

John R. Justice Student Load Repayment (JRJ) Grant Program FAQ

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive
Office of Public Safety and Security
Office of Grants and Research



Posting Date: March 29, 2024

Q. As a continuing beneficiary, do I need to apply again?

A. Continuing Beneficiaries must reapply for the SFY2024 John R. Justice Student Loan Grant Program. Under eligibility in the Availability for Grants Funds (AGF), Continuing Beneficiaries applicants agree to remain employed full time (at least 30 hours per week) as an eligible prosecutor or public defender for a period of service not less than three years (i.e., 36 consecutive months unless extended by FMLA or other legally protected reason) from the execution of their initial 3-Year JRJ Service Agreement submitted with their first JRJ solicitation, unless involuntarily separated from employment.

Q. Is there a reason private attorney who work full-time as Bar Advocates are not qualified to apply for this program? Given the deficit in Hampden County for over several decades, many attorneys of the private bar are full-time bar advocates and as such, I do not see why we would not qualify.

A. The John R. Justice Student Loan Grant program is a federally funded initiative in accordance with the Congressionally enacted John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act, codified at 42 U.S.C. §3797cc-2. a. The purpose of the JRJ program is to encourage qualified individuals to enter into employment as prosecutors and public defenders and remain employed within their respective fields.

Posting Date: April 5, 2024

Q. I am a newly-barred attorney and started as a prosecuting AAG in the Criminal Bureau on January 16, 2024. Does this mean I will not be eligible for the FY24 program as I have not been an employee for the 12 months preceding the application date?

A. For purposes of determining eligibility for a JRJ award, the applicant must be an “eligible attorney” who is a full-time employee working a minimum of 30 hours per week and has been employed full-time for at least 12 months (cumulatively) immediately preceding the date of application.

Q. I am in the process of renewing my application for the JRJ SLRP. I received the grant last year and am applying again. I am a little confused as to whether I am supposed to sign Appendix C or D. I believe it is C but I want to make sure.

A. Applicants who are previous recipients who have not completed the initial 3-Year JRJ Service Agreement are considered Continuing Beneficiaries who agree to remain employed full time (at least 30 hours per week) as an eligible prosecutor or public defender for a period of service not less than three years from the execution of their initial 3-Year JRJ Service Agreement submitted with their first JRJ

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solicitation unless involuntarily separated from employment. As a Continuing Beneficiary, you would submit Appendix D. Additional clarification has been added to the solicitation posting.