

Public Service is Making a Community Impact

A career in public service goes beyond just serving your community – it gives you the opportunity to personally make a positive impact on people's lives. From courthouses to hospitals, there is a wide variety of environments this industry offers. Many times, these roles do come with visibility as it encompasses community service, positive impact and public accountability.

Some believe a career in public service is exclusive to government work or positions that have limited pay. However, this industry report shows there is a wide variety of occupations that allow you to reach personal financial goals and career satisfaction.

A significant aspect of public service involves working in public safety.

Public safety provides a proactive as well as reactive approach to protecting individuals as part of local, state and national jurisdictions. Jobs in this sector are typically extensions of government entities who are tasked with keeping the public safe from harm, including anything from widespread disasters to individual crimes. Public safety organizations include law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services.

This industry report highlights jobs within this sector, including crime prevention to response and aid. Occupations in this field include firefighters, police officers, lawyers, security guards and paramedics. Some positions may be funded through government specific grants to address specific local issues, while others are obtained through public election.

FAST FACTS

36,100+ employed in the sector in the region

\$77,811 average wage per worker in Northeast Florida

Employers range from Police Departments to Paramedics, Fire & Rescue to Fish & Wildlife

TOP EMPLOYERS IN THE REGION



City of Jacksonville

7,910 employees



Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

3,500 employees



St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

690 employees

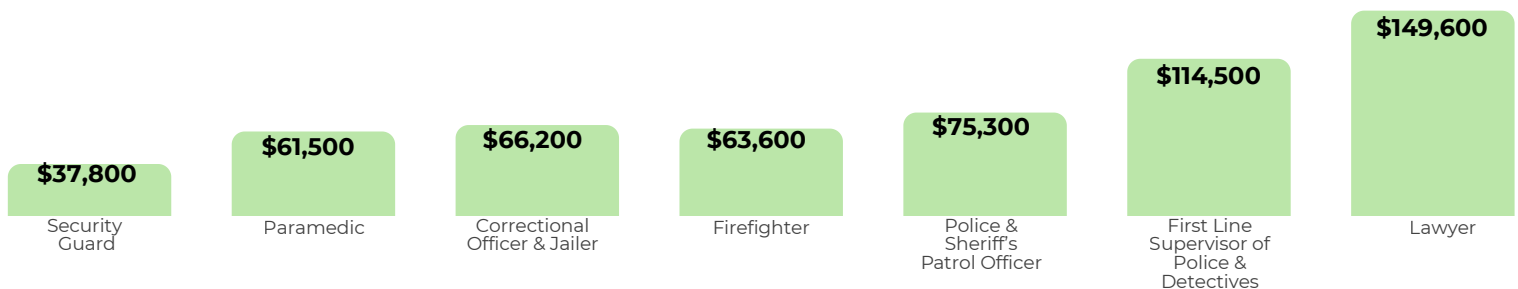


Clay County Sheriff's Office

380 employees

AVERAGE WAGES

Entry-Senior Level



Source: JobsEQ, 2026

Talent Pipeline

Regional colleges & degree/certificate programs with Public Service (or related) concentrations

- Edward Waters University
- Florida State College at Jacksonville
- Jacksonville University
- Keiser University
- St. Johns River State College
- University of North Florida
- Flagler College
- University of Florida (Graduate Campus)

Graduate Level

- Criminal Justice (MACJ or MSCJ)
- Education, Policy and Advocacy (MA)
- Homeland Security & Emergency Management (MA)
- Juris Doctor
- Law (MS)
- Public Administration (MPA)

ADVANCED DEGREE

- Lawyer (\$149,600)
- Administrative Law Judge (\$141,200)

Bachelor Level

- Criminal Justice or Criminology (BA)
- Criminal Justice Applied Intelligence Studies
- Forensic Science (BS)
- Political Science
- Psychology (BS or BA)
- Public Safety Management (B.A.S.)
- Sociology

4-YEAR DEGREE

- Emergency Management Director (\$129,200)
- First Line Supervisor of Police & Detectives (\$114,500)
- Forensic Science Technician (\$64,800)

Associate Level

- Criminal Justice (AA)
- Criminal Justice Technology (AS)
- Crime Scene Technology (AS)
- Homeland Security (AA)
- Paralegal Studies (AA or AS)

2-YEAR DEGREE

- Paralegal and Legal Assistant (\$66,000)
- Detective and Criminal Investigator (\$97,600)

Certificate Level

- Correctional Officer
- Crossover From Correctional Officer to Law Enforcement Officer
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Firefighter
- Florida Law Enforcement Academy
- Paramedic

1 YEAR (OR LESS) CERTIFICATE

- Firefighter (\$63,600)
- Emergency Medical Technician & Paramedic (\$43,500)
- Ambulance Driver and Attendant (\$39,400)
- Correctional Officer and Jailer (\$66,200)
- Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officer (\$75,300)

Entry Point

- High school students enrolled in any **one of 13** related Career and Technical Education (CTE) academies or curriculum. This also includes certification opportunities.

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

- Security Guard (\$37,800)
- Dispatcher (\$52,800)

DATA PROVIDED BY JOBSEQ 2026, ONET.ORG, BLS.GOV AND INDEED.COM
This represents a sampling of programs currently being offered. Curriculum is subject to change.

REGIONAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Correctional Officer

Lawyer

Paralegal

Social Service Specialist

Detectives & Investigator

Firefighter

Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officer

Parole Officer

Social & Community Service Manager

Title Examiner

Project Management Specialist

Secretaries & Administrative Assistant

Compliance Officer

File Clerk

Residential Advisor

Bailiff

Bookkeeper

Paramedic

Emergency Medical Technician

Court, Municipal & License Clerk

Management Analyst

PUBLIC SERVICE IS A COMMUNITY ENDEAVOR

Many choose positions in public safety because they have a strong interest in and commitment to keeping people safe. The ways in which people are kept safe have evolved over time. Rather than appearing strictly punitive, those in public safety may be spearheading neighborhood walks, crime watches and neighborhood engagement teams. Public safety is more often viewed as a community endeavor facilitated by those in positions of authority.

Learn more here:



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PARTNERSHIP



JAXUSA TALENT DEVELOPMENT

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Earn Up is powered by JAXUSA Partnership, the private, nonprofit division of JAX Chamber that is Jacksonville's regional economic development initiative overseeing the efforts of the seven counties of Northeast Florida. Earn Up also works closely with CareerSource Northeast Florida to ensure that employers have the best assistance or any pertinent workforce needs.