FAQs: Relief for Private Education Loan Borrowers During COVID-19

1. I have a private student loan. Are there any relief options available for me at this time?

The Bowser Administration collaborated with a coalition of states to secure relief options for borrowers with private student loans. A borrower must contact their servicer to explore relief options. Relief options include:

- 90-day forbearance
- No late payment fees
- No negative credit reporting
- Your loan servicer must work with you to explain different repayment options, such as income-based repayment, and enroll you in the program that fits your circumstances.

2. Will I be automatically enrolled in a relief option?

No. Call your loan servicer immediately to secure relief and enroll in a program.

3. I do not know who my servicer is. How do I find out?

Your loan servicer is the company to which you pay your monthly bill. If you are still unsure, you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243 for assistance.

4. Which loan servicers agreed to provide relief options?

The following servicers agreed to offer relief options. If your servicer is listed, you should call them immediately to ask for relief.

- Aspire Resources, Inc.
- College Ave Student Loan Servicing, LLC
- Earnest Operations
- Edfinancial
- Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation
- MOHELA
- Navient
- Nelnet
- Rhode Island Student Loan Authority

- SoFi Lending Corp.
- Tuition Options
- Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority
- Vermont Student Assistance Corporation
- 5. I think my loan servicer is not acting in my best interest, and they are difficult to work with. Is there anyone I can contact?

Yes. Borrowers experiencing trouble with loan servicers are encouraged to contact:

- The Student Loan Ombudsman located in the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB) at (202) 727-8000 or DCLoanHelp@dc.gov.
- The DISB Consumer Services Division for information or to file a complaint: <u>disb.dc.gov/service/file-complaint-or-report-fraud</u>
- The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to file a complaint: <u>consumerfinance.gov/complaint/</u>

For updates on the District's response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), visit <u>coronavirus.dc.gov</u>.