

Job Hunting From Afar: Tips and Suggestions

A long-distance job search can be challenging, but if you are interested in establishing yourself in another city, now is an excellent time to do it. Here are some tips to help you find new opportunities and new contacts so that you can maximize your chances of success!

Target your search

The first step is deciding where you want to look: searching for a job in five or more different cities can be overwhelming, and you won't do yourself any good by searching all jobs in every location. Either search for the type of work you're interested in and see what cities come up or, if you know the city you want to work in, then search for jobs by location and type. The point is to come up with your top three location choices and then identify potential opportunities.

Expand your network

The adage is often true: it's not what you know, but who you know. However, what if you don't know anyone in your target city who can be a relevant contact? This is where developing your social and professional networks can assist you. The first step is to let the folks in your network know you are searching for work in a particular location and then nicely ask everyone for contacts they may have in that city. Chances are, someone in your network knows someone in that city who will be willing to talk with you – your network has a network so don't be afraid to cultivate it and explore what someone's old college roommate is doing now, or who they know!

Add a moving date to your resume

Some employers won't consider candidates who don't have a local address on their resume. There are two ways to handle this: first, utilize a friend's address (with permission) until you get your own local address, or, alternatively, include a target move date in the “**other**” section of your resume. By highlighting this, employers will know you are serious about moving. For example, you can include the phrase: Anticipated Arrival in [Seattle]: August 15, 2012

Discuss your move in your cover letter

Your cover letter is a good place to discuss why you are looking for work outside your current geographic location, your anticipated move date, and date(s) when you'll be visiting the area before relocating. For example, your closing paragraph can tell the reader when you plan to be in town and you can politely request to meet and/or speak with them or one of their colleagues during that time.