

RHODE ISLAND STUDENT LOAN AUTHORITY
FEDERAL LOAN NURSE REWARD PROGRAM
GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, pursuant to Chapter 62.1 of Title 16 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, and GLRI §42-35-2.12 of the Administrative Procedures Act, hereby promulgates the following Guidance Document for the Rhode Island Federal Loan Nurse Reward Program (the "Federal Loan Nurse Reward Program" or "Program").

A. PURPOSE

The Federal Loan Nurse Reward Program is intended to reduce the growing nursing shortage in the state by providing licensed nurses working in a licensed health care facility in Rhode Island relief from interest payments during the first four years of repayment on their Stafford Loans.

B. BASIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the Program an individual:

1. Must be a nursing major at an eligible postsecondary school.
2. Must have a Stafford Loan to finance his or her nursing education from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority obtained on or after July 1, 2000.

C. ELIGIBILITY FOR INTEREST FORGIVENESS

To be eligible for interest forgiveness on Stafford Loans obtained from Rhode Island Student Loan Authority on or after July 1, 2000 an individual:

1. Must be a registered nurse in the State of Rhode Island.
2. Must work as a registered nurse providing direct patient care in a licensed health care facility in the State of Rhode Island, including hospitals, nursing homes, and home nursing care providers, at least 20 hours per week.

D. INTEREST FORGIVENESS

Any individual eligible for interest forgiveness under the criteria specified herein shall obtain an application from the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority and shall complete and submit such application to the Authority. Based on such application and such other supporting documentation that may be requested, the Authority shall determine whether the applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria for interest forgiveness. If the Authority determines that the applicant meets all

eligibility requirements, the Authority shall notify the applicant that he or she shall be relieved of the obligation to pay interest on his or her Stafford Loan(s) up to the first four years of repayment provided the applicant continues to satisfy the eligibility requirements set forth herein. If the applicant is at any time deemed by the Authority to be no longer eligible for interest forgiveness on his or her Stafford Loan(s), the Authority shall notify the applicant in which event the applicant's eligibility for loan forgiveness shall terminate.

Any individual deemed eligible by the Authority for interest forgiveness shall submit to the Authority each year such information as the Authority may prescribe to determine the individual's continued eligibility.

Any individual no longer deemed eligible for interest forgiveness on his or her loan(s) shall forthwith pay to the holder of such loan all accrued interest accrued during the period of ineligibility.

E. APPEALS

Any applicant who is aggrieved by any application of the provisions hereof or by any determination with respect to his or her eligibility for loan forgiveness may appeal such application or determination in writing to the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Student Loan Authority, 935 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886 within twenty (20) days of said application or determination. The decision of the Executive Director on all appeals shall be final.

F. TERMINATION AND SUSPENSION OF PROGRAM

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the interest benefits under this program shall cease with respect to loans made after December 31, 2010. The program may be suspended by the Authority for any year for which there is not available funding. RISLA discontinued accepting new applicants after January 1, 2016 for the Federal Loan Nurse Rewards program but will continue to honor commitments made to previously certified eligible nurses for this program.