

The SBPC Cities Partnership

The SBPC Cities Partnership works with local governments to address the student debt crisis, empowering local leaders to stand up for student loan borrowers. The Student Borrower Protection Center (SBPC) provides expert advice and guidance on student lending and repayment issues to a growing network of cities and counties. Through training, technical assistance, and peer learning, City Partners become local knowledge and resource hubs while developing capacity to inform and educate residents, assist struggling borrowers, and advocate for consumer protections and borrower relief.

America's cities are on the front lines of the student debt crisis. This crisis is reaching every city, town, and neighborhood across the country, hurting local economies and labor markets. Student debt is driving shortages in critical professions, including teachers, nurses, and other public servants who make our cities work. Student loan defaults are also concentrated in the most economically distressed communities—magnifying gaps in wealth and driving inequality.

Local governments are uniquely positioned to stand up for student loan borrowers and fight this crisis. Cities and counties can leverage local insights and relationships and utilize their experience engaging communities, connecting millions of people who already rely on municipalities for services and benefits with the information and tools they need to tackle their student debt.

Many cities and counties have financial coaching programs and nonprofit legal service partnerships that can assist borrowers, helping them to navigate complex and evolving repayment and relief programs. Others have the ability to protect borrowers through their consumer and worker protection authorities. Cities have a powerful voice and are uniquely positioned to advocate for debt relief and borrower protections – and to shine a light on the breadth and scope of this crisis.

About the Student Borrower Protection Center

The SBPC is leading a nationwide effort to end the student debt crisis by empowering policymakers and advocates to take action. SBPC is reining in industry abuses and advancing reforms across the student loan market through aggressive advocacy, innovative research, and creative litigation strategy. Led by the team of former federal regulators that directed oversight of the student loan market at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, SBPC works to protect borrowers' rights and advance economic opportunity for the next generation of students.

SBPC City Partners 2023-24:

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