



Public Interest Attorney Loan Repayment (PIALR) Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Eligibility

Who may apply to the PIALR program?

To be eligible for the PIALR Program, applicants must be California State Bar licensed attorneys who practice or agree to practice in public interest area of the law in California.

What does the program consider a public interest area of the law?

“Public interest area of the law” means an area of the law that serves the public interest, including the following:

- Legal Services Organization (a legal services provider in California that serves a clientele over 70 percent of whom are low-income persons according to applicable federal income guidelines)
- Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
- Child Support Agency Office
- Criminal Public Defender’s Office
- Qualified Support Center (as defined in California Business and Professions Code § 6213)

Are paralegals eligible for this program?

No, participants must be California State Bar licensed attorneys.

Are undergraduate / graduate law school students eligible for this program?

No, participants must be California State Bar licensed attorneys.

When is the application due?

Applications are due August 9th, 2024.

Awarding

When will awardees be notified?

Awardees will be notified starting August 30th, 2024 via email.

How many attorneys will be awarded?

The program can fund 41 awardees over four years.

Once awarded, what will awardees need to do to qualify for a payment?

If chosen for an award, awardees may be selected for further verification of the information provided in the Application and may be requested to provide supplemental documentation, including but not limited to; pay stubs, bank account statements, tax information, and debt statements.

Awardees must complete a year of work in a public interest area of the law prior to qualifying for a payment. Awardees must submit a completed Employment Verification Form to PIALR@csac.ca.gov by June 30th of each year, starting in 2025, to earn a disbursement. This form will be available on the Commission's website.

What does the program consider one year of full-time employment?

One year of full-time, or full-time equivalent, employment in a public interest area of the law is considered 215 days of full-time employment completed over the one-year (365 day) period following the Commission's initial selection and notification of awardees.

Example: If awardees are notified on August 30th, 2024, they will need to work 215 days of full-time employment before August 30th, 2025 to qualify.

Can an awardee receive this grant multiple times?

No. Once an awardee has received the loan repayment for four years, they are unable to receive it again.

Payments

How do payments work?

After participants submit a valid Employment Verification Form stating they have worked 1 year of full-time, or full-time equivalent employment, a payment will be made directly to their student loan lender.

The first year, the payment amount will be \$2,000. For the following 3 years, payments will be \$3,000 per year. Payments are contingent upon available funds.

Are private loans eligible for repayment?

Yes, both public and private loans are eligible for repayment.

If I leave public interest law, will I be required to repay the loan repayments previously received?

No; however, you will not qualify for future disbursements.

How can I contact the Commission for further information?

The Commission's PIALR Program Team can be reached at PIALR@csac.ca.gov.