State and Local Government professionals are typically motivated by the opportunity to make a positive difference in the communities where they live. They handle a broad range of issues including building and improving the infrastructure, keeping citizens safe, and providing access to learning, growth, and recreation. They also work to fulfill the aspirations of their residents and the policy goals of their elected governing board, and to put those aspirations and goals into action.

Local governments are also responsible for providing services for their residents. Their structures and laws vary in each state and they administer the following: police and fire services, water, transportation systems, and some utilities, street construction/maintenance, health, recreational, and social needs, land use according to community economic, environmental, and cultural goals.

Here are four great reasons to consider a career in Local Government:

**Good Salary, Great Benefits.** Salaries are competitive and include very generous vacation, sick leave, retirement, and health insurance.

**Employment Opportunities.** Local government needs a new generation of younger workers along with those considering second or third careers.

**Continuous Improvement.** Local governments require agile learners with innovative ways to approach changing citizen demands, new laws and regulations, technology advances, demographic changes, new value trends, and other societal dynamics.

**Steady Demand for Services.** Local governments are rarely asked to reduce libraries, police or fire services, public works, utilities, or other programs.

**State governments** have three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. Their responsibilities include: property ownership, education, welfare and other benefits programs, the justice system, local government setup, state highway maintenance, and industry regulation.

**City Governments** are run by a City Manager/City Council or Mayor/City Council structure. The City Manager oversees the day-to-day operations of the city and serves as the chief advisor to the city council. The City Council’s role is to give advice on laws and policies to govern the city. In larger US cities the mayor has a stronger role and serves as a political player on the state and national level.

**Facts & Stats**

There is an increased need for persons 34 and younger to join the local government workforce.

- 65+ 6%
- 55-64 19%
- 45-54 26%
- 35-44 24%
- 25-34 19%
- <25 6%

Source: Age Ranges of Workforce 2014.
What can you do in STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Resume:
Being a government employee is all about service to members of the public. Be sure you can easily demonstrate commitment to creating positive change through community service, a public service organization, or work in a customer service area. Highlight activities that reflect your enthusiasm for community involvement, group activities, advocacy work, leadership activities, and volunteer efforts.

Skills:
• Verbal and Written Communication
• Appreciation for diversity
• Negotiating
• Problem Solving
• Networking
• Listening Skills
• Strategic Planning
• math skills (for working with statistics, invoices and budgets)

Hiring:
Recruiting timelines for local government positions do not typically have a season but the hiring process may take longer than in other fields due to rules and formalities common in the public sector.

Experience:
Networking is important. Attend, or volunteer, at local activities hosted by agencies or jurisdictions of your interest. Let others know that you are there to learn more about the field and seek employment, internship, or job shadowing opportunities.

LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

• Maryland State Internship Program
• Governor’s Summer Internship Program
• State of Maryland Job Openings
• District Leadership Program (DLP) - Paid Internship Opportunity
• DC Government Career Opportunities
• Internship Opportunities with Virginia Commonwealth
• Career Opportunities in Virginia Government

NATIONWIDE OPPORTUNITIES

• Public Service Careers
• International City/County Management Association

WHERE ARE ALUMS?

• Office of Leadership and Community Service Learning
• UMD Department of Government and Politics
• CAPC - Center for American Politics and Citizenship
• Maryland Department of the Environment
• Montgomery County Public Schools
• Maryland General Assembly