

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP DEFERMENT

SELF-HELP PACKET

Economic Hardship Deferment

A deferment is a way to postpone paying back your student loans for a certain period of time. The economic hardship deferment is available only if you have a federal student loan. You are eligible only if you are not in default on your loans and if you obtained the loans on or after July 1, 1993.

Eligibility for Economic Hardship Deferment

There are four eligibility categories for an economic hardship deferment. You only have to qualify under one category. These categories are listed in section 2 of the sample form.

Category #1: **You already received the deferment under a different federal student loan program.**

You should check box #1 if you have already been granted an economic hardship deferment under a different federal loan program, including the Perkins program. You must attach proof of the deferment.

Category #2: **You are receiving public assistance payments.**

You should check box #2 if you are receiving payments under a federal or state public assistance program, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Food Stamps, or state general public assistance. You must attach documentation of these payments.

Category #3: **You are a Peace Corp volunteer.**

You should check box #3 if you are serving as a Peace Corps volunteer. You must attach proof of your period of service.

Category #4: **You are working full-time, but your income is low.**

This is box #4. “Full-time” employment means that you are working at least thirty hours per week in a job that is expected to last at least three consecutive months. You must also show that your income from work is no more than either the federal minimum wage rate or 150% of the federal poverty guideline for your family size and state. Monthly income is either the amount of income from employment and other sources before taxes and other deductions OR one-twelfth of the amount reported as “adjusted gross income” on your most recently filed federal income tax return. You may choose either of these income amounts when requesting a deferment. You must attach documentation of your income.

EXAMPLE

Ms. J is working full-time (30 hours/week) and earning \$2,000/month gross income. She lives with her two children. The current federal minimum wage is \$7.25/hour. Based on a 30 hour week, this is \$870/month. Ms. J earns more than this amount. However, she may still qualify if she earns less than 150% of the federal poverty guideline. The 20% poverty guideline for Ms. J's family size of 3 is \$18,310/year or \$1526/month. 150% of this monthly amount is \$2288. Ms. J's monthly gross income of \$2,000 is less than this amount and so she should be eligible for the deferment.

In addition to checking one of the four boxes, you must also write at the top of section 2 the date that you want the deferment to begin. This should be the date when you first qualified for the deferment.

The deferment is granted for one year at a time for up to a total of three years. Unless you qualify as a Peace Corps volunteer, you must reapply every twelve months.

**SAMPLE ECONOMIC
HARDSHIP DEFERMENT
FORM**



ECONOMIC HARDSHIP DEFERMENT REQUEST

William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program

WARNING: Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or misrepresentation on this form or on any accompanying documents is subject to penalties that may include fines, imprisonment or both, under the U.S. Criminal Code and 20 U.S.C. 1097.

OMB No. 1845-0011
Form Approved
Exp. Date 05/31/2012

HRD

SECTION 1: BORROWER IDENTIFICATION

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Social Security Number
Street Address			Area Code/Telephone Number (Home) ()
City			Area Code/Telephone Number (Other) ()
State	Zip Code	E-mail Address (optional)	

SECTION 2: DEFERMENT REQUEST

Before completing this form, carefully read the entire form, including the instructions and other information in Sections 4, 5, and 6.

I request that the U.S. Department of Education (ED) defer repayment of my loan(s) during the period that I meet one of the conditions checked below, beginning on the following date: ____-____-____. Except for deferment based on Condition (3), I must reapply every 12 months if I continue to meet the requirements for a deferment. My maximum eligibility for an economic hardship deferment is 36 months.

To qualify, I must meet **ONE** of the conditions listed below and **MUST PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**, as described in Section 6, for only that condition.

Check one:

(1) I have been granted an economic hardship deferment under the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program or the Federal Perkins Loan Program for the same period of time for which I am requesting this deferment. **I HAVE ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION OF THE DEFERMENT (see Section 6).**

(2) I am receiving or received payments under a federal or state public assistance program, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Food Stamps, or state general public assistance. **I HAVE ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION OF THESE PAYMENTS (see Section 6).**

(3) I am serving as a Peace Corps volunteer. **I HAVE ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION OF MY PERIOD OF SERVICE IN THE PEACE CORPS (see Section 6).**

(4) I work full-time (as defined in Section 5) and my monthly income does not exceed the larger of (A) the Federal Minimum Wage Rate or (B) 150% of the Poverty Line income for my family size and state. **I HAVE ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION OF MY MONTHLY INCOME (see Section 6).**

My monthly income (as defined in Section 5) is \$ _____. My family size (as defined in Section 5) is _____.

(A) Federal Minimum Wage Rate (monthly amount, based on \$7.25 an hour): **\$1,256.67**

(B) 150% of the Poverty Line income for my family size and state: **This amount is listed in Section 6.**

SECTION 3: BORROWER UNDERSTANDINGS, CERTIFICATIONS AND AUTHORIZATION

I understand that the following terms and conditions apply to this deferment:

(1) I am not required to make payments of loan principal during my deferment. No interest will be charged on my subsidized loan(s) during my deferment. However, interest will be charged on my unsubsidized loan(s). For any unsubsidized loan(s), I will receive an interest statement, and I may pay the interest at any time. If I do not pay the interest that accrues on my unsubsidized loan(s), it will be capitalized at the end of my deferment period.

(2) My deferment will begin on the date the condition that qualifies me for the deferment began.

(3) My deferment will end on the earlier of (A) the date that the condition that qualified me for the deferment ends, or (B) the deferment end date provided to me by the Direct Loan Servicing Center.

(4) If my deferment does not cover all of my past due payments, ED may grant me a forbearance for all payments that were due before the begin date of your deferment. If the period for which you are eligible for a deferment has ended, ED may grant you a forbearance for all payments that are due at the time your deferment request is processed.

(5) ED may grant me a forbearance on my loan(s) for up to 60 days, if necessary, for the collection and processing of documentation related to my deferment request. ED will not capitalize interest that accrues during this forbearance.

I certify that: (1) The information I have provided on this form is true and correct. (2) I will provide additional documentation to the Direct Loan Servicing Center, as required, to support my eligibility for this deferment. (3) I will notify the Direct Loan Servicing Center immediately if the condition that qualifies me for this deferment ends. (4) I have read, understand, and meet the eligibility requirements of the deferment for which I have applied, as explained in Section 6.

I authorize my schools, ED, and their respective agents and contractors to contact me regarding my loan request or my loan, including repayment of my loan, at the current or any future number that I provide for my cellular telephone or other wireless device using automated dialing equipment or artificial or prerecorded voice or text messages.

BORROWER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SECTION 4: INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE DEFERMENT REQUEST FORM

Type or print using dark ink. Report dates as month-day-year. For example, show "January 31, 2009" as "01-31-2009". Include your name and social security number (SSN) on all attached documentation. **REMEMBER TO SIGN AND DATE THE FORM AND ATTACH THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.**

Send the completed form and any required documentation to:

U.S. Department of Education
 Direct Loan Servicing Center
 P.O. Box 5609
 Greenville, TX 75403-5609

If you need help completing this form, call:
1-800-848-0979.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), call:
1-800-848-0983

Direct Loan Servicing Center web site:
www.dl.ed.gov

SECTION 5: DEFINITIONS

- If unpaid interest is **capitalized**, this means that it is added to the principal balance of your loan(s). This will increase the principal amount and the total cost of your loan(s).
- A **deferment** allows you to temporarily postpone making payments on your loan(s). No interest is charged during a deferment on Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Subsidized Consolidation Loans. Interest is charged during a deferment on all other Direct Loans.
- **Family size** is determined by counting (1) yourself, (2) your spouse, (3) your children, including unborn children who will be born during the period covered by the deferment, if they receive more than half of their support from you, and (4) other persons if, at the time you request an economic hardship deferment, they live with you, receive more than half their support from you, and will continue to receive this support from you for the year that you certify your family size. Support includes money, gifts, loans, housing, food, clothes, car, medical and dental care, and payment of college costs.
- The **Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program** includes Federal Stafford Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), Federal Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS), Federal PLUS Loans, Federal Consolidation Loans, Guaranteed Student Loans (GSL), Federal Insured Student Loans (FISL), and Auxiliary Loans to Assist Students (ALAS).
- The **Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins Loan) Program** includes Federal Perkins Loans, National Direct Student Loans (NDSL), and National Defense Student Loans (NDSL).
- A **forbearance** allows you to temporarily postpone making payments on your loan(s), gives you an extension of time for making payments, or lets you temporarily make smaller payments than previously scheduled. Interest is charged during a forbearance on all types of Direct Loans.
- **Full-time** employment is defined as working at least 30 hours per week in a position expected to last at least three consecutive months.
- **Monthly income** is either: (1) the amount of your monthly income from employment and other sources before taxes and other deductions, **OR** (2) one-twelfth of the amount of your income reported as "adjusted gross income" on your most recently filed Federal Income Tax Return. You may choose either of these income amounts for the purpose of reporting your monthly income on this deferment request.
- The **William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program** includes Federal Direct Stafford/Ford (Direct Subsidized) Loans, Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford/Ford (Direct Unsubsidized) Loans, Federal Direct PLUS (Direct PLUS) Loans, and Federal Direct Consolidation (Direct Consolidation) Loans. These loans are known collectively as "Direct Loans".

SECTION 6: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- You may defer repayment of your loan(s) during the period that you meet one of the economic hardship conditions described in Section 2.
- Except for a deferment based on **CONDITION (3)**, you must reapply every 12 months if you continue to meet the requirements for an economic hardship deferment. **You may receive an economic hardship deferment for a maximum of 36 months.**
- For **CONDITION (1)**, you must provide the Direct Loan Servicing Center with documentation of the deferment that has been granted under the FFEL Program or the Federal Perkins Loan Program (for example, correspondence from your loan holder showing that you have been granted a deferment).
- For **CONDITION (2)**, you must provide the Direct Loan Servicing Center with documentation confirming that you are receiving or received payments under a federal or state public assistance program.
- For **CONDITION (3)**, you must provide the Direct Loan Servicing Center with documentation that certifies the beginning and expected ending dates of your service in the Peace Corps and which is signed and dated by an authorized Peace Corps official.
- For **CONDITION (4)**, you must:
 - Provide the Direct Loan Servicing Center with documentation of your monthly income (as defined in Section 5). If you are reporting monthly income from employment and other sources, you must provide documentation such as pay stubs. If you are reporting one-twelfth of your adjusted gross income, you must provide a copy of your most recently filed Federal Income Tax Return.
 - Use the Poverty Line income amount for your family size and state as shown in the chart below. If you are not currently residing in the United States, use the Poverty Line amount for the 48 contiguous states.

Borrower's Family Size (see definition in Section 5)	These are monthly figures that represent 150% of the Poverty Line		
	48 Contiguous States and District of Columbia	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$1,353.75	\$1,691.25	\$1,557.50
2	1,821.25	2,276.25	2,095.00
3	2,288.75	2,861.25	2,632.50
4	2,756.25	3,446.25	3,170.00
For each additional person, add:	467.50	585.00	537.50

SECTION 7: IMPORTANT NOTICES

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE

The Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) requires that the following notice be provided to you:

The authority for collecting the requested information from and about you is §451 *et seq.* of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1087a *et seq.*) and the authorities for collecting and using your Social Security Number (SSN) are §484(a)(4) of the HEA (20 U.S.C. 1091(a)(4)) and 31 U.S.C. 7701(b). Participating in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program and giving us your SSN are voluntary, but you must provide the requested information, including your SSN, to participate.

The principal purposes for collecting the information on this form, including your SSN, are to verify your identity, to determine your eligibility to receive a loan or a benefit on a loan (such as a deferment, forbearance, discharge, or forgiveness) under the Direct Loan Program, to permit the servicing of your loan(s), and, if it becomes necessary, to locate you and to collect and report on your loan(s) if your loan(s) become delinquent or in default. We also use your SSN as an account identifier and to permit you to access your account information electronically.

The information in your file may be disclosed, on a case-by-case basis or under a computer matching program, to third parties as authorized under routine uses in the appropriate systems of records notices. The routine uses of this information include, but are not limited to, its disclosure to federal, state, or local agencies, to private parties such as relatives, present and former employers, business and personal associates, to consumer reporting agencies, to financial and educational institutions, and to guaranty agencies in order to verify your identity, to determine your eligibility to receive a loan or a benefit on a loan, to permit the servicing or collection of your loan(s), to enforce the terms of the loan(s), to investigate possible fraud and to verify compliance with federal student financial aid program regulations, or to locate you if you become delinquent in your loan payments or if you default. To provide default rate calculations, disclosures may be made to guaranty agencies, to financial and educational institutions, or to state agencies. To provide financial aid history information, disclosures may be made to educational institutions. To assist program administrators with tracking refunds and cancellations, disclosures may be made to guaranty agencies, to financial and educational institutions, or to federal or state agencies. To provide a standardized method for educational institutions to efficiently submit student enrollment status, disclosures may be made to guaranty agencies or to financial and educational institutions. To counsel you in repayment efforts, disclosures may be made to guaranty agencies, to financial and educational institutions, or to federal, state, or local agencies.

In the event of litigation, we may send records to the Department of Justice, a court, adjudicative body, counsel, party, or witness if the disclosure is relevant and necessary to the litigation. If this information, either alone or with other information, indicates a potential violation of law, we may send it to the appropriate authority for action. We may send information to members of Congress if you ask them to help you with federal student aid questions. In circumstances involving employment complaints, grievances, or disciplinary actions, we may disclose relevant records to adjudicate or investigate the issues. If provided for by a collective bargaining agreement, we may disclose records to a labor organization recognized under 5 U.S.C. Chapter 71. Disclosures may be made to our contractors for the purpose of performing any programmatic function that requires disclosure of records. Before making any such disclosure, we will require the contractor to maintain Privacy Act safeguards. Disclosures may also be made to qualified researchers under Privacy Act safeguards.

Paperwork Reduction Notice.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1845-0011. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 0.16 hours (10 minutes) per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gather and maintain the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. **If you have comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate(s) or suggestions for improving this form, please write to:** U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC 20202-4537. **Do not send the completed form to this address.**

If you have questions about the status of your individual submission of this form, contact the Direct Loan Servicing Center (see Section 4).

How to Apply

You must fill out section 2 of the economic hardship deferment request form. To complete the form, you must provide a date that the deferment should begin. There are boxes to write in the date at the top of section 2. You must then choose the eligibility category that applies to you and check that box. You should be sure to attach any required documentation, such as proof of income or public assistance payments. Finally, you must sign and date the form at the bottom of section 3.

The sample form in this packet is for Direct loans. There is a similar form for FFEL (federally guaranteed) loans and for Perkins loans. You can get a copy of the form from your loan holder or on-line from the Department of Education's web site at www.ed.gov. The Student Loan Borrower Assistance site (www.studentloanborrowerassistance.org) also has links to the forms.

Once you have completed and signed the form, you should make a copy and send the original to your loan holder. It is a good idea to send by certified mail so that you have proof of receipt.

Time Limits

This deferment is available for no more than 3 years. Unless you qualify as a Peace Corps volunteer, you must reapply every 12 months. You should reapply only if you continue to meet one of the eligibility categories.

Interest Accrual

The government will pay interest that accrues during the deferment period on subsidized loans only. Interest will accrue on unsubsidized loans. Once the deferment period is over, any interest that has accrued will be added to your principal balance. To avoid this problem, you may want to make interest payments during the deferment period. If you wish to do this, you should check box #3 in section 3 of the form. You can also decide later to make interest payments during the deferment period.