Assistance for Borrowers Impacted by COVID-19

Iowa Student Loan, and its servicer, Aspire Servicing Center, remain committed to helping borrowers during the COVID-19 national health emergency. We understand many of our borrowers are facing a significant change in circumstances that impact the ability to make student loan payments.

Forbearance or Suspension of Payments

All federal and private student loans are eligible for a postponement of required payments for up to 90 days through disaster forbearance. This 90-day disaster forbearance has been automatically placed on many of the federal loans we service.

Borrowers can request at any time to cancel the forbearance. An extension through Sept. 30, 2020, may be available on federal and private loans for borrowers who continue to be affected by COVID-19.

Late Fees and Other Charges

Late fees are charged at a lender level. The majority of lenders whose loans we service don’t charge any fees regardless of COVID-19. Iowa Student Loan does not charge any late fees on the loans we own.

Credit Reporting

We continue to report all loans we service to the national consumer reporting agencies on a monthly basis. The loan information provided to the consumer reporting agencies includes the status of loans on the natural disaster forbearance.

Collection Activities

Outreach continues to occur on past-due loans, where allowed. The purpose of this outreach is to assist borrowers with their loans and options related to their specific situations, including available COVID-19 assistance options.

Borrower Communication

For both FFEL and private loans, we are proactively reaching out to borrowers who are delinquent to let them know about the assistance options available.

- Email – Email outreach notifies borrowers that assistance is available if they are impacted by COVID-19.
- Letters – All delinquency letters contain information about COVID-19 assistance.
- Phone – Special messaging for requesting assistance and an opt-in to receive text messages related to COVID-19 are in place.
Website – Current information about our response and a self-service option for requesting assistance related to COVID-19 is available along with a Q&A section to assist borrowers with their common questions.

Other Benefits or Flexibilities

**Federal:** Requirements are outlined by the federal government; no other benefits or flexibilities exist at this time.

**Private:** We offer graduated repayment plans for borrowers that need lower initial payments. Forbearance is available to borrowers who encounter economic hardship. In addition, we offer special temporary repayment plans for struggling private loan borrowers, wherein we may help with monthly interest charges.

We are committed to supporting our customers during this challenging time.