

Federal Government Jobs

Kathryn Trautman:

This is a fabulous announcement...

Mark Hamrick:

It's class time outside Washington, D.C., but these aren't your average students. They're studying how to land a federal job, among the thousands up for grabs in the coming months. Kathryn Troutman is teaching how to navigate the complicated federal hiring process. Troutman began providing workshops to aspiring federal workers, having written a popular book, "Ten Steps to a Federal Job." She says federal job listings are growing by the day.

Kathryn Trautman:

And they're seeing on the news that the government is hiring. It's a sector that is growing, and they know that they need help with a federal resume.

Mark Hamrick:

Silvia Ballinger lost her job working for the state of Virginia. She's hoping to resume work in the public sector.

Sylvia Ballinger:

But I'm particularly looking now for a federal government job because it's a stable environment. Um, my mom worked for the federal government for thirty years. Um, I know that you can really grow in the federal government. There are a lot of good benefits.

Mark Hamrick:

Estimates vary on the total number of federal jobs that will be available this year, from one hundred thousand on the low end to two hundred sixty thousand on the high end. Many of those jobs will be located here in Washington, but others will be across the country. And seventeen thousand are at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Willie Hensley:

We want them to be a part of our team. We believe that within the three hundred and sixty occupational areas, there's something out there that matches the skills of just about any- and everyone.

Mark Hamrick:

Back at the workshop, former marine Tejus Patel might do well to look at the V.A. He was given two weeks' notice upon returning from a project in Iraq, working with a consulting firm.

Tejas Patel:

I think it's really important to- to stay positive and motivated. And with new things that are coming, it's a good opportunity for people to get involved.

Mark Hamrick:

Despite the recession, optimism, with a little help from Uncle Sam.

Mark Hamrick:

Mark Hamrick, The Associated Press, Washington.

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