Public Service Related Loan Repayment and Forgiveness Resources

General Overview of National Loan Repayment and Forgiveness Programs
http://www.finaid.org/loans/forgiveness.phtml/
Under certain circumstances, the federal government will cancel all or part of an educational loan. This practice is called Loan Forgiveness. To qualify, you must:
- Perform volunteer work;
- Perform military service;
- Teach or practice medicine in certain types of communities; or,
- Meet other criteria specified by the forgiveness program.

CNCS Programs including AmeriCorps, VISTA and NCCC Volunteers
http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_individuals/overview/index.asp

**AmeriCorps** members receive a modest living allowance, student-loan forbearance, health coverage, and child care for those who qualify. After successfully completing their term of service, they receive an AmeriCorps Education Award of up to $5,350. This award can be used to pay off qualified student loans or to finance college, graduate school, or vocational training at eligible institutions.

**VISTA** volunteers receive a modest living allowance based on specific position, health care, and other benefits. And, upon completing your service, you can choose to receive either a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award or post-service stipend.

**AmeriCorps NCCC** members receive a living allowance of approximately $4,000 for the 10 months of service (about $200 every two weeks before taxes), housing, meals, limited medical benefits, up to $400 a month for childcare, if necessary, member uniforms, and a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award upon successful completion of the program.

**Peace Corps**
Volunteers may apply for deferment of Stafford, Perkins and Consolidation loans and partial cancellation of Perkins Loans (15% for each year of service, up to 70% in total). Volunteers make a real difference in the lives of real people with two years of service in more than 70 developing countries. [http://www.peacecorps.gov/learn/whyvol/](http://www.peacecorps.gov/learn/whyvol/)

**Information for Lawyers about Student Debt Relief**
The web sites below detail how students and post-graduates with law degrees can get loan forgiveness and loan repayment for doing work in non-profits with certain populations. [http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/ed-debt](http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/ed-debt) [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_aid_indigent_defendants/initiatives/loan_repayment_assistance_programs.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_aid_indigent_defendants/initiatives/loan_repayment_assistance_programs.html)
American Federation of Teachers Database of Programs for Continuing Education and Loan Repayment/Forgiveness
This website provided by the American Federation of teachers provides a database of information about many loan repayment and loan forgiveness programs for teachers. It also gives information about grants and professional development programs as well.
http://www.aft.org/yourwork/tools4teachers/fundingdatabase/

More Options for Teachers
Cancellation/Deferment Options for Teachers
Discharge/Cancellation

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
In 2007, Congress created the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on their eligible federal student loans after they have made 120 payments on those loans under certain repayment plans while employed full time by certain public service employers, including government agencies and non-profits.
http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/PSF.jsp

National Health Service Corps Scholarships and Loan Repayment
http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/index.html
This program offers primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers the opportunity to have their student loans repaid for serving communities in need. The Scholarship program pays your tuition, while you are in school, but you must provide service in specific types of communities after completion of your degree. Scholarships -
http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarships/index.html The loan repayment program will help you pay off your loans after you complete your degree. Loan Repayment -
http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/index.html

Massachusetts Loan Repayment Programs for Medical/Clinical careers
http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/provider/guidelines-resources/services-planning/workforce-development/workforce-help/loan-repay/

Massachusetts offers loan repayment programs for primary health care professionals in a variety of disciplines including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and behavioral health professionals. The goal of these programs is to provide educational loan repayment as an incentive for health professionals to practice in communities where significant shortages of health care providers and barriers to access have been identified.

Component A is a loan repayment program available to primary care providers including primary care physicians (M.D& D.O.), nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical or
counseling psychologists, psychiatric nurse specialists, licensed professional counselors, certified nurse midwives, general practice dentists, dental hygienists, clinical social workers, mental health counselors, and marriage and family therapists. Health professionals must be employed by or have a contract to work in eligible public or non-profit healthcare organizations located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). Physicians, psychologists, dentists and nurse practitioners are eligible for up to $25,000 per year ($50,000 total award over two years). All other qualified health professionals are eligible for up to $20,000 per year ($40,000 total award over two years).

Component C is a loan repayment program for primary care physicians (M.D. & D.O.), or nurse practitioners practicing within the fields of family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology or psychiatry and meet criteria of practicing in a high need community. Applicants must commit to two years of full-time work or the equivalent extended commitment of part time work (e.g. a 20-hour work week will mean a 4-year contract) providing services in an eligible facility or setting. Awards are available for up to $25,000 per year with a total maximum award of up to $50,000 for a two year contract.

Nursing Loan Forgiveness Program
http://www.hrsa.gov/loanscholarships/repayment/nursing/

The Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program is a selective program of the U.S. Government that helps alleviate the critical shortage of nurses by offering loan repayment assistance to registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses, such as nurse practitioners, in return for working in a Critical Shortage Facility and nurse faculty in return for working full time at an accredited school of nursing.

In exchange for a 2-year service commitment, participants receive 60 percent of their total qualifying nursing education loan balance. For an optional third year of service, participants may receive 25 percent of their original total qualifying nursing education loan balance.

Participants also receive the salary and benefits they have negotiated with their employing facility.

U.S. Federal Loan Repayment for Government Service
The Federal student loan repayment program permits agencies to repay federally insured student loans as a recruitment or retention incentive for candidates or current employees of the agency. The program implements 5 U.S.C. 5379, which authorizes agencies to set up their own student loan repayment programs to attract or retain highly qualified employees. The website below describes the information for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, National Institute of Health and Military loan repayment program information. Other U.S. Government agencies may also have programs as well. You can discuss this with their Human Resource staff.

Office of Personnel Management: http://www.opm.gov/oca/pay/studentloan/
Military Service Loan Repayment for Health Professions
http://www.goarmy.com/amedd/health-care/benefits.html