



CAREER CONNECTIONS

THE ASVAB CEP COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER



IN THE NEWS

Getting Students Jazzed About Careers in Public Service

Government Service is Public Service... as important as the nonprofit sector is, without a vibrant, healthy government, none of the other stuff works. –Albert Schweitzer

The government is hiring. Over the next decade, as the baby-boomer generation nears retirement age, thousands of public-service-related job opportunities will become available in the federal government. The nation's largest employer is gearing up for a three-year hiring surge with plans to secure approximately 270,000 new employees through September 2012. Obtaining these new hires will increase the federal government's total workforce by one third.¹

Public service jobs are positions in any industry where the services performed benefit the members of the public or its institutions. The broad mission of the federal government provides individuals of all interest categories with an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others and in the well-being of the nation.

Employment Benefits that Students Should Know

Students might not think of government employment as an attractive career option, but that might be because they're not aware of the benefits. The stability of Federal employment creates a highly competitive environment, especially during times of economic uncertainty. The government is committed to attracting top talent to fill its upcoming vacant public service positions. To do this, it offers very generous benefits which can include:

- **Job stability**
- **Work/life balance**
- **Competitive salaries**
- **Opportunities for advancement**
- **Tuition assistance**
- **Retirement pensions**
- **Student loan repayments**²

Another interesting benefit to exploring careers in public service is the location. Federal public service career opportunities are not only available in Washington D.C., but nationwide and overseas. Nearly 85 percent of the federal workforce works outside of the Washington D.C. area and more than 44,000 work overseas.³



DID YOU KNOW?

Where the Jobs Are

Much of the hiring surge in the federal government will be concentrated in five professional fields: Medical and Public Health, Security and Protection, Compliance and Enforcement, Legal, and Program Management.

The Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense will host the majority of these positions.⁴

Not just Federal . . . Look at State and Local, too.

The federal government may be the first place that comes to mind when thinking about where one can make a positive impact on the community, but public service jobs with great benefits are also available at the state and local level.

Overall prospects for States are expected to be favorable. In addition to the 50 State governments, there were about 87,500 local governments in 2007 which employed more than twice as many workers as State governments.⁵

Students can visit their state's or county's website to learn more about opportunities near them.

¹ Where the Jobs Are. <http://data.wherethejobsare.org/wtja/home>

² Making the difference. <http://makingthedifference.org/federalbenefits/>

³ Where the Jobs Are. <http://wherethejobsare.org/WTJA/jobseekers/>

⁴ Where the Jobs Are. <http://data.wherethejobsare.org/wtja/home>

⁵ "State and Local Government, Except Education and Health," Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Career Guide to Industries, 2010-11 Edition, <http://www.bls.gov/oco/cg/cgs042.htm>

Student Resources: How to Get a Government Job

Encourage students who are interested in public service to explore these resources:

- Student Educational Employment Programs:
<http://www.usajobs.gov/studentjobs/>
- Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) & Student Career Experience Program (SCEP):
<http://www.usajobs.gov/STUDENTS.asp>
- Public Service Fellows Program:
<http://apps.makingthedifference.org/fellows/>
- Federal Service Student Ambassadors:
<http://apps.makingthedifference.org/studentambassadors/default.aspx>
- Apprenticeships, Cooperatives, Fellowships, Grants, Internships and Scholarships:
<http://www.usajobs.gov/StudentJobs/AdditionalOpportunitiesForStudents.asp>
- Internships:
<http://makingthedifference.org/federalinternships/>
- Volunteer Service:
<http://www.usajobs.gov/EI/volunteerservice.asp#icc>



What's New in the ASVAB Career Exploration Program

- **ASVAB Program Website—New and Improved!**
 - We've updated **www.asvabprogram.com** with a new design to better highlight key program elements and tools for counselors/educators.
- **ASVAB CEP Facebook Fan Page**
 - Our Facebook community is growing! Just search on "ASVAB Career Exploration Program," become a fan, and get the latest information about ASVAB CEP events across the country.

The ASVAB CEP:

**USEFUL,
USER-FRIENDLY,
AND FREE!**

Budgets are tight in all school districts. The ASVAB CEP remains free to all participating schools and gives students the all-important opportunity to fully explore career possibilities. Schedule the 2010-2011 ASVAB CEP in your school today! Call **1-800-323-0513**.

Help students make informed career decisions.

For more information, visit www.asvabprogram.com or call 1-800-323-0513.



DID YOU KNOW?

KSAs: Federal Hiring Processes Continue to Change

Currently, KSAs--knowledge, skills, and abilities--are used in government applications to determine the extent to which a person's qualifications (experience and education) match the requirements of the job. Soon, the requirement for these written essay-style responses will no longer be part of the initial application materials for any Federal job. However, essays may still be used later in the process.

Students who participate in the ASVAB CEP will get a good understanding of KSAs when they explore occupations with the OCCU-Find. Each occupation in the OCCU-Find links to detailed KSA descriptions on O*NET online. This resource describes the day-to-day aspects of numerous jobs and the qualifications and interests of the employee. This information can help students evaluate their potential KSA responses if or when they apply for a government job in the future.