



Gov21: The 21st Century Government Innovation Program

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

As an experienced public servant, you know how to achieve your department's mission and get things done on behalf of the American public. You also know that there are new and better ways that your department 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.

WINTER 2025-26 PROGRAM DATES

SESSION 1: Innovation Foundations

December 3 to 5, 2025

SESSION 2: Government by Design

January 7 to 9, 2026

SESSION 3: Make Fast, Take Action

February 4 to 6, 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
ourpublicservice.org/Gov21_state-local



WHO SHOULD APPLY

Leaders of leaders (though we may accept a small number of high-performing aspiring leaders of leaders). 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 trailblazers.



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 organization 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 government 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 virtually via Zoom for Government.



TIME COMMITMENT

The Gov21 program consists of three virtual sessions held over three half days each, from noon to 4 p.m. Eastern Time. 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JENNIFER BENBOW AT JBENBOW@OURPUBLICSERVICE.ORG OR CALL (202) 495-3339

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 leadership trainings and seminars are uniquely designed for government employees.