

Government Career Guide

Overview

The United States Federal government is the nations largest employer, so government jobs are always in abundance. While the salary may not compare to other sectors, government jobs generally offer a good work/life balance with generous benefits and job security.

Many government jobs require a security clearance and a background investigation as part of the hiring process.

Between the legislative, judicial and executive branches of the federal government, the opportunities for employment are plentiful. There are roughly 2 million civilian government jobs at more than 120 federal departments. These jobs can be found in all 50 states, Washington DC, and all U.S. territories. There are hundreds of federal agencies charged with handling such responsibilities as managing America's space program, protecting its forests, and gathering intelligence. All state governments are modelled after the federal government and consist of three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. Municipalities generally take responsibility for parks and recreation services, police and fire departments, housing services, emergency medical services, municipal courts, public transportation, and public works.

Career Areas	Sample Roles
Federal Government	Homeland security agent, Veterans benefits administrator, Securities and Exchange Commission accountant, NASA astronaut, CIA agent, health care exchange navigator, federal IT systems manager, FBI agent. Army, Navy, and Air Force are also considered federal government employers.
State Government	Elementary education administrator, highway patrol, state parks , Emergency management expert, state university professor, staff for Attorney General
County and Municipal Government	City engineer, policy analyst, city comptroller, police officer, firefighter, community development specialist, records clerk, sister city manager.
Think Tanks/ NGOs	Policy analyst, program coordinator, speech writer,
Government Fellowships	Fellow

Getting your foot in the door

This can be one of the hardest aspects of working for a large governmental agency. The hiring process can be slow because there can be a great deal of bureaucracy. Getting an internship is a good way to establish connections in the department before you apply. Because many government offices are understaffed due to lack of funding, interns can take on a great deal of responsibility if they pursue it.

Going through a government contractor is also a popular way of seeking government work, but there are pros and cons to this method. Contractors know how to navigate government bureaucracy and help your security clearance process go faster, but working through a contractor means your total salary would be less than working directly for the government.

Federal Government

Job Search Resources

- [USAJobs](#)
- [AvueCentral](#)
- [DCInternships.org](#)
- [Federal Government Jobs: U.S. Government Jobs by State](#)
- [Federal Job Search](#)
- [Fed Jobs](#)
- [Government Jobs](#)
- [Go Government](#)
- [Pathways Program](#)

Federal Government Resources

- [Capitol Hill Newspaper](#)
- [Go Government](#)
- [Weekly Congressional Paper - The Hill](#)
- [U.S. Air Force News](#)
- [U.S. Army News](#)
- [U.S. Coast Guard News](#)
- [U.S. Marine News](#)
- [U.S. Navy News](#)
- [Whitehouse News](#)

Federal Government Employers

- [Broadcasting Board of Governors](#)
- [Department of Agriculture](#)
- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)
- [Defense Intelligence Agency](#)
- [Department of Commerce](#)
- [Department of Defense](#)
- [Department of Defense: Washington Headquarters Services](#)
- [Department of Education](#)
- [Department of Energy Department, National Nuclear Security Administration](#)
- [Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- [Department of Homeland Security](#)
- [Department of Housing & Urban Development](#)
- [Department of the Interior](#)
- [Department of Justice](#)
- [Department of Labor](#)
- [Department of State](#)
- [Department of Transportation](#)
- [Department of the Treasury](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs](#)
- [Central Intelligence Agency](#)
- [Commission on Civil Rights](#)
- [Commodities Future Trading Commission](#)
- [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)
- [Corporation for National & Community Service \(AmeriCorps\)](#)
- [Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#)

- [Export-Import Bank of the US](#)
- [Farm Credit Administration](#)
- [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#)
- [Federal Communications Commission](#)
- [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation](#)
- [Federal Election Commission](#)
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#)
- [Federal Housing Finance Board](#)
- [Federal Labor Relations Authority](#)
- [Federal Maritime Commission](#)
- [Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service](#)
- [Federal Reserve Board](#)
- [Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board](#)
- [Federal Trade Commission](#)
- [General Services Administration](#)
- [Institute of Museum & Library Services](#)
- [Inter-American Foundation](#)
- [Library of Congress](#)
- [Merit Systems Protection Board](#)
- [National Aeronautics and Space Administration](#)
- [National Archives & Records Administration](#)
- [National Capital Planning Commission](#)
- [National Credit Union Administration](#)
- [National Endowment for the Arts](#)
- [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)
- [National Institute of Health](#)
- [National Labor Relations Board](#)
- [National Science Foundation](#)
- [National Transportation Safety Board](#)
- [Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#)
- [Office of Government Ethics](#)
- [Office of Personnel Management](#)
- [Office of Special Counsel](#)
- [Overseas Private Investment Corporation](#)
- [Peace Corps](#)
- [Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation](#)
- [Postal Regulatory Commission](#)
- [Social Security Administration](#)
- [Securities & Exchange Commission](#)
- [Selective Services System](#)
- [Small Business Administration](#)
- [Trade & Development Agency](#)
- [U.S. Agency for International Development \(USAID\)](#)
- [United States Postal Service](#)

Fellowships

- [Air Force Summer Faculty Fellowship Program \(AF/SFFP\):](#)
- **[Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program:](#)**
- [American Academy of Arts & Sciences Program:](#)
- [American Institute of Physics \(AIP\) State Department Science Fellowship program:](#)
- [Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry \(CDC/ATSDR\) Public Health Fellowships:](#)
- [Clinical Research Training Program \(CRTP\) Fellowship:](#)
- [Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Congressional Fellows Program:](#)
- [Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Louis Stokes Urban Health Policy Fellows Program:](#)
- [Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy:](#)
- [Congressional Fellowship Program:](#)
- [Dwight David Eisenhower Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(HBCU\) Fellowships:](#)
- [Emerging Infectious Diseases Post-Doctoral Laboratory Research Fellowship Program:](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) National Network for Environmental Studies Fellowship Program:](#)
- [Fascell Fellowship Program:](#)
- [Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities:](#)
- [Graduate Student Research Fellowship Program:](#)
- [Homeland Security Awards presented by the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation:](#)
- [Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program:](#)
- **[Kluge Center Fellowship at Library of Congress:](#)**
- [NASA/American Society for Engineering Education \(ASEE\) Faculty Fellowship Program:](#)
- [NASA Employee Fellowship:](#)
- [National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowships:](#)
- [National Institutes of Health Academy Fellowship Program:](#)
- [National Library of Medicine \(NLM\) Associate Fellowship Program:](#)
- [National Network for Environmental Management Studies \(NNEMS\) Undergraduate & Graduate Student Fellowship Program:](#)

- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Educational Partnership Program with Minority-Serving Institutions Graduate Research Fellowship Program:](#)
- [Oak Ridge National Laboratory/Oak Ridge Associated Universities HBCU/MEI Summer Faculty Research Program:](#)
- [Pamela Harriman Foreign Service Fellowships:](#)
- [Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award Fellowship:](#)
- [Public Health Informatics Fellowship Program at CDC:](#)
- [Public Policy Fellowship Program, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute \(CHCI\):](#)
- [Research Fellowships in Japan:](#)
- [Rockefeller Fellowship in Islamic Studies at the Library of Congress:](#)
- [Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship \(SURF\):](#)
- [Technical Intramural Research Training Award \(IRTA\) Fellowship:](#)
- [Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship:](#)
- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Summer Faculty Fellowship Program \(EPA/SFFP\):](#)
- [U.S. Geological Survey Mendenhall Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program:](#)
- [White House Fellowship Program:](#)
- **Presidential Management Fellows**

Government Internships Abroad

[Educational Programs Abroad: Internships Abroad](#)
[Israel Government Fellows](#)