



United States Department of the Interior
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: Accountant, GS-510-11/12
OST-05-009

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER:

OPENING DATE: October 26, 2004
CLOSING DATE: November 16, 2004

FULL PERFORMANCE LEVEL: GS-12
AREA OF CONSIDERATION: All Sources

SALARY: GS-11 \$48,947 - \$63,629
GS-12 \$58,665 - \$76,261

LOCATION: Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST), Deputy Special Trustee – Trust Services, Division of Trust Funds Accounting, Branch of Accounting Processing, Albuquerque, NM

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER: 505-816-1021

WHO MAY APPLY: Current Federal employees occupying Career or Career-Conditional Appointments, permanent employees in the Excepted Service who are entitled to Indian Preference, former Federal employees with reinstatement eligibility, individuals who are eligible for reemployment under Agency Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP), individuals who are eligible to be appointed based upon Indian Preference, and veterans who are preference eligibles or who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service (documentation of eligibility must be submitted with the initial application).

INDIAN PREFERENCE POLICY: In accordance with the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 USC 472), when filling vacancies by promotion, reassignment, initial appointment, transfer, or reinstatement, priority in selection will be given to Indian candidates who present proof of eligibility for Indian preference. Verification form No. BIA-4432 must be provided with the application of a candidate who claims Indian preference unless the tribe has made a specific waiver. Consideration can only be given to non-Indian applicants (status or reinstatement) in the absence of qualified Indian preference eligibles.

This position has known promotion potential, and therefore, a subsequent career promotion is permissible.

Relocation expenses will **NOT** be paid.

STATEMENT OF DUTIES: The position is supervised by the Chief, Branch of Accounting Processing. The mission of OST is to assure the highest level of accuracy, responsiveness, and services in the collection, investment, and disbursement of all judgment awards, special acts, and income from trust resources belonging to Native Americans. As a professional Accountant, the incumbent is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the maintenance of trust accounts managed by the OST. Develops and maintains policies and procedural guidance for recording, investing, reporting, disbursing, and controlling

trust funds. Reviews, analyzes, and evaluates the accuracy of accounting activity and reports on its conformity to established accounting principles and regulatory compliance. Retrieves and reviews data from a variety of automated systems including Department of Treasury CashLink, Electronic Certification System (ECS), and Pacer System 90. Uses spreadsheet and database software programs to complete projects regarding account maintenance. Researches legal decisions and other findings to respond to accounting policy questions. Conducts internal control reviews to ensure the proper handling of trust funds. Oversees the preparation of recurring and special reports as requested by other agencies.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must meet the qualification requirements contained in the Office of Personnel Management Qualification Standards for General Schedule Positions. All qualification requirements and time-in-grade requirements (Federal employees) must be met within 30 calendar days after the closing date of this announcement in order to receive consideration for this position. Applicants' qualifications will be evaluated solely on the information submitted by them in their applications.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Degree: Accounting; or a degree in a related field such as Business Administration, Finance, or Public Administration that includes or was supplemented by 24 semester hours in Accounting. The 24 hours may include up to 6 hours of credit in Business Law. (The term "Accounting" means "Accounting and/or Auditing" in this standard. Similarly, "Accountant" should be interpreted, generally, as "Accountant and/or Auditor.")

OR

- B. A combination of education and experience – at least 4 years of experience in Accounting, or an equivalent combination of Accounting experience, college-level education, and training that provided professional Accounting knowledge. The applicant's background must also include at least one of the following:
1. Twenty-four semester hours in Accounting or Auditing courses of appropriate type and quality. This can include up to 6 hours of Business Law.
 2. A certificate as Certified Public Accountant or a Certified Internal Auditor, obtained through written examination.

OR

3. Completion of the requirements for a degree that included substantial course work in Accounting or Auditing, e.g., 15 semester hours, but that does not fully satisfy the 24 semester hour requirement of paragraph A, provided that; (a) the applicant has worked at the full performance level in Accounting, Auditing or a related field, e.g., valuation engineering or financial institution examining; (b) a panel of at least two higher-level professional Accountants or Auditors has determined that the applicant has demonstrated a good knowledge of Accounting and of related and underlying fields that equals in breadth, depth, currency, and level of advancement that which is normally associated with successful completion of the 4-year course of study described in paragraph A; and (c) except for literal nonconformance to the requirements of 24 semester hours in Accounting, the applicant's education, training, and experience fully meet the specified requirements.

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to meeting the basic requirements, applicants must have at least one year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level, as described for each grade below:

For GS-11: Specialized experience equivalent to the GS-9 level is defined as duties which include assisting in the development and maintenance of policies and procedural guidance for recording, investing, reporting, disbursing, and controlling trust funds. Retrieves and reviews data from a variety of automated systems, and uses spreadsheet and database software programs to complete projects for accounts maintenance. Reviews, analyzes, and evaluates the accuracy of accounting activities and reports, ensuring conformity to established accounting principles and regulations. Completed work is spot-checked for compliance with established procedures. **OR** 3 years of progressively higher graduate level education leading to a Ph.D. *or* a Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree.

For GS-12: Specialized experience equivalent to the GS-11 level is defined as demonstrating independence in performing all duties which include developing and maintaining policies and procedural guidance for recording, investing, reporting, disbursing, and controlling trust funds. Retrieves and reviews data from a variety of automated systems, and uses spreadsheet and database software programs to complete projects for accounts maintenance. Reviews, analyzes, and evaluates the accuracy of accounting activities and reports, ensuring conformity to established accounting principles and regulations. Completed work is reviewed for soundness of overall approach and effectiveness in meeting requirements.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES, SKILLS, AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS (KASOCs):

Applicants should address the following factors, in a narrative form, on a separate sheet of paper. This supplemental information will be the principal basis for determining whether or not an applicant is highly qualified for this position. Applicants may expand upon the information that is provided in their application and, should consider appropriate work experience, outside activities, awards, training, and education for each of the items listed below.

1. Knowledge of the principles, standards, methods, procedures and theory of professional accounting.
2. Ability to use automated accounting, processing, and management information systems.
3. Knowledge of financial regulations, laws, and guidelines concerning trust fund accounting.
4. Ability to communicate orally and in writing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Individuals who have special priority selection rights under the Agency Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) must be well qualified for the position to receive consideration for special priority selection. CTAP and ICTAP eligibles will be considered well qualified if they meet the following: OPM qualification standards for the position; all selective factors, where applicable; special qualifying conditions that OPM has approved for the position; is physically qualified with reasonable accommodation, where appropriate, to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position upon entry; and is rated by the organization at least at the middle level

of a three-level rating system on all quality ranking factors.

Federal employees seeking Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) eligibility must submit proof that they meet the requirements of 5 CFR 330.605 (a) for CTAP or 5 CFR 330.704 (a) for ICTAP. This includes a copy of the agency notice, which establishes the applicant's eligibility for the program, a copy of their most recent performance rating and a copy of their most recent SF-50 noting current position, grade level, and duty location. Please annotate your application to reflect that you are applying as a CTAP/ICTAP eligible.

This is not a Testing Designated Position.

5 U.S.C. 3303, Hatch Act Amendments of 1993, bars Executive Branch Agencies from accepting or considering prohibited political recommendations for Federal jobs. Any such recommendations received will be returned to the sender. Federal employees who request such a recommendation may be subject to disciplinary action.

Vacancy announcements for the Office of Special Trustee are accessible from the Office of Personnel Management Webpage www.usajobs.opm.gov.

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Within the scope of Indian Preference, if applicable, selection for this position will be made solely on the basis of merit, fitness, and qualifications without regard to race, sex, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, non-disqualifying handicap conditions, sexual orientation, or any other non-merit factors.

This Agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the Agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE.

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians

**SUPERVISORY APPRAISAL OF DEMONSTRATED
PERFORMANCE OR POTENTIAL**

Announcement No. OST-05-009

PLEASE HAVE THIS APPRAISAL COMPLETED BY YOUR SUPERVISOR AND SUBMIT WITH YOUR APPLICATION, (If the appraisal is submitted directly by the Supervisor, the applicant will be permitted to review and/or obtain a copy of the appraisal upon request.)

Name of Applicant: _____ Position: Accountant, GS-510-11/12

Basis of Appraisal				RANKING FACTORS (Knowledge, Abilities, Skills, and Other Characteristics)	Level of Performance			
Check one					Please Check as appropriate:			
Outside Activities	On-the-Job Performance	Formal Training	Unable to Appraise		4	3	2	1
				1. Knowledge of the principles, standards, methods, procedures and theory of professional accounting.				
				2. Ability to use automated accounting, processing, and management information systems.				
				3. Knowledge of financial regulations, laws, and guidelines concerning trust fund accounting.				
				4. Ability to communicate orally and in writing.				

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians

**SUPERVISORY APPRAISAL OF DEMONSTRATED
PERFORMANCE OR POTENTIAL**

Announcement No. OST-05-009

NARRATIVE: BRIEFLY EVALUATE THE CANDIDATE'S OVERALL ABILITY TO PERFORM THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION. NARRATIVE COMMENTS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL EVALUATIONS.

IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU MAKING THIS APPRAISAL? (Please \checkmark as appropriate)

Present Immediate Supervisor Present 2nd Level Supervisor Other

(Specify)

Former Immediate Supervisor Former 2nd Level Supervisor

Period During Which You Supervised the Applicant:

From:

To:

Appraiser:

(Signature)

(Date)

(Phone No.)

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS
APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

Mail applications to: OST Servicing Personnel Office, 4400 Masthead Street NE, Suite 185, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87109. **For further information, please call:** (505) 816-1021.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS. If application is submitted by mail, it must be postmarked by the closing date of the announcement and received within five (5) business days after the closing date to receive consideration. Hand delivered applications must be received by the closing date. Applications mailed using Government postage and/or envelopes will not be accepted.

The following must be submitted for consideration for this position:

1. Written application for employment: Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF-612), Application for Federal Employment (SF-171), Resume, or other format, including all the information listed below:
2. Verification of Indian Preference (BIA-4432), if applicable.
3. Verification of Veterans Preference (DD-214), if applicable.
4. Copy of the most current Notification of Personnel Action (SF-50), for verification of reinstatement or transfer eligibility (Only current and former Federal employees).
5. Applicant Background Survey (DI-1935) (Submission of this form is voluntary. This information will be used solely to review compliance with Federal law. Consideration for this job will not be affected by failure to submit this form.)
6. College Transcripts if you are using education (individually or in combination with experience) to qualify for this position.

In addition, while not required, it is recommended that applicants address the specific Knowledge, Abilities, Skills, and Other Characteristics (KASOCs) listed on the vacancy announcement that is necessary for successful performance of the work. It is recommended that you provide a narrative statement for each KASOC addressing how your education, experience, training, and awards relate to these KASOCs to show how you are highly qualified for this position.

Please have a Supervisory Appraisal of Demonstrated Performance or Potential completed by your supervisor and submit with your application. Although appraisals will be used in ranking, no candidate will be screened out automatically for failure of their supervisor to complete an appraisal.

Your written application for employment must include the following:

Announcement number, title, series, and grade of the job for which you are applying.

Indication of the locations for which you are interested if more than one location is specified in the vacancy announcement.

Personal Information: Complete name, mailing address (with ZIP code), telephone numbers (daytime and evening), social security number, and citizenship information. If applying under a special employment program, identify program (veterans' preference, reinstatement, handicapped appointment eligibility) and include appropriate qualifying documentation (DD-214, SF-50, etc.)

Educational Information: High School name, city, state (ZIP code, if known), and date of diploma or GED; college/university name, city, state (with ZIP code), declared major, dates attended, and type of degree and date received; graduate school name, city, state (with ZIP code), major subject, dates attended, and type of degree and date received. If no degree was received, show credits earned (identify whether in quarters or semesters). Unless otherwise stated in this announcement, certified transcripts are not required.

Work Experience: Supply the following information for the paid and non-paid work you have performed that qualify you for this job: (a) job title (title, series, and grade, if Federal), (b) statement of major duties and accomplishments, employer's name and mailing address, (c) supervisor's complete name and telephone number, (d) month and year of starting and ending dates, (e) number of hours worked per week, and (f) salary. Indicate if we may contact your current supervisor.

Other Qualifications related to this job: Courses (title and year), relevant skills (other languages, computer skills, mechanical skills, typing speed), and current professional certificates and licenses (identify issuing authority and date). You may also note any job related honors, awards, and special accomplishments, but **DO NOT** send documents (letters of commendation, newspaper clippings).

Senior Executive Service (SES) recruitment only: Provide copy of Candidate Development Program Certificate, if applicable.

Unless otherwise stated elsewhere in this announcement, applications will be accepted from individuals with competitive status, with Indian Preference, severely handicapped individuals (regardless of competitive status), Veterans Readjustment Appointment (VRA) eligibles (through GS-11) and veterans with compensable disability of 30% or more, and others eligible for appointment under special appointing authorities. Veterans who are preference eligibles or who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service may apply. Documentation of eligibility must be submitted with the initial application. Please indicate if you are applying under one of these authorities and submit appropriate documentation (DD-214; SF-15; required proof of entitlement such as the Veterans Administration letter, etc.)

Status candidates who wish to be considered under both merit promotion and excepted appointment procedures must submit two (2) complete applications. When only one (1) application is received from a status candidate, it will be considered only under merit promotion procedures.

A background security investigation will be required for all new hires. Appointment will be subject to the applicant's successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.

As a condition of employment, male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must certify that they have registered with the Selective Service System, or are exempt from having to do so under Selective Service law.

U.S. citizenship is required.

All new employees of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians are required to identify a financial institution for direct deposit of pay.

All federal employees are required to serve an initial probationary period. Failure to complete the probationary period successfully can result in your separation from Federal service.

If you are selected for a supervisory or managerial position, you must serve a probationary period. Failure to complete the probationary period successfully can result in return to your former position, or to a position of no lower grade and pay than the one you left to accept the supervisory or managerial position.

Your application contains information subject to the Privacy Act (P.L. 93-579, 5 U.S.C. 552a). The information is used to determine qualifications for employment, and is authorized under U.S.C., Title 5, Sections 3303 and 3361.

In accordance with 18 U.S.C. 1719 and 39 U.S.C. 3201 SEQ., applications will not be accepted from applicants using franked Government envelopes, postage-paid Agency envelopes, or metered mail.

The Department of the Interior is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Within the scope of Indian Preference (where applicable), selection for positions will be made solely on the basis of merit, fitness and qualifications without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, age, marital status, national origin, non-disqualifying handicap conditions, or any other non-merit factor.

This Agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the Agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.