



Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela)

SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

Effective: Beginning July 1, 2007

(Updated October 28, 2019)

Incentive Description: Waiver of interest during repayment

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Only borrowers with **Lela** as their current lender, with *outstanding* federal Stafford loans that were disbursed on or after July 1, 2001 and prior to April 1, 2009, are eligible to be considered for the HELP Nurses discount.
- Lela borrowers, who have graduated, obtained a Nursing license, and who are employed full-time in the State of Louisiana, as a direct patient care nurse or as a nursing instructor, are eligible to apply for the interest waiver. (A nursing instructor is defined as a licensed nurse who trains nursing students).
- Eligible loan(s) must be in regular, (10 year) standard repayment status to be considered for the interest waiver. Borrowers can apply for the interest waiver up to three (3) months prior to loan(s) entering repayment status.
- Eligible loan(s) must be current and all payments must be made on time to continue to have the interest waived.
- Borrowers must complete the HELP Nurses Interest Waiver Request Form and show proof of employment in the State of Louisiana
 - Forms are available on Lela's web site www.lela.org
 - Forms may be requested by calling Lela's office at 800-228-4755
- Due to the interest free opportunity, participants in HELP Nurses are not eligible for the Graduates Choose LA Reward and other interest savings offered by Lela.

ELIGIBLE LOAN TYPES:

- Lela must be is your lender of record, under the following Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) for loan(s) disbursed on or after July 1, 2001 but before April 1, 2009, may be eligible:
 - Federal Stafford Subsidized loan
 - Federal Stafford Unsubsidized loan

Note: The HELP Nurses interest waiver program was implemented effective on July 1, 2007, the program's inception date. Thus, "Interest waiver(s)" will not be backdated prior to the program inception date.

INELIGIBLE LOANS:

- Loans held by other lenders
- Loans defaulted or in bankruptcy
- Delinquent loans
- Consolidated loans
- Loans that were first disbursed prior to July 1, 2001
- Grad Plus loans that were first disbursed after December 31, 2007
- Stafford loans disbursed after March 31, 2009.
- Stafford loans not in a Standard repayment plans. Standard repayment is defined by the US Department of Education.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?.

- If you are *in school* and Lela is your lender, you do not need to do anything else at this time.
- If you have graduated and are working as a licensed nurse or as a nurse educator in Louisiana, you need to complete and file with Lela the HELP Nurses Interest Waiver Request Form. This form is available on Lela's web site: www.lela.org.

HOW MUCH IS AVAILABLE FOR THE HELP NURSES PROGRAM?

- Lela has initially authorized \$10 million dollars in loans for the HELP Nurses Program.
- Participation in the HELP Nurses Program will be on a first come, first served basis until all funds have been allocated or the program has ended.

NOTICE: ANNUAL VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT IN NURSING AND LOUISIANA RESIDENCY IS MANDATORY TO CONTINUE THE INTEREST WAIVER. FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE REQUEST FORM EACH YEAR WILL RESULT IN THE INTEREST RATE ON YOUR LOAN(S) BEING ADJUSTED TO THE RATE SET BY THE DEPT. OF EDUCATION.

Due Date: Lela recommends that you please submit this form to Lela, prior to January 1, to be considered for the interest waiver for the full year referenced on the waiver form. If approved, the waiver will be valid for the full year indicated on the form. If the waiver form request is received after January 1, during the year for which the waiver is sought, if approved, the waiver will apply from the date of receipt forward, for the current year. No retroactive processing is permitted.