

# STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT GUIDE

## O'NEILL CAREER HUB: EXPLORATION RESOURCE

### Summary:

State and local governments make big changes for their constituents. They work with policy issues related to education, agriculture work, environment, financial management, health, infrastructure, and public safety. Public managers implement the policies of elected officials. Each community is different and has changing needs, so no two days at work are exactly alike when you work in state or local government. Meet with elected officials and constituents to get plans implemented in a boots-on-the-ground approach to policy making.

### Types of Jobs:

- City/town/county manager
- County or State Administrator
  - City Planner
  - Budget Analyst
- Sustainability Analyst

### Pro Tip:

It's all about who you know! Make sure to take the time to network with people already in roles you'd like to work with. If possible, try interning or taking a fellowship position with the team you're interested in.

### Career Opportunities:

Careers in state and local governments can be wide-ranging. Governments need people to work on a large range of issues with diverse constituents. The biggest goal is to serve the community effectively and efficiently. State and local governments do not typically have large budgets, so working creatively to do more with less is key.

### What do you bring to the job?

State and local government managers must have technical knowledge to do their jobs. These can relate to program/project management, policy building and implementation, budgeting and working creatively with limited resources. Beyond knowing the technical skills necessary to perform your job, those who work in state and local government must have excellent communication skills. This includes both oral and written forms of communication. You must be able to communicate effectively with constituents, elected officials, and other stakeholders in the community. This goes hand in hand with interpersonal skills and relationship building. To work and serve the community, you must first know the community.

### Additional Resources

State & Local

ICMA

Local Government Management

Association at IU