



NEWS RELEASE

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Iowa College Aid Helps Public Service Attorneys with Loan Repayment Program
John R. Justice Loan Repayment Program relieves debt load for attorneys working in public interest

Des Moines, IA., October 1, 2015– The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid) today announced the opening of the application process for the John R. Justice (JRJ) Loan Repayment Program at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov with a priority filing deadline of October 30, 2015. Iowa College Aid administers the John R. Justice (JRJ) Loan Repayment Program, a federally-funded initiative intended to encourage qualified attorneys to choose careers as prosecutors and public defenders, and to continue in that service for at least three years. Last year, 23 Iowa attorneys were awarded grants through the program.

While student loan debt can drive many graduating attorneys to employment opportunities in the more lucrative private sector, the JRJ Loan Repayment Program encourages new graduates to meet the needs of prosecutor and public defender offices.

“Loan repayment programs, like the JRJ Loan Repayment Program, help us connect talented graduates with communities where their skills are most needed,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid, the agency responsible for administering the program. “By incentivizing graduates through these types of programs, we make it equally beneficial to consider those positions that best serve the needs of our communities while providing a benefit to a graduate’s needs in terms of both career growth and financial support.”

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Iowa prosecutors and public defenders interested in the program must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Meet the definition of an eligible prosecutor or public defender in the State of Iowa (see definitions in Appendix A and Appendix B of the new recipient application);
- Must have been employed in an eligible position on or before January 1, 2014;
- Complete and file annual applications by the deadline established by the Iowa College Aid. If funds remain available after the application deadline, the Iowa College Aid will continue to accept applications;
- Have outstanding eligible educational loan debt, described as one of the following:
 - Federal Subsidized Stafford loans;
 - Federal Unsubsidized Stafford loans;
 - Federal Perkins loans;
 - Federal Graduate PLUS loans;
 - Federal Consolidation loans (excluding those used to repay Federal Parent PLUS Loans)
- Be employed in an eligible prosecutor or public defender position for each year of the three-year contract period;
- Must be continually licensed to practice law in the State of Iowa;
- Must be employed full-time, which is not less than 75 percent of the forty hour work week; and
- Must not be in default on any federal student loans

Funding is limited and therefore applications must be received on or before the priority deadline of October 30, 2015 to be considered for the program. Conditional award designations will be made by December, 2015. For more information about the program, please contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456, or visit www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

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About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa's students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$70.0 million annually, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education's College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR-UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being utilized to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa's students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.