

GET THE JOB

Working for Uncle Sam

It may be surprising how many agencies are looking for people like you

If you've tired of the public work space, consider signing on for employment with the government. There are as many options as there are work profiles. Interested in the great outdoors? Consider parks and recreation. Good with numbers? There may be a place for you with revenue or social programming. Feeling patriotic? Look into political or defense positions. Good with project work? Seek out positions in infrastructure.

GETTING STARTED

Sometimes, having a military background can smooth the way when looking for government work — but it's not always required. Instead, high-level work experience, upstanding history and a focus on helping others is sometimes all that's needed. Those looking for federal work should begin by creating a USAJOBS account, since applicants must apply through that website.

Check for other government job openings on sites like makingthedifference.org, where you'll likewise find detailed information on available positions and how to



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apply. Discuss your goals with family and friends, who may know about specific work opportunities. Connecting with those who already have

government jobs can help you gain invaluable insights into the processes for applying, interviewing and conducting interviews for these jobs.

INSIDE THE PROCESS

Many of these positions will require a resume and cover letter that's specifically tailored for the position in question, so

be prepared to rework your application. Some roles may also require applicants to fill out a comprehensive "Knowledge, Skills and Abilities" questionnaire that's simply referred to as a KSA. This will help narrow your search even further. Sections with headings like "Who May Apply" will help you determine your eligibility.

Pay close attention to the qualifications section of any job listing, and skip over openings that don't meet your specific employment and education history. Some government jobs, including engineers, social workers and accountants, require a certain level of college. If you're still in college, contact university career services in order to discuss potentially securing government jobs or internships. Counselors there may have established relationships with recruiters or special agencies.

BIG BENEFITS

Beyond the feeling of serving the public good, government jobs are also typically very competitive in terms of salary and benefit packages when compared with other job markets. Beyond the base pay, these positions typically include top-tier insurance options and great retirement benefits. So you'll be making our nation stronger and safer, while securing your own bright future.