



Future Leaders in Public Service Internship Program

AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS - AI PLACEMENTS

Since 2022, the Future Leaders in Public Service Internship Program has placed over 600 talented students in paid internships across government—empowering the next generation of public servants. Through this initiative, the Partnership for Public Service provides government placements, cohort support, orientation, professional development, and alumni engagement.

The Partnership seeks agency partners to host interns in AI-related internships at **no cost** for Summer 2026. Program operations are funded by external grant funding, and intern stipends are funded by participating university partners. For agency partners, the Partnership for Public Service provides the following as part of the program:

- Program recruitment
- Application management
- Candidate eligibility review
- Intern supervisor training and resources
- Coordination with the agency on intern placements
- Intern onboarding support and orientation
- Professional development workshops
- Support for interns throughout entire program

WHO SHOULD PARTNER

Program partners may include local, state, or federal government agencies looking to provide highly skilled early career applicants with direct pathways to their career talent pipeline in the fields of **AI, public interest technology, data science and public administration**. Partners do not have to be located in the D.C. area, and the Partnership will recruit a wide range of candidates, possibly in the region of agency partners.

SELECTED INTERNS WILL RECEIVE

- 10 – 12 week internship at approximately 32 – 40 hours/week with a local, state, or federal government agency during summer 2026.
- Professional development sessions.
- Orientation and onboarding sessions.
- Access to an extensive alumni network.



AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

- Establish an memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Partnership and commit to hosting 10-30 interns for Summer 2026.
- **Finalize a MOU by November 28, 2025.**
- Participate in a Meet the Agencies webinar in early 2026.
- Review eligible applications and conduct intern interviews.
- Identify and match interns with supportive supervisors.
- Execute background check process, if required by agency.
- Issue computers, equipment, and other technology to interns.
- Coordinate internship information and placements with the Partnership.



STUDENT APPLICATION CRITERIA

Students who apply to the Future Leaders program must satisfy the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be a U.S. citizen.
- Be actively enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate program, including community college students and PhD candidates.
- Undergraduates must be a sophomore or rising sophomore at the time of the internships in Summer 2026.
- Have at least a 2.5 GPA.
- Must successfully complete any background checks as required by agency partners.



CURRENT AND PAST AGENCY PARTNERS

- General Services Administration
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Park Service
- National Science Foundation
- Small Business Administration
- State of Maryland
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Transportation



SUMMER 2026 PROGRAM TIMELINE

- September 29, 2025: Applications for the Summer 2026 cohort open.
- **November 28, 2025: Deadline to finalize MOUs.**
- December 5, 2025: Application closes.
- January 2026: Applicants are notified of eligibility status. Eligible applicants will receive instructions on next steps.
- January – March 2026: Review eligible applications and conduct intern interviews.
- April – May 2026: Background check process begins.
- May 2026: Virtual Orientation.
- June 2026: Internship Begins.
- August 2026: End of internship.

The Partnership for Public Service is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that believes good government starts with good people. We help government serve the needs of all Americans by strengthening the civil service and the systems that support it. With our focus on innovation in public service, our internship program is uniquely designed for engaging early career talent.

