

#StudentDebtChallenge Week of Action

Overview

Generation Progress's Higher Ed, Not Debt campaign has been leading national efforts on "enrollment"—there are almost 8 million student loan borrowers in default on their federal student loans, most of whom could be helped by enrolling in existing federal repayment plans. We were delighted to hear The White House wanted to get involved in our work with the Student Debt Challenge!

Student Debt Challenge: Take Action

April 15, 2016 marks the fourth anniversary of our national student debt hitting \$1 trillion, a number that continues to grow by \$100 billion annually. Every year, Higher Ed, Not Debt partners come together to demand that regulators step up and make serious changes to the student loan borrower. This year, we're joining the Student Debt Challenge, a White House effort to spread the word about the benefits of enrolling in income-driven repayment programs. Higher Ed, Not Debt partners and friends are challenging legislators, communities, and organizations to take up the enrollment mantle. Join us—leaders that take the challenge will be considered to join the president for the announcement event at the White House.

WHAT IS AN INCOME-DRIVEN REPAYMENT PLAN?

Currently, there are several Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) programs available to reduce borrower monthly federal student loan payments to an amount that is affordable based on your income, as well as programs such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and Teacher Loan Forgiveness. With these programs, paying off your loans can be much more affordable. Help your peers, co-workers, employees, families, and friends find out what repayment and forgiveness programs they may be eligible for.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I QUALIFY?

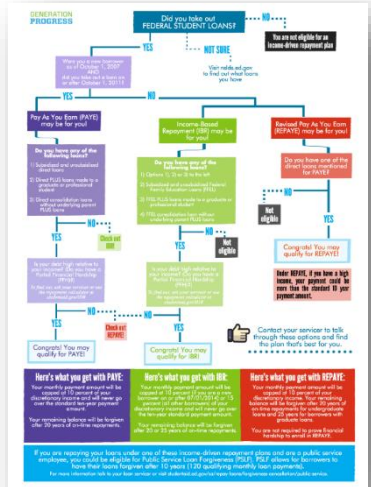
Find out what types of student loans you have by logging into the **National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)** at nslds.ed.gov.

- Review our **disqualifying resources** about the many different loans, repayment programs, and loan forgiveness options that may be available.
- Find out if you are eligible for an **Income-Driven Repayment (IDR)** plan. Most federal student loans are eligible for at least one of several Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) programs available to reduce borrower monthly payment amounts based on income. These programs include Revised Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (REPAYE), Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (PAYE), Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR), and Income-Contingent Repayment Plan (ICR).
- Find out if you are eligible for **student loan forgiveness** through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program or the Teacher Loan Forgiveness program.
- Take advantage of the programs available to you to apply for an Income-Driven Repayment Plan. You can submit the application online at studentloans.gov or on paper form, which you can get from your loan servicer. The application allows you to select an income-driven repayment plan by name, or to request that your loan servicer use our resources or visit studentloans.gov to help guide you in your decision to choosing the best repayment or forgiveness plan available to you.

Here's what you get with PAYE: You could receive up to a 50% reduction in your monthly payment. If you have a high income, your payment could be as low as the amount of your payment.

Here's what you get with IBR: You could receive up to a 25% reduction in your monthly payment. If you have a high income, your payment could be as low as the amount of your payment.

Here's what you get with REPAYE: You could receive up to a 50% reduction in your monthly payment. If you have a high income, your payment could be as low as the amount of your payment.



Helping Borrowers With Loans—White House Partnership

The White House formally announced their [Student Debt Challenge](#) and [new tools to help borrowers with their debt](#). They highlighted our work in the White House Challenge factsheet. The challenge is the White House's version of Higher Ed, Not Debt's "enrollment" campaign, which gets student loan borrowers the information they need to avoid default and learn about programs that can help them with their debt. The challenge will help scale up our efforts to reach millions of borrowers and help them reduce their loan payments and potentially have their loans forgiven.

Take the Student Debt Challenge

Thank you for your interest in information to your students, employees, and others about federal student loans by enrolling in another income-driven repayment plan.

This spring and throughout the year, the Department of Education and the Department of Education will be holding a series of events to help you learn more about the challenge and how to get involved.

If you are interested in taking the challenge, please visit studentloans.gov to learn more about the challenge and how to get involved.

Please use the form below to spread the word.

Note that the information on this page is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer of any financial product or service.

The Student Debt Challenge is a partnership between the federal government and private organizations.

Please send your completed Student Debt Challenge form to studentdebtchallenge@ed.gov by 5:00 PM ET to be highlighted on the challenge website.

To take the challenge, we ask that you commit to a set of goals:

- The Center for American Progress, working in partnership with Generation Progress and Higher Ed, Not Debt, has educated their employees about the benefits of these programs for the last two years. As part of the challenge they will educate, engage, and mobilize Americans – including their own employees – around the issue of income-driven repayment plans, beginning on \$1T Day, the national day which marks student debt surpassing one trillion dollars. These efforts will include social media chats and in-person events, starting with a D.C. event with policy experts. Additionally, CAP, GP, and HEND will work with partner organizations to host webinars and workshops. Altogether, these efforts can reach 5,000 people.



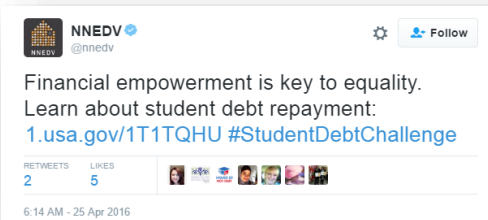
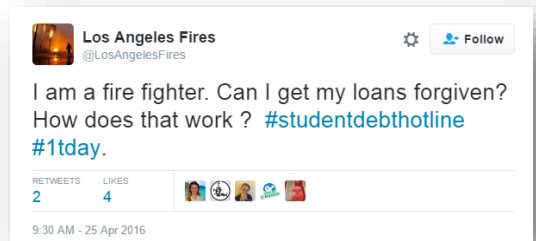
Talking to Borrowers

Working with partners in the Higher Ed, not Debt coalition, we reached thousands of student loan borrowers and talked to them about income-driven repayment plans and federal loan forgiveness options. Events and outreach included:

- A webinar on the basics of student debt with 500+ registrants, which reached an additional 300+ viewers via [Facebook livestream](#).
- Workshop hosted at CAP with 36 attendees comprised of human resources reps and borrowers from Washington, DC. Over 1,000+ viewers also watched the event via [Facebook livestream](#). Speakers included AFT Pres. Randi Weingarten and Deputy Assistant to the President for Education Roberto J. Rodríguez.
- Emails sent to 88,000+ borrowers informing them of the challenge, webinar, and repayment options.

Digital Actions

Generation Progress and Higher Ed, Not Debt cohosted two Twitter chats on “\$1T Day,” the fourth anniversary of student debt topping \$1 trillion, sparking conversations about solutions to the student debt crisis. #StudentDebtChallenge, #MillennialMon, #CollegeOpportunity, and #StudentDebtHotline received **29,427,290 impressions** over the course of the week. One chat focused on policy solutions to the student debt crisis, while the other focused on helping individual borrowers. We were able to partner with a host of nontraditional allies that took the challenge and got the word out.



In the News

