



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

FOIA Service Center

August 17, 2021

Ms. Abigail Alannah Moats
Intake & Digital Advocacy Manager
National Student Legal Defense Network
1460 Fuller St. NW
Washington, DC 20009

RE: FOIA Request No. 21-02134-F

Dear Abigail Alannah Moats:

This letter is a final response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated July 8, 2021 and received in this office on July 9, 2021. Your request was forwarded to the appropriate office to search for documents that may be responsive to your request.

You requested the following: Student Defense hereby requests that ED produce the following in the time and manner required under the Freedom of Information Act and the Department's regulations. Records sufficient to show:

1. The total number of borrowers who have received refunds of wages garnished since March 13, 2020 and the total dollar value of those refunds.
2. Of the borrowers who have not received refunds of wages garnished since March 13, 2020, the total number who do not have valid addresses on file with the Department

Attached to this e-mail are 0 pages of documents responsive to your request. The documents provided are:

However, FSA provided the information below:

1. The total number of borrowers who have received refunds of wages garnished since March 13, 2020 and the total dollar value of those refunds.
 - a. As of July 19, 2021, FSA has issued refunds of garnishment payments to 382,306 unique borrowers totaling \$187,231,062.27
2. Of the borrowers who have not received refunds of wages garnished since March 13, 2020, the total number who do not have valid addresses on file with the Department
 - a. 10,868 borrowers are owed a refund of a garnishment payment that FSA has not been able to issue because the borrower's address is known to be invalid

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover the costs pertaining to your request. The Department has concluded that you fall within the category of Other. However, the Department has provided you with this information at no charge. The Department's release of this information at no cost does not constitute the grant of a fee waiver and does not infer or imply that you will be granted a fee waiver for future requests made under FOIA to the Department.

You have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department’s FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The FOIA Public Liaison is responsible, among other duties, for assisting in the resolution of FOIA disputes. OGIS, which is outside the Department of Education, offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to appeals or litigation. They can be contacted by:

Mail	FOIA Public Liaison Office of the Executive Secretariat U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW, LBJ 7C132 Washington, DC 20202-4500	Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road Room 2510 College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail	robert.wehausen@ed.gov	OGIS@nara.gov
Phone	202-205-0733	301-837-1996; toll free at 1-877-684-6448
Fax	202-401-0920	301-837-0348

You have the right to appeal this decision by writing to the address below, 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Using the services described above does not affect your right or the deadline to file an appeal. Your appeal must be in writing and must include detailed statement of all legal and factual bases for the appeal; it should be accompanied by this letter, a copy of your initial letter of request, and any documentation that serves as evidence or supports the argument you wish the Department to consider in making an administrative determination on your appeal.

Appeals may be submitted using the on-line form available at www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/foia/foia-appeal-form.pdf.

E-mail: EDFOIAappeals@ed.gov
Fax: 202-401-0920
Mail: Appeals Office
Office of the Executive Secretariat
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW, LBJ 7W106A
Washington, DC 20202-4536

Sincerely,

Shahanga Lee
Government Information Specialist
Office of the Executive Secretariat