

John R. Justice Loan Repayment Grant Program

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the John R. Justice Grant Program, applicants must:

A. ELIGIBLE EMPLOYMENT

Program defined employment eligible prosecutors and public defenders are:

Prosecutor

A full-time employee, defined as 30 hours or more per week, of the state of Oregon 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).

Public Defender

- An attorney who is continually licensed to practice law and is a full-time employee, defined as 30 hours or more per week, of the state of Oregon 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
- An attorney who is a full-time employee of a nonprofit organization operating under a contract with Oregon or unit of local government who devotes substantially all of the employee's full-time employment, defined as 30 hours or more per week, 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
- An attorney who is employed in Oregon as a full-time federal defender 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. 42 U.S.C. §3797cc-21(b)(2).

B. INELIGIBLE EMPLOYMENT

Prosecutors who are employees of the federal government are ineligible. 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 considered to be eligible. Elected officials such as the elected district attorney are not eligible.

C. OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A beneficiary must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen.
2. Be employed in Oregon for a minimum of six months as a prosecutor or public defender.
3. Be employed full-time, which is not less than 75 percent of a forty (40) hour work week.

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4. Be continually licensed to practice law.
5. Have an outstanding balance on an eligible educational loan.
6. Make a minimum commitment to a three-year service agreement.
7. Not be in default on repayment of **ANY** education loans.
8. Have a Modified Adjusted Gross Income (AMAGI) of \$70,000 or less if single and \$115,000 if married.
9. Applicants not already receiving benefits under another repayment program will receive priority consideration. Examples include county and school-based LRAP programs.

Funding for this program is subject to annual appropriations by the federal government.

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