



# **FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

---

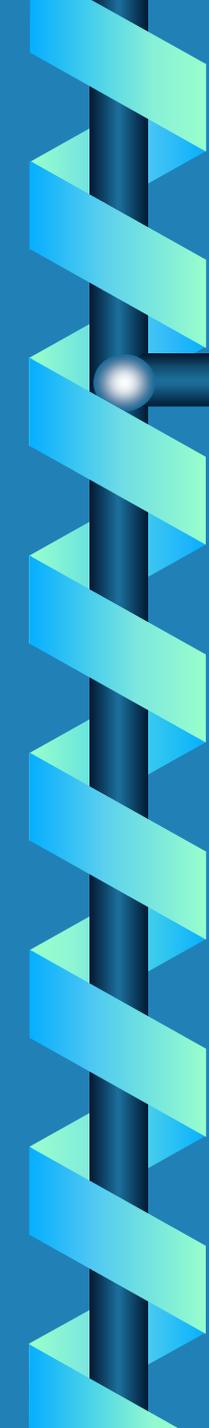
**AKA RSL**



# **Basic Facts About RSL**

---

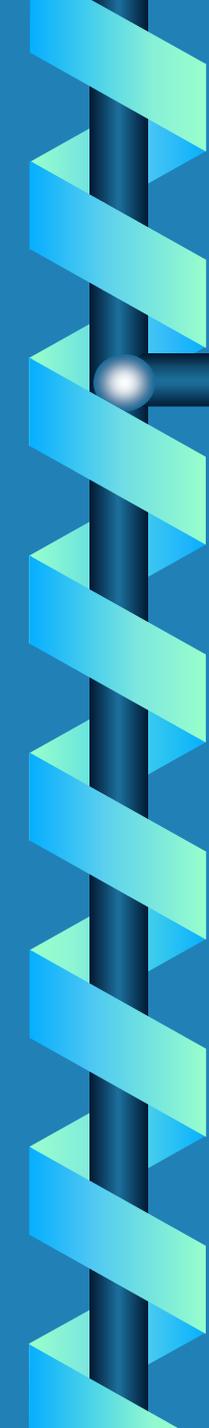
- **Qualifying Positions**
- **Qualifying Appointments**
- **Service Agreement**
- **Approval Criteria**
- **Payment**
- **Repayment**



# Qualifying Positions

---

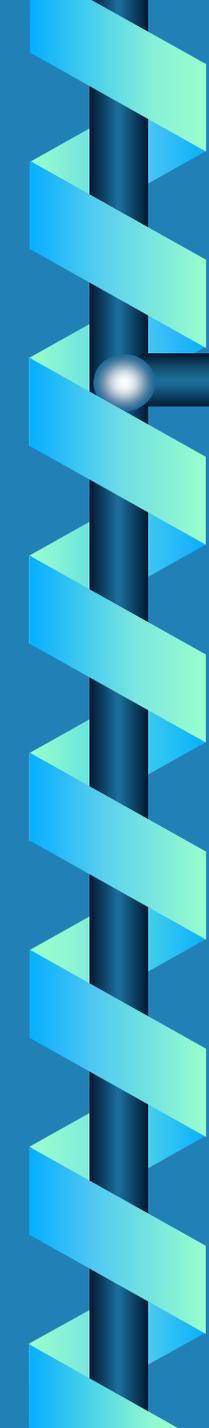
- **Any employee as defined in 5 U.S.C. 2105**
- **EXCEPT Schedule C employees**



# Qualifying Loans

---

- **Made, insured, or guaranteed under parts B, D, E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, or**
- **Health education assistance loan made under VII, Part A or VIII, Part E of the Public Health Service Act**



# Qualifying Appointment

---

- **Any appointment – as long as the employee can fulfill the service agreement**



# **Service Agreement**

---

- **Minimum of 3 years**
- **USDA agencies may require longer period/or agency-specific**



# Approval Criteria

- **Recruitment/retention incentive to attract/retain highly qualified employees**



# Payment

---

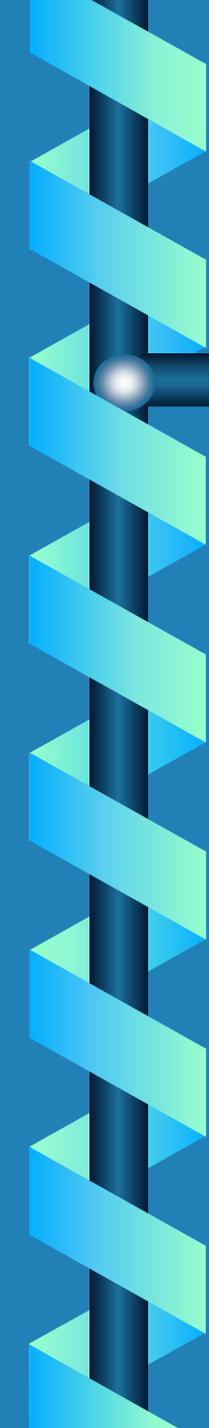
- **Directly to holder of loan**
- **Taxes withheld on gross payment (USDA notifies IRS of payment)**
- **\$6,000/year maximum**
- **\$40,000/career maximum**



# Repayment

---

- **If employee leaves prior to completion of service agreement, entire amount must be repaid, UNLESS**
- **Separation is involuntary, OR**
- **Repayment is waived**



# Usage

- **OPM collects statistics on FY basis**
- **First year, FY 2001, one loan was granted by HHS**
- **FY 2002 data not available yet, but in USDA, 2 loans were granted, by ARS in September 2002**



# Updates

---

- **GOFEDS Generating Opportunity by Forgiving Education Debt for Service**  
**Not a new concept, unlikely to be supported by OMB and Treasury (loss of revenue)**

# Web Sites

- **Federal Register documents back to 1995**  
[www.opm.gov/fedregis/index.htm](http://www.opm.gov/fedregis/index.htm)
- **OPM Fact Sheet**  
<http://www.opm.gov/oca/StudentLoan/index.asp>
- **USDA Personnel Policy Guidance**  
<http://www.usda.gov/directives/files/dr/DR4050-537.htm>