

PUBLIC SERVANTS FUEL AMERICA

PUBLIC SERVICE 
Recognition Week



May 3-9

Federal, state and local government agency guide

Celebrating the public servants who keep us safe, strong and healthy

Overview

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) 2026 comes at a moment when being a public servant is more challenging than ever. Federal civil servants are navigating a landscape that has dramatically changed over the past year, while employees of state and local governments struggle to fill widening funding gaps with shrinking resources. **PSRW is our unique opportunity to champion the public servants who continue to show up every day with perseverance and commitment to serve amid uncertainty.**

We invite you to join us in celebrating PSRW beginning on May 3, 2026. As supporters, you can help connect the people in your community with the public servants and programs that fuel our democracy and keep America running.

What is Public Service Recognition Week?

Celebrated during the first full week of May, Public Service Recognition Week honors those who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees. **PSRW is an opportunity to educate others about the vast and essential work public servants do, why they have chosen public service careers, and how they make our lives safer, stronger and healthy every day.**

Every year, from Washington, D.C., to our nation's smallest towns, public servants participate in ceremonies, information fairs, parades and other events—both online and in person—to celebrate and shine the light on their important work.



Suggested Messaging



Public servants fuel America every day in every community.

Since 2025, hundreds of thousands of federal civil servants have left the workforce through firings and resignations, and state and local public servants have stepped up to fill widening gaps. To every public servant still showing up, whether at the federal, state, or local level, thank you for delivering the essential services that communities depend on every day.



Americans depend on federal services every day.

Cuts to the federal workforce are not just abstract numbers—they mean fewer people processing veterans' benefits, responding to natural disasters, inspecting food and water supplies, running clinical trials and administering Social Security, Medicare and other programs millions depend on.



Revoking grants means revoking opportunities.

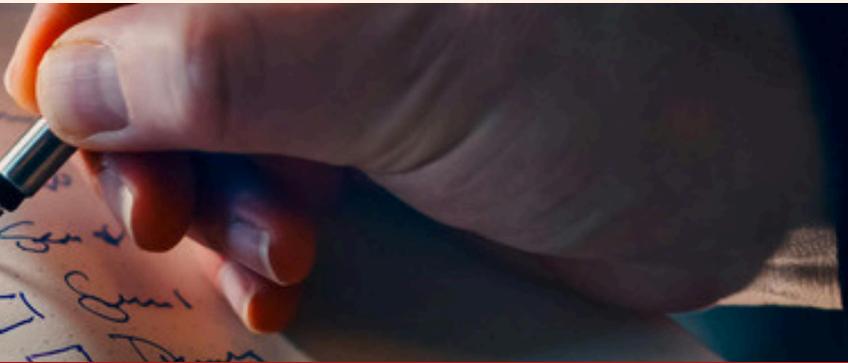
The loss of public servants from the federal workforce has disrupted the distribution of grants that fund everything from rural broadband and small business development to housing assistance and public health clinics. These programs are lifelines, not luxuries, for many communities.



Local economies are at risk.

In many communities, especially rural areas, federal jobs and grant funding are among the largest economic drivers. Losing this funding doesn't just impact individuals—it undermines entire local economies and creates ripple effects for years to come.





Goals & Resources

Goals



Honor and highlight public servants

Recognize the federal, state and local public servants who strengthen communities by providing platforms and resources for their stories to be celebrated and shared widely.



Mobilize support and action for public service

Collaborate with partners and provide concrete ways for the public to recognize, celebrate, and actively support the civil servants who serve their communities at all levels of government.



Amplify stories that connect public servants to community impact

With nearly half of Americans now noticing the effects of federal workforce disruptions in their communities, use storytelling to help people understand how career civil servants and government programs impact their daily lives and why a merit-based federal civil service is essential to our democracy.

Resources to help you

Explore these resources to learn, celebrate and stay connected.



Visit the FedSupport Hub

FedSupport is a centralized hub that provides critical resources to current and former federal employees. You can find answers to frequently asked

questions, blogs, fact sheets, webinars, upcoming events and stories about federal workers. [Learn more](#)



Excellence in Public Service Leadership

For the government to carry out its many missions, they need effective leaders at the

healm. This program is the premier leadership development course for mid- to advanced- career state and local government leaders. [Learn more](#)



Five Stories of Public Service

Every other Wednesday, our newsletter shares five stories that highlight the ways in which civil servants working in cities and towns across the country are keeping us safe, healthy and prosperous.

[Subscribe here](#)



2026 Public Service Recognition Week

FIVE DAYS OF ACTION

Employee recognition activities



PSRW is an ideal time for federal, state and local government leaders to recognize outstanding employees, teams and programs. Celebrating their contributions through peer awards and other forms of recognition demonstrates why government matters and helps create a workplace culture where employees are valued, appreciated and motivated.



Monday: Proclaim the week as PSRW

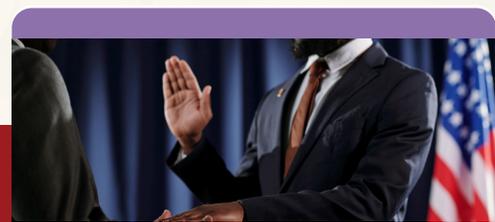
- Publish a resolution. [Click here](#) for a template.
- Request a video from your agency leader that acknowledges PSRW and thanks the public servants in your organization.
- Post and share photos and videos on social media using #PSRW2026. [Click here](#) for sample social media posts

Share your resolution and content with us via [email](#).



Tuesday: Organize a staff appreciation event

- Host a breakfast, staff snacks or general office celebration.
- Encourage employees to share kudos and words of appreciation to colleagues.



Wednesday: Hold an Oath of Office ceremony

- Hold ceremonies where employees reaffirm their oath to serve.
- Create opportunities for structured reflection through a team discussion, written reflection prompt or a short video message from leadership on the mission and values of public service.



Thursday: Have a community connection day

- Organize tours, open houses, virtual career fairs, or presentations to educate the public on the various services and programs available to the community.
- Partner with local schools and universities to connect with the next generation of public servants.

Share your open to the public events with us via [email](#) for further amplification.



Friday: Reflect and recognize

- Close the week by reflecting on accomplishments and encourage team leaders to compile a list of achievements.
- Distribute certificates of recognition to employees. View our [certificate template here](#).
- Invite employees to nominate or give a shout out to a colleague who made a difference this past year.



Beyond the week

- Share educational content and spotlight employees whose work is strengthening your community.
- Highlight the wide array of public service careers.
- Promote opportunities for civic engagement and public service careers
- Use consistent branding and hashtags across all platforms: #PSRW2026



Appendix

Post on Social Media

State and Local Leaders

- Happy Public Service Recognition Week! I'm proud to be a public servant working in my community to make a difference and serve the American public. Despite unprecedented challenges, public servants across the country continue to show up every day with dedication and commitment to their oath. The nonpartisan civil service is what keeps our country safe and our democracy strong. Learn how you can celebrate public servants this week at psrw.org. **#PSRW2026**
- As a public servant at [Insert your specific position], I care deeply about my work and my constitutional oath to serve the public good. During Public Service Recognition Week, I'm grateful to work alongside fellow public servants who remain committed to serving our communities through every administration and every challenge. Public servants are career professionals who serve the people everyday and in every community. **#PSRW2026**
psrw.org
- This Public Service Recognition Week, I am proud to be a public servant at [Insert organization/place of service]. My fellow public servants and I work to make our country safer, stronger and healthier, from supporting veterans to ensuring safe food and water. At a time when the federal civil service faces unprecedented threats, thank you to all of those who continue to serve with perseverance and dedication to the American people. Learn how you can celebrate **#PSRW2026** with us at psrw.org.

Public Servants

- Happy Public Service Recognition Week! I'm proud to be a public servant working in my community to make a difference and serve the American public. Despite unprecedented challenges and attacks on the civil service, public servants across the country continue to show up every day with dedication and commitment to their oath. The merit-based, nonpartisan civil service is what keeps our country safe and our democracy strong. Learn how you can celebrate public servants this week at psrw.org. **#PSRW2026**
- I'm proud to serve at [Insert Office] alongside talented colleagues dedicated to serving our community. This Public Service Recognition Week, join me in recognizing the hard work and resilience of public servants at all levels of government who took an oath to serve the American people—regardless of administration. At a time when public servants face mounting challenges, we must stand with those committed to keeping our country running. Visit psrw.org to learn more! **#PSRW2026**
- Celebrate Public Service Recognition Week with us at [Insert Office]. Public servants are the backbone of our democracy, delivering vital services that keep our communities safe, strong and prosperous. From ensuring clean water to responding to disasters, the nation's 2 million career federal civil servants across the country work every day to serve the public good. I'm honored to recognize their invaluable contributions during **#PSRW2026**. Learn more at psrw.org.



Appendix

Guidelines for writing a video script

Introduction:

- Your first and last name
- A brief welcome to Public Service Recognition Week

Suggested talking points (choose one or adapt):

- This Public Service Recognition Week, I encourage you to thank the public servants you see working in our community every day—whether it's at your local DMV, health department or responding to emergencies. If their work has made a difference in your life, share your story.
- Public servants across federal, state and local governments work behind the scenes to keep our communities running smoothly. This week, take a moment to recognize their dedication and share how their work has impacted you or your family.
- The next time you turn on your tap, drive on a maintained road or receive timely emergency alerts, remember there are dedicated public servants making that possible. During Public Service Recognition Week, join me in thanking them and sharing the stories of how they strengthen our communities."

The main message (this is the heart of your video!):

- Share a specific example of how government programs and services impact everyday lives in your community.
- Connect the dots between public servants' work and the things people often take for granted—safe food and water, available medications, emergency response, weather alerts, road maintenance and public safety.
- Emphasize that public servants at all levels of government—federal, state and local—are our neighbors, parents and veterans who took an oath to serve the American people regardless of who is in office.
- Help people understand why a merit-based civil service is essential to the strength of our country.

Call to action:

- Invite your constituents to recognize and thank the public servants they encounter in their daily lives.
- Encourage people to share their own stories about how public servants or government programs have positively impacted them.

Closing

Join us at [agency] this Public Service Recognition Week as we recognize and thank the public servants across the country who continue to show up with perseverance and commitment to serve the American people. Learn more about how you can get involved in the five days of action at psrw.org



Appendix

Technical tips for recording your video

Environment:

- Find a quiet location with minimal background noise
- Use a physical background (no blurred or digital backgrounds)
- Choose a clean, professional setting—solid colors are fine, but add depth with a plant, bookshelf or artwork

Lighting:

- Ensure you are well-lit with soft, even lighting
- Avoid harsh shadows—reposition lights or use natural light from a window
- Don't overexpose; details should remain clear

Framing:

- Position the camera at eye level
- Frame from your shoulders to just above your head (leave about an inch of space at the top)
- Keep your head centered in the frame
- Don't sit too far from the camera

Delivery:

- Look directly at the camera, not at your own image on screen
- Speak with energy and warmth—smile!
- Pause briefly between thoughts to make editing easier
- Be authentic and conversational



Appendix

A Resolution

[Click here to download the resolution](#)

Expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States — including their commitment to defending the Constitution and delivering essential services to Americans, and in doing so, supporting the American economy — during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year.

Whereas the week of May 3 through May 9, 2026 has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor employees of the Federal, State, and local governments and members of the uniformed services who are entrusted with missions fundamental to the United States and deliver services upon which Americans depend;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the Americans who serve their country, States, and communities at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas Federal employees take a solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and to faithfully discharge the duties of their office — an oath that reflects the foundational compact between public servants and the people they serve;

Whereas millions of individuals serve the public in government service and as members of the uniformed services in every State, county, and city across the United States and around the world;

Whereas public servants make substantial contributions to the American economy — managing public lands, infrastructure, financial systems, research institutions, and regulatory frameworks that undergird private-sector growth, protect consumers, and sustain the conditions for a competitive and innovative marketplace;



Appendix

A Resolution cont.

Whereas public servants are critical to protecting the safety and security of the American people, working every day, often at great personal risk, to prevent harm, respond to crises and safeguard the lives and well-being of the communities they serve;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions, and highly skilled and trained individuals offer their knowledge, effort, and expertise in support of the public good;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the dedication, professionalism, and patriotism of the public servants of the United States who fulfill their constitutional oath and deliver essential services to the American people;

(2) recognizes the indispensable role of public servants in strengthening the American economy, protecting the safety and security of the public; safeguarding individual rights, and sustaining the foundations of democratic self-governance;

(3) honors the contributions of all public servants during Public Service Recognition Week, May 3 through May 9, 2026, and throughout the year; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe Public Service Recognition Week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor and acknowledge the service of those who work on their behalf.