



CAREERS IN PUBLIC SERVICE: MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHERE IT MATTERS

If you're passionate about helping others and improving your community, public service could be the perfect path. From government and education to nonprofits and emergency management, public service offers meaningful work across every discipline.

You can make an impact whether your background is in science, business, liberal arts, or education — public service needs people with all kinds of skills.

If you'd like help exploring options or creating a career plan, set up an appointment with your Career Development Coach through Handshake.

FIND YOUR FIT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

- What issues or causes matter most to me?
- What kind of organization do I want to work for — local, national, or global?
- What role feels meaningful — direct service, leadership, policy, or operations?
- What skills do I want to use or develop?

Answering these questions will help you narrow down your focus and connect your values to real opportunities.

EXPLORE CAREER AREAS

Public service careers exist in nearly every sector. Here are a few paths to explore:

Community and Nonprofit Work

- [AmeriCorps](#) – National service roles addressing education, health, and community needs.
- [Peace Corps](#) – Two-year international service opportunities.
- [City Year](#) – Mentoring and education support in public schools.
- [Careers in the Public School System](#) – Teaching, administration, and support roles in education.

Public Safety and Emergency Management

- [Police Careers](#) – Serve and protect your community.
- [Becoming a Military Officer](#) – Leadership roles in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- [Military Careers](#) – Learn about service branches and career options.
- [Emergency Management Careers](#) – Plan and lead community disaster responses.
- [FEMA Careers](#) – Federal emergency management opportunities.

Government and Policy

- [USAJobs.gov](#) – Federal jobs across departments and agencies.
- [GoGovernment.org](#) – Tips for finding and applying to government positions.
- [PublicServiceCareers.org](#) – Nationwide job board for policy, government, and nonprofit work.

BUILD EXPERIENCE AND CONNECTIONS

- Volunteer locally with city offices, campus programs, or community nonprofits.
- Attend service fairs or virtual info sessions — many agencies recruit directly through universities.
- Network intentionally — follow organizations on LinkedIn, and reach out to alumni working in public service.

QUICK TIP

Public service careers may not always start with high pay, but they're rich in purpose, benefits, and long-term growth. Many roles also qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) — worth looking into early.