



Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program

Managing Student Loans

What To Do Before Payments Resume

Federal student loan payments are expected to resume in October 2021. To help you prepare for this resumption, read the information below. If you have questions or need help with your student loans, contact our Education Debt Consumer Assistance Program ([EDCAP](#)) for free one-on-one counseling services at 888-614-5004 (M-F) or by emailing EDCAP@cssny.org.

Action Steps

Regardless of additional federal action, below are some things you can do now to manage your student loans.

Stay tuned! Federal student loan payments are expected to resume in October 2021. But it is still possible the federal government may act to extend the suspension or provide other relief. Stay informed!

Update your contact information. Your loan servicer will keep you informed of your next payment due date and amount. When in doubt, call the servicer or look at your Federal Student Aid account: studentaid.gov.

Enroll in the right repayment plan. If you will not be able to afford your payments when they resume, explore other plans, especially the Income Driven Repayment options. Try to avoid getting non-COVID forbearances.

Recertify your Income Driven Repayment (IDR) plan. If your payments are currently suspended, you are likely not required to recertify your IDR plan before payments resume. But if your income has declined, recertifying may lower your payments once they resume in October. You can recertify at studentaid.gov or with your servicer.

Check your credit report. It is always a good idea to check your credit report to make sure your student loans are being properly reported. You can get free credit reports at AnnualCreditReport.com.

Get help if your loans are in default. Getting your student loans in good standing avoids collection fees, wage garnishments, and other benefit offsets.

Keep a copy of your student loan records. Download your records, including notices from your servicer and Federal Student Aid (studentaid.gov).

Do not pay for student loan help. You should never have to pay to manage your student loans. Do not fall prey to organizations offering to get you student loan forgiveness or other "relief" available because of this pandemic. Contact your servicer, a non-profit, like [EDCAP](#), or a legal service agency for free help.

Do not ignore your private student loans. If you have private student loans, contact your lender, and explore possible options. If you stopped paying, get help first to determine the best course of action.