Gov21: The 21st Century Government Innovation Program

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 10, 2024, AT 5 P.M. EDT

The 21st Century Government Innovation Program (Gov21) is designed to meet the evolving needs of federal agency leaders.

As an experienced public servant, you know how to achieve your agency’s mission and get things done on behalf of the American public. You also know that there are new and better ways that your agency can accomplish its mission, including ways that emphasize agility, impact and the unique skill sets and perspectives of your colleagues. You know that this is the future of government: 21st century government. This is for you.

The Gov21 program:

- Provides you with new innovation tools for leading effectively in government.
- Empowers you to make impactful, data-driven decisions.
- Offers opportunities for you to develop new relationships with other government leaders who share a passion for making government work better.

As a Gov21 participant, you will:

- Use design thinking to strategize, solve problems and develop new initiatives.
- Use behavioral science and data to streamline activities.
- Learn how to facilitate effective meetings.
- Take full advantage of innovation resources to do better and act faster.

During the program you will engage with experts and other participants to learn modern ways of solving government challenges and begin to address a self-selected problem. By the end of the program, you will have gained a deeper understanding of problem identification, acquired useful tools and methods and tested potential solutions to address your problem.
WHO SHOULD APPLY
GS-14s and GS-15s (though we may accept a small number of high-performing GS-12s and GS-13s). Applicants should have an interest in improving workplace culture, growing professionally, discovering new methods and tools to operate more effectively and efficiently, and meeting fellow trail blazers.

APPLICATION CRITERIA
The application includes your personal information, responses to short-answer questions and permission from your supervisor to participate in the program. Participants must be approved for funding by their agency upon applying. Carefully consider short-answer responses to ensure your government career objectives align with the high expectations of Gov21 participants. We are looking for participants who are willing to attend all sessions, commit to learning and active participation, and want to use their federal job for good. While we aim to have a cohort of roughly 30 participants, we will be able to accept no more than 35.

LOCATION
Gov21 is offered in person or virtually depending on the program cycle. All in person sessions are held at the Partnership’s office in Washington, D.C. All virtual sessions are conducted via Zoom for Government.

TIME COMMITMENT
The Gov21 program consists of three two-day, in-person sessions over the course of three months or three virtual sessions held over three half days each. Each in-person session is a full day from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST, and each half-day virtual session is Noon-4 p.m. EST. You are expected to prepare for and attend every session and complete any pre-work or readings assigned between sessions. Prior to applying to the program, please review the schedule and confirm your availability for all session dates.