

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

21-20

5/4/20

FISCAL YEAR 2020 – STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR IN-PLANT VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICERS– APPLICATION PROCESS

I. PURPOSE

A. [FSIS Directive 4410.5](#), *Student Loan Repayment Program for In-Plant Veterinary Medical Officers* provided the instructions for the Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) for eligible veterinarians. As stated in that directive's purpose, FSIS plans to issue an FSIS notice annually to announce the application timeframe. Therefore, FSIS is issuing this notice to announce that the Agency will be accepting FY2020 SLRP applications from May 4, 2020 through May 18, 2020. FSIS will not consider applications received before or after this timeframe. FSIS will make selections and notify all applicants of the status of their applications by May 29, 2020.

B. This notice also clarifies which veterinarians are eligible for this program and provides information regarding how loan reimbursement payments will be distributed for veterinarians participating in the Department of Education's Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. In the future, FSIS will reissue [FSIS Directive 4410.5](#) to include this information.

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. After the issuance of [FSIS Directive 4410.5](#), FSIS received questions requesting clarification regarding which veterinarians are eligible to apply. The directive only refers to GS-12 in-plant veterinarians. This notice clarifies the eligibility requirements listed in the directive.

B. Veterinarians eligible for this program include:

1. GS-12 In-plant Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs);
2. In-plant Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs);
3. VMOs/PHVs in relief positions, assigned to patrol or single establishment assignments; and
4. Any remaining in-plant GS-13 VMOs/PHVs.

III. PAYMENTS

In addition to the provisions in [FSIS Directive 4410.5](#), FSIS has now finalized an agreement with the Department of Education regarding the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. Payments for veterinarians selected for this program who are also participating in the Department of Education's Public Service Loan Forgiveness program will be made to the holder of the loan as a one-time lump-sum

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payment. The Department of Education has agreed to apply the funds towards qualifying monthly payments from the time the funds are received until all funds are exhausted up to a maximum of twelve (12) qualifying payments. Any remaining balance will be applied towards the principal.

IV. QUESTIONS

Please direct questions regarding this directive to SLRP@usda.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel A. Edelstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development