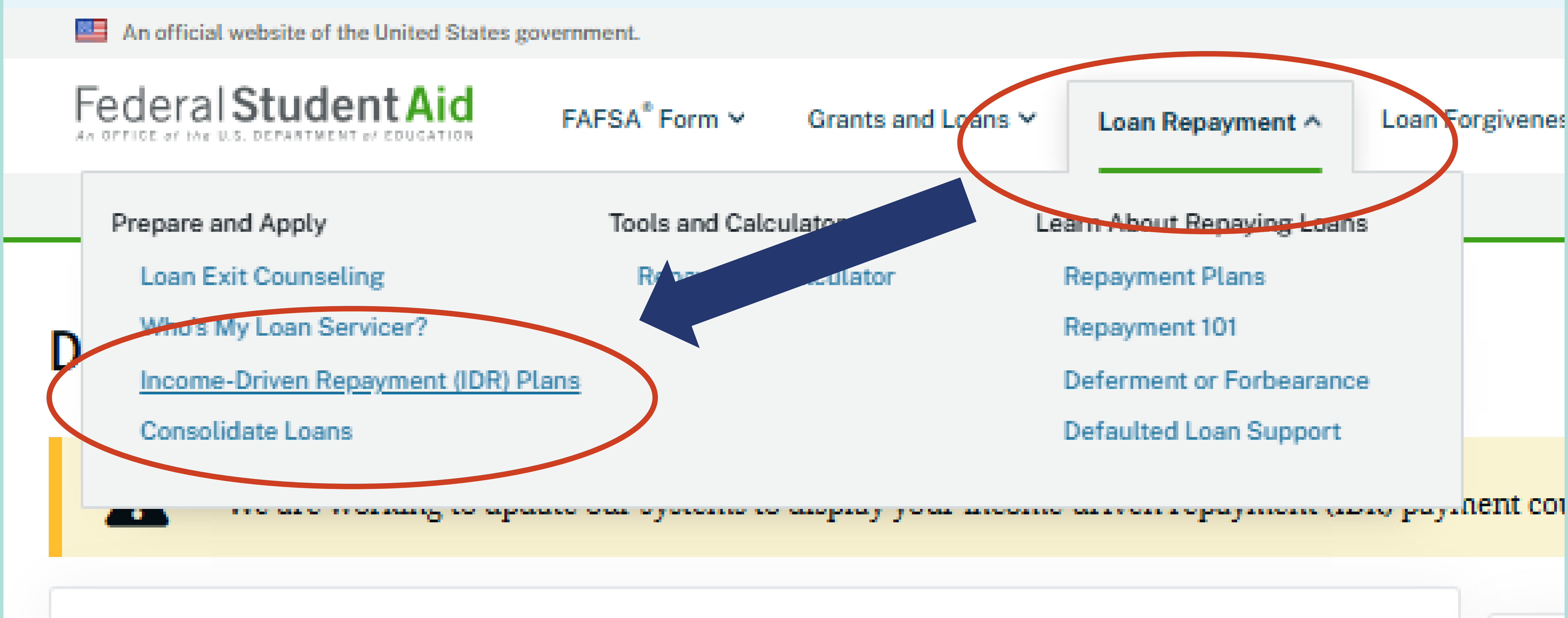
Apply for repayment ASAP

- PSLF borrowers
- IDR forgiveness
- Don't want to risk expensive plan

Wait out your 90 days

- Can't afford plans
- Sorting out other financial priorities

READY TO APPLY?



TIME TO APPLY

Returning IDR Borrowers

Recertify or Change Your Income-Driven Repayment Plan

If your income or family size has changed before your recertification date, you can recertify immediately and/or ask for a plan recalculation. You can also explore other IDR options if you're interested in switching plans.

Manage Your Plan

SELECT SWITCH

Recalculate my monthly payment

My income and/or family size has changed. I am requesting a recalculation of my current repayment amount based on these changes.

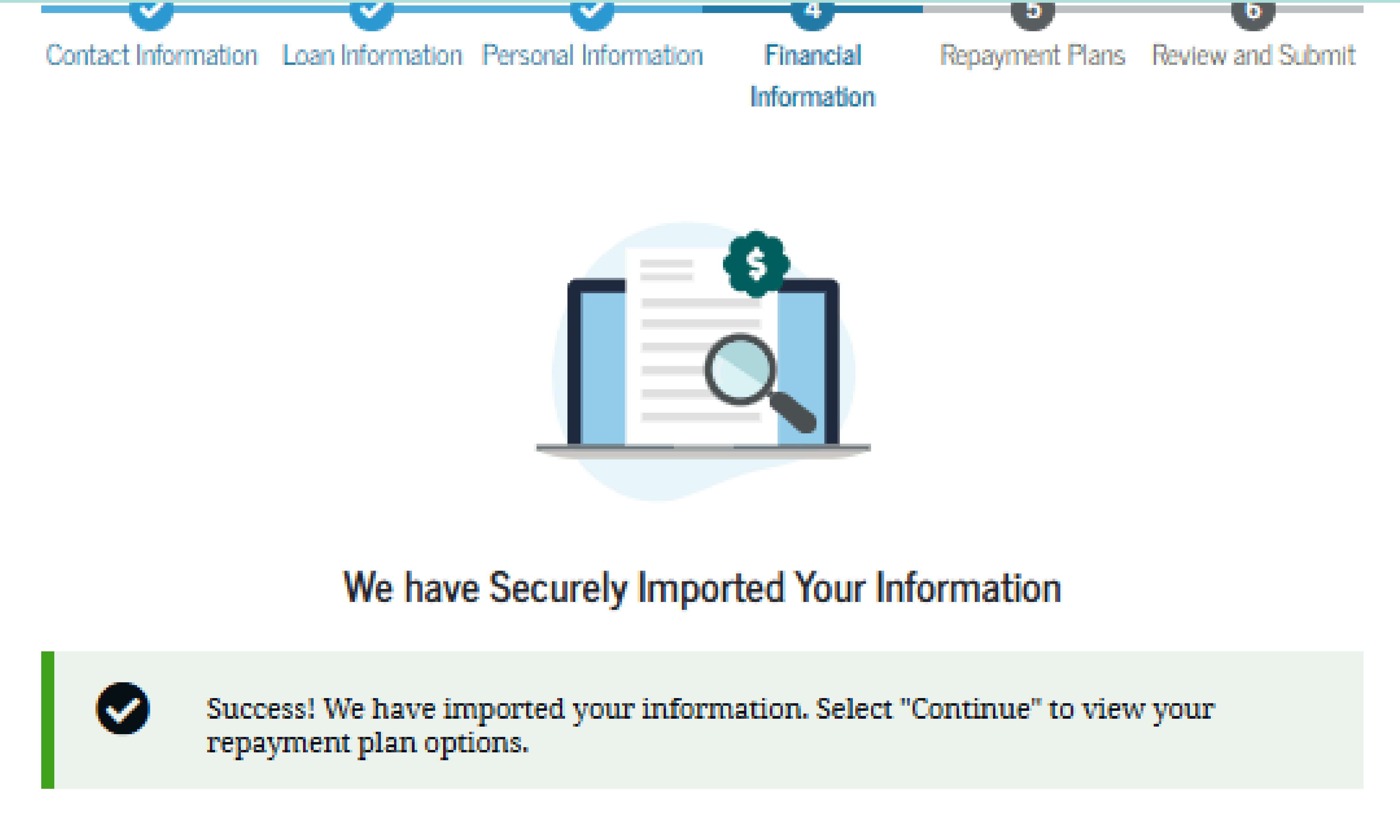
Switch my current plan

I am interested in switching from my current repayment plan to a new IDR plan.

Manually recertify my IDR plan

Because I manually applied for my IDR plan, I now need to recertify it, per the requirements of the plan.

SUCCESS!


Contact Information
Loan Information
Personal Information
Financial Information
Repayment Plans
Review and Submit
We have Securely Imported Your Information
Success! We have imported your information. Select "Continue" to view your repayment plan options.

The PAYE and ICR plans will be retired no later than July 1, 2028.

Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR) Plan

Lowest Monthly Payment

Any borrower with eligible federal student loans can choose this plan.

If you have a Direct Consolidation Loan that repaid a parent PLUS loan and was disbursed before July 1, 2026, you must enroll in and make at least one full payment on the ICR Plan before you can enroll in the IBR Plan.

Selected

View Details >

Monthly Payment	Total To Be Paid	End of Term Date	Discharge Amount
$34	$5,910	Sep 2040	$0

Monthly Payment Amount	Payments are generally limited to **20%** of your discretionary income and could be higher than the 10-year Standard Plan amount.
Interest Accrual	Unpaid interest **accrues**.
End of Payment Term	Any remaining balance on your loan may be forgiven after **25 years** (300 months) of qualifying repayment, if the payments are made on or before July 1, 2028. The remaining balance will be taxable.

Income-Based Repayment (IBR) Plan

Ideal if you expect to continue to have a low income or have graduate school debt. This can be a good option if all your loans were disbursed on or before July 1, 2026, and you don't expect to borrow more loans in the future.

Select

View Details >

Monthly Payment	Total To Be Paid	End of Term Date	Discharge Amount
$50	$5,530	Sep 2035	$0

Monthly Payment Amount	Payments are generally limited to **10%** of your discretionary income and will never be more than the 10-year Standard Plan amount.
Interest Accrual	Unpaid interest **accrues**. After you've made your full monthly payment, any remaining accrued interest on subsidized loans is covered by the government during your first **three years** in the plan.
End of Payment Term	Any remaining balance on your loan may be forgiven after **20 or 25 years** (240 or 300 months) of qualifying repayment. The remaining balance may be taxable.

Repayment Assistance Plan

Lowest Total Payment

Select

Ideal for low monthly payments based on your income.

View Details >

Monthly Payment	Total To Be Paid	End of Term Date	Discharge Amount
$161	$5,062	Feb 2029	$0

Monthly Payment Amount	Monthly payments are based on a percentage of your adjusted gross income (AGI), ranging from 1% to 10% depending on your income level, with a minimum payment of $10 per month.
Interest Accrual	Unpaid interest does not accrue when your payments are made in full and on time. After you've made your full, on-time monthly payment, any remaining accrued interest is covered by the government for the month in which your payment didn't cover the full amount.
End of Payment Term	Any remaining balance on your loan is forgiven after **30 years** (360 months) of qualifying repayment. The amount forgiven will be taxable.

Compare to a Fixed Payment Repayment Plan

Standard Repayment Plan

Fixed monthly payments usually set at a 10-year repayment term, with longer terms possible for consolidation loans.

Contact your Servicer to apply.

View Details >

Monthly Payment	Total To Be Paid	End of Term Date
$60	$5,405	Dec 2033

Changes in Your Income

Has your income significantly decreased since you last filed your taxes?

- [x] Yes, my income has significantly decreased
- [ ] No, my income hasn't significantly decreased

Would you prefer to base your calculated payments on your imported information or have your loan servicer manually calculate them?

- [ ] Yes, I want to import my information
- [x] No, I want my loan servicer to calculate my payment amounts

- W2
- Paystub
- Employer letter certifying gross income
- Interest or dividend statement
- Bank account statement showing gross income and/or including a self-certified statement confirming it shows gross income

Upload File

IF YOU:

? NEED HELP APPLYING

WANT TO APPLY FOR A FIXED REPAYMENT PLAN

CONTACT YOUR SERVICER

WHAT IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD YOUR PAYMENT?

1. Go through the loan repayment calculator again

Found a more affordable plan? **Apply and switch.**

2. If you can't afford ANY plan

Call your servicer and request a **forbearance** (temporary payment pause)

- Prevents delinquency and default
- **Note:** Interest still accrues during this period
- This is a temporary fix, not a permanent solution

BOTTOM LINE

1. You have 90 days to apply

The countdown begins **once you get your notice**. Act quickly to secure your preferred plan.

2. If you do nothing

You will be **automatically enrolled in the standard plan**. This may result in higher payment rates.

This webinar is brought to you by NCLC and the International Rescue Committee in Sacramento, with support from the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation.

National Consumer Law Center
Fighting Together for Economic Justice

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