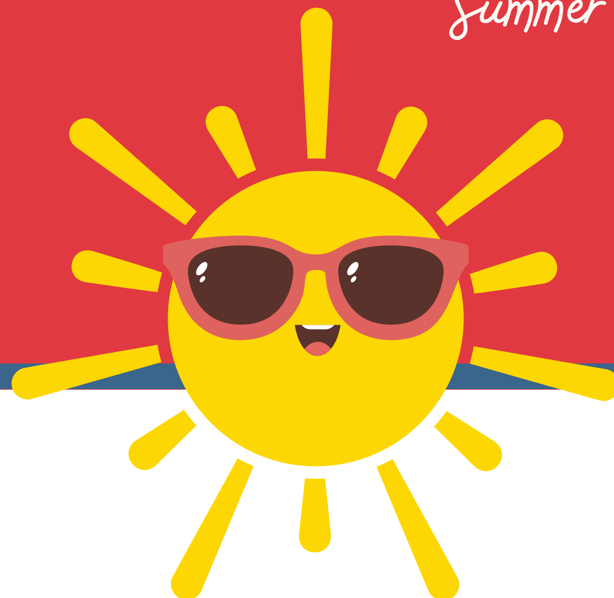
CT SLRP Newsletter

Summer Edition 2026



Important Announcement:

The current CT SLRP cycle officially concludes on September 30th. Please review the time-sensitive operational updates below to secure your award dollars, protect your program status, and successfully transition your loan repayment strategy.

Critical Repayment Track Alerts

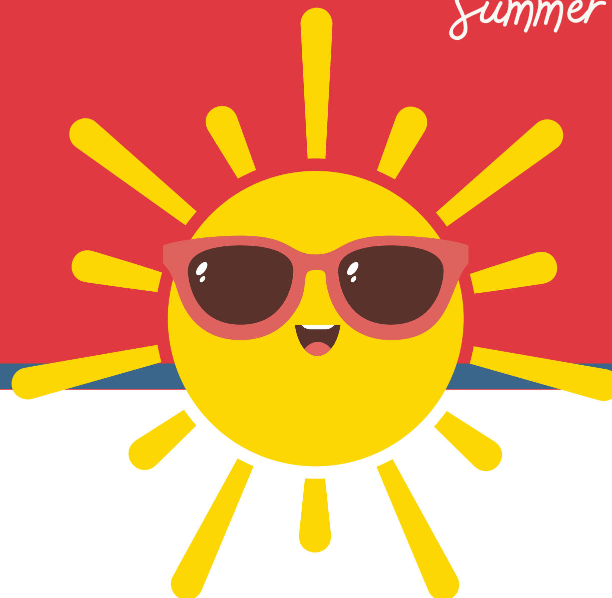
- __The Federal Landscape__: **The SAVE federal student loan plan** has been officially eliminated. Immediate manual action is required to avoid an automatic default into a higher-cost **Standard Repayment Plan**.
- __90-Day Action Window__: Previously enrolled providers must act within a strict 90-day window of receiving their servicer's notice to manually transition accounts via **StudentAid.gov**.
- __Alternative Frameworks__: Eligible tracking alternatives include the **Repayment Assistance Plan** (RAP) or **Income-Based Repayment** (IBR).
- __Leverage the Federal Loan Simulator__: To help navigate these sudden changes, use the official interactive Loan Simulator tool on **StudentAid.gov** to compare monthly payments under **IBR** or **RAP** tracks before executing your manual switch.

Critical Risk Warning

Failing to take manual action will result in an automatic default into a higher-cost **Standard Repayment Plan**. This shift could disrupt your overall loan forgiveness trajectory. Your loan servicer will issue a formal transition notice, but the responsibility to select a new income-driven track rests entirely with the borrower to ensure no disruptions occur to your accrued **Public Service Loan Forgiveness** (PSLF) timeline.

To safely map out your strategy, the **StudentAid.gov Loan Simulator** can simulate exactly how different repayment tracks impact your long-term PSLF progress. Additionally, to help you actively manage this sudden elimination, we have published an exclusive, bite-sized financial video directly on the **CT SLRP portal**. This breaks down the critical facts you need to know right now about the policy shift and provides immediate, protective tips on how to safely transition your loan portfolio without missing a single repayment cycle.

- __How to watch__: Log into the **CT SLRP** portal and click on "Learn More" under the **SAVE** video promotion on the home banner.



Program Closeout & Payout Slots

The CT SLRP cycle will officially close for the majority of current awardees at the end of September.

Awardees will pick up their loan repayment checks from the UConn Health campus (above)

- **Timeline Exceptions**: If you took or take a leave of absence during the two-year service period, your timeline may be extended. The **CT SLRP** team will contact you in the coming weeks with details.
- **Award Disbursement Logistics**: Final award disbursements must be picked up in-person at the **UConn Health Farmington campus** during a pre-scheduled appointment. You must bring a valid government-issued photo ID matching your legal name on file. If your name changed in the last two years, verify your updated documentation with the CT SLRP team beforehand.
- **Next Steps**: You will receive a secure booking link via email to schedule your pickup time/date. Registration won't begin until September while we await scheduling options. Please monitor your inbox closely as September nears.
- **Prepare Your Materials**: Please begin gathering your recent loan servicer statements now. Additionally, please note that you will need to bring a valid, current photo ID to your upcoming UConn Health appointment to prevent any processing delays.

Review Your Options

As our current program cycle approaches its conclusion at the end of September, it is essential to proactively plan your next financial steps. While the **CT SLRP** winds down, multiple state and federal relief structures remain available for your benefit. We highly recommend taking the following actions immediately to review your options.

- **Watch for CT SLRP Funding Updates in Your Inbox:**
  - Our team will share information regarding new funding opportunities when it becomes available.
- **Audit Your Forgiveness Progress**:
  - Log into your dashboard at **StudentAid.gov** to ensure your employment certification forms are fully up to date for programs like **Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)**. Verify your qualifying payments are accurate.

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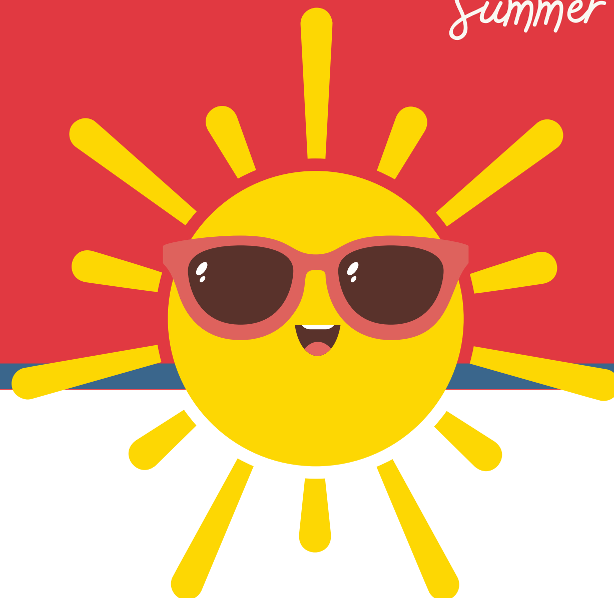


Navigate State and Federal Paths

Finding the ideal long-term loan repayment program can be complex, as eligibility criteria differ signficantly between state-level initiatives and federal programs. On the federal side, highly sought-after structures like the **National Health Service Corps** (NHSC) offer substantial opportunities for qualified health providers. Healthcare facilities throughout Connecticut can follow a step-by-step checklist to become an approved **NHSC** site, which significantly boosts local recruitment and retention efforts. Meanwhile, state-level assistance remains active through the **CT Office of Higher Education** (OHE SLRP - **portal.ct.gov/ohe**) alongside specialized forgiveness tracks.

CHESLA
Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority
chesla.org

CT Student Loan Ombudsperson
portal.ct.gov/dob/student-loan-ombudsperson/student-loan-ombudsperson-office

NHSC
National Health Service Corps
nhsc.hrsa.gov

CHESLA & The Loan Ombudsperson

To compare your state and federal options side-by-side, just scan the QR codes or click the direct links at the end of this newsletter. If you're looking into Connecticut's local resources, we highly recommend checking out both the CT Office of the Student Loan Ombudsperson and the Connecticut Higher Education Supplemental Loan Authority (CHESLA). CHESLA offers great state-affiliated refinancing options to help lower your interest rates, while the Ombudsperson serves as a free advocate to help you clear up tough servicer disputes and protect your progress toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

Food as Medicine: From Training to Community Impact

Earlier this spring, **CT AHEC** teams organized and participated in a vital Continuing Education session hosted by **Community Health Center, Inc.** (CHC, Inc.) at 675 Main Street in Middletown, CT. This specialized food training event focused on "Implementing Food as Medicine: From Food Access to the Fork," providing healthcare professionals and students with practical food coaching strategies to support healthy dietary behaviors across clinical and community health settings.

Building directly upon the lessons learned from this CHC, Inc. partnership, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our upcoming program: ***The Food Coach Academy.***

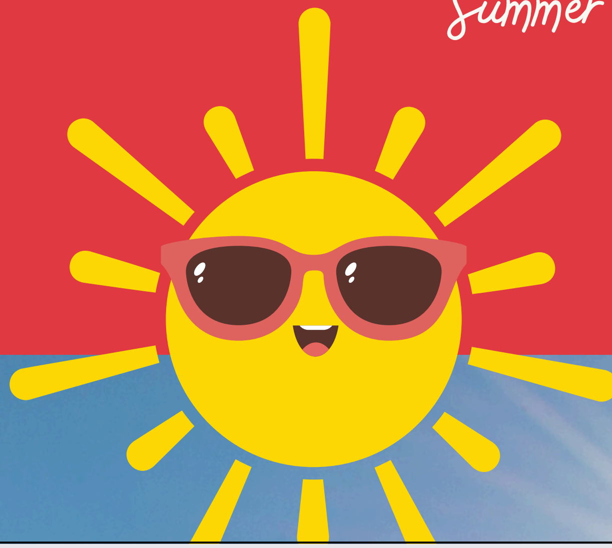
Announcing: The Food Coach Academy

Virtual Program: September 15, 2026 - October 15, 2026

The **Food Coach Academy** 15-hour food coaching training equips our healthcare partners with practical skills in culinary medicine, behavior change, and patient-centered food support with a strong emphasis on increasing fruit and vegetable intake. Participants explore strategies to help individuals and families confidently select, prepare, store, and enjoy produce through culturally responsive food coaching and culinary skill building that supports sustainable dietary change. This training is designed to strengthen the Food as Medicine workforce by preparing participants to translate produce access into meaningful long-term health behaviors within their communities.

How the Academy Works:

- **Flexible Asynchronous Format**: This entire 15-hour training is delivered online and must be completed within a 30-day window from your start date.
- **Live Instructor Support**: Weekly virtual office hours are provided for direct case consultations, technique practice, and motivational interviewing coaching.
- **Impact Tracking**: Participants must complete follow-up surveys to help our team better understand food coaching to be implemented in active practice.
- **Program Fulfills Requirements**: This training successfully counts toward your mandatory **CT SLRP** Continuing Education requirement. (*Please note: while it satisfies program compliance, it is NOT an accredited CME program*).



A Message from the CT SLRP Team

Looking Ahead: Your Continued Success

As we approach the official conclusion of this **CT SLRP** cycle on **September 30th**, we want to take a moment to celebrate your incredible dedication. Day in and day out, your commitment to providing exceptional care strengthens Connecticut's healthcare workforce and deeply impacts our communities.

While navigating these upcoming administrative transitions and mapping out your next federal or state loan assistance pathways might feel like a lot of moving pieces, please remember that you are not walking this path alone. Between the interactive assessment tools on **StudentAid.gov**, local refinancing pathways like **CHESLA**, and the dedicated guidance of the **CT Office of the Student Loan Ombudsperson**, you have an entire network of robust resources designed to secure your long-term financial success.

Have a Wonderful Summer!

Before the busy autumn transition cycle begins, the entire team here at **CT SLRP** wants to wish you a healthy, safe, and incredibly restful summer season! We hope you find plenty of time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the sunshine. Thank you for everything you do to keep Connecticut healthy.

Warmest regards,
The CT SLRP team

Quick Checklist Reminder Before September 30th:

- Review your transition options on **StudentAid.gov** using the **Loan Simulator** tool.
- Monitor your inbox closely for your secure UConn Health final check pickup appointment link.
- Verify you have a valid government photo ID matching your original application name ready for your appointment.
- Submit your pre-registration interest form for the virtual asynchronous Food Coach Academy training.

Financial Assistance Options:

OHE SLRP

Ombudsperson

CHESLA