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June 6, 2012

**Student Loan Borrowers to Benefit from
Streamlined Enrollment in Income-Based Repayment (IBR)**

More Outreach Needed to the Millions of Borrowers in Distress

The steps announced by the White House today will make it much easier for millions of struggling federal student loan borrowers to keep their payments manageable by enrolling in the Income-Based Repayment (IBR) plan. According to today's [White House fact sheet](#), tomorrow's Presidential Memorandum will direct the Education Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to, by the end of September, enable borrowers to transfer their IRS income data directly into the IBR application and submit it online.

We applaud this important step to simplify and speed up the IBR enrollment process, using an approach that has already helped millions of students and parents apply for federal student aid. This same tool should be made available to the more than 600,000 borrowers already enrolled in IBR to seamlessly verify their annual income and family size.

The White House fact sheet also touches on ways to increase awareness of IBR. The memorandum will instruct federal direct student loan servicers to do more to inform borrowers about IBR, and by this time next year, will give colleges the option of letting borrowers choose a repayment plan as part of the exit counseling process.

However, much more needs to be done and done quickly to let struggling borrowers know about IBR. According to economists with the [Federal Reserve Bank of New York](#), more than 5 million student loan borrowers have at least one student loan past due.

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An independent, nonprofit organization, The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS) works to make higher education more available and affordable for people of all backgrounds. Our Project on Student Debt works to increase public understanding of rising student debt and the implications for our families, economy, and society. For more information see www.ticas.org and www.projectonstudentdebt.org or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/TICAS_org.