NIH Repays Your Student Loans

NIH Loan Repayment Programs

Researchers who secure a qualified position funded by a domestic nonprofit, university or U.S. government entity may be eligible for loan repayment. For more information and to apply, go to www.lrp.nih.gov
Health professionals who have doctoral-level degrees and are conducting biomedical or behavioral research funded by domestic nonprofit or government organizations may be eligible for up to $50,000 of NIH loan repayment per year to repay educational debts. Each year, more than 1,600 researchers receive contracts from the NIH Loan Repayment Programs (LRPs), and a short-term program evaluation has shown that participants in these programs stay in research careers longer, apply for and receive more research grants, and are more likely to become independent investigators than their peers who do not receive LRP funding.

Programs

Opportunities are available in the following areas:
- Clinical Research
- Pediatric Research
- Health Disparities Research
- Clinical Research for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds
- Contraception and Infertility Research
- Research in Emerging Areas Critical to Human Health

Benefits

In exchange for a two-year research commitment, NIH will:
- Repay qualified educational debt up to $50,000 per year
- Offset resulting Federal taxes with tax payments equal to 39% of loan repayment amount
- Repay qualified educational debt after completion of the two-year commitment through competitive renewals*

* If you have student debt remaining at the completion of your award, you may apply for a competitive renewal provided you continue to meet NIH’s eligibility requirements.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria:
- Doctoral degree (M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent)*
- Research must be funded by a domestic nonprofit, university, or U.S. federal, state or local government entity
- Educational loan debt equal to at least 20 percent of your annual salary
- Conduct research for an average of at least 20 hours/week
- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident

* The Contraception and Infertility Research LRP is open to nurses, physician assistants, graduate students, and postgraduate research fellows.

Apply Online

The application cycle opens on September 1 and closes mid-November. Visit www.lrp.nih.gov for more information on the programs, deadlines, and to start your application.

Questions? Contact the LRP Information Center.  (P) 866.849.4047  (E) lrp@nih.gov