



Service Dog Training Application

Reeds Service Dogs (RSD) in Minot, North Dakota trains service dogs for clients in need. We are a program that focus' on mental based disabilities. We purchase dogs from breeders, shelters, and small local non-profits to be trained as mental based service dogs. This training takes 6-12 months and offers our clients the ability to have freedom and safety both at home as well as in public. We train dogs to offer services such as Deep Pressure Therapy for clients who have Flashbacks and Dissociation, server panic attacks or someone who may self-harm, "Cover" Commands to protect PTSD clients from triggers and many other commands.

RSD Program is designed to teach the Client how to work with and recognize thru the dog's body language and physical alert, such as a nudge, touch, etc., to respond proactively to external or internal triggers. This is a different approach to many Service Dog organizations, by having the person reacting to a situation, enlist the aid of the dog. The ability of the human and the canine to work together is the basis of developing a successful Service Dog Team.

The minimum number of hours for the training and testing of the RSD is 4,200 hours over the 6 month period with an additional 3 weeks (120 hours) of training done with Client and SDC. The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP) minimum requirement is 120 hours total of training within a 6-month period.

The RSD program focuses on the appropriate behavior of the Service Dog Candidate (SDC), in order to pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC), AKC Community Canine Citizen (CCC) and follows the NASR Public Access Temperament Test (PATT),

*** SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOU WILL RECEIVE A SERVICE DOG**

*** Preliminary Application Procedure (Step #1)**

The first step in applying for a service dog from RSD is to fill out and submit the preliminary application attached on our website. If you are unable to fill out the application, please contact RSD and a paper copy can be sent to you. Before submitting a preliminary application, please review the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicant must be 12 years of age or older and possess the physical and developmental capacity to handle a service dog independently.
- Applicant must reside within the United States and be able to travel to the RSD campus in Minot, North Dakota, for training.
- If applying for a PTSD service dog, applicant must meet both of the following criteria:
 - have an official PTSD diagnosis from a qualified and licensed mental health professional.
 - be actively engaged in therapy for the PTSD diagnosis.
- Applicant must present a verifiable medical need for a service dog and understand RSD may not be able to train a dog specific to their needs.
- Applicant must be available and willing to communicate with RSD Training staff throughout the application and placement process.
- Applicant must demonstrate proficiency in handling a service dog at home and in a variety of public environments, while managing the dog's safety, behavior and working skills.
- Applicant will be required to supply proof of financial resources sufficient for the care of a service dog, including veterinarian care. The purchase/approval of a RSD in total comes to \$25,000. Grants and funding is offered to applicants that are approved, but not guaranteed to cover the total cost.
- Preliminary Applications are reviewed monthly. If the applicant meets RSD's selection criteria, an approval letter will be sent out along with a full application packet.

Full Application Procedure (Step #2)

–APPLICANTS ARE ONLY ELIGIBLE FOR THIS NEXT STEP IF THEIR PRELIMINARY APPLICATION IS APPROVED AND HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY RSD’S TEAM.

The second step in applying for a service dog is to return a full application to RSD – including all necessary signatures and a **non-refundable \$50.00 application fee**. Applications returned without the \$50 fee will not be processed.

Once all supporting documentations for the full application has been received, an independent team of Licensed Therapist review the application and determines final eligibility. The team bases their decision regarding service dog placement per the following criteria:

- is a service dog necessary for the applicant so as to mitigate the applicant’s disability?
- can a service dog perform enough specific tasks so as benefit the applicant?
- can the applicant properly care for and handle a service dog

Notification, Travel and Training Procedures

Following the review of the full application, the applicant will be notified by mail as to whether their request for a service dog has been approved or denied or if the therapist team needs additional information before making their decision. Approval of the application by the therapist does not guarantee the applicant will receive a service dog. RSD reserves the right to terminate the application and placement process at any time.

- If approved for a service dog, RSD’S team will schedule the applicant for their Team Training at RSD’s Minot, North Dakota, campus. Applicant will also be sent a welcome packet detailing all aspects of Team Training and the placement process. NOTE: “Team” denotes the pairing of an applicant with a service dog.
- Team Training is a minimum, mandatory three (3) weeks, and applicants must successfully complete their Team Training Course before leaving campus with their service dog. It is highly recommended to purchase travel insurance in conjunction with any airline or train tickets, in the event Team Training needs to be extended or cancelled. Arrival to campus and participation in Team Training does not guarantee an applicant will leave campus with a service dog. RSD reserves the right to stop placement at any time.
- All applicants traveling to the RSD campus are responsible for making their own travel arrangements, including ground transportation and attendant care (if necessary). Off-campus accommodations will need to be made prior to arrival and will be the sole financial responsibility of the applicant.
- Prior to the applicant’s arrival on campus, RSD will conduct either an in-home visit or a video tour of the applicant’s home.
- Each applicant must be prepared to meet his/her own financial needs during Team Training, including outings and any equipment needs or modifications.
- Responsibility of the applicant are welcome to attend during Team Training at the discretion of the applicant as well as the RSD training department.

Team Sponsor

Each Team is required to have a sponsor; this is not a financial sponsor but rather a mentor or advocate who will look after the best interest of the dog and report back to RSD

- The sponsor has to be one or more individuals outside the applicant's immediate family who will agree to periodically check on the status of the Team and who will also agree to look after the dog should something happen to the applicant.
- The sponsor is not asked to intervene or take action unless an emergency exists, or concerns arise that may include:
 - the dog is not being cared for properly, including veterinary care and vaccinations.
 - the dog is not being used as per the contract, including established safekeeping practices.
 - the applicant is not following training protocols.
 - the applicant is experiencing additional medical/mental issues that place the dog at risk.
 - the applicant talks of surrendering or abandoning the dog.

Placement Interruption Procedure

RSD is involved with the Team for the life of the dog; therefore, RSD reserves the right to deny an applicant or terminate a placement at any time before, during or after Team Training and graduation. Grounds for termination include, but are not limited to:

- applicant fails to handle the service dog according to RSD requirements
- applicant fails the Public Access Test required for the Team's graduation
- applicant handles his or her service dog in an abusive or negligent manner
- applicant becomes unable to care for the service dog
- applicant is not using the service dog as intended
- placement will jeopardize the dog's health, safety, or well-being
- RSD has grounds to believe the dog will not be able to meet the applicant's needs Post-Placement Procedure

After graduation, applicants will be expected to provide on-going information regarding the dog's work habits and public behavior. Applicants will be expected to make themselves available for aftercare calls and are required to meet RSD's criteria for Team certification renewal.

Applicants will be expected to sign a release for their health provider(s), giving RSD access to contact them quarterly for the purpose of follow-up and to document any improvements in physical, emotional, and social interactions as a result of a service dog.

Teams are required to return to campus at regular intervals post-graduation for public access recertification and additional training (if necessary). The recertification schedule is as follows:

- within 12 months following graduation
- every 24 months after the first year, Failure to be compliant with required follow-up could result in repossession of the service dog or being declined for a successor dog placement.

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Laws & Guidelines

North Dakota Law states:

25-03-01 North Dakota Century Code:

"service animal" means any dog trained to do work, perform tasks, or provide assistance for the benefit of an individual with a disability. The term includes a dog trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability, pull a wheelchair, lend balance support, retrieve dropped objects, or provide assistance in a medical crisis.

25-13-02.1. North Dakota Century Code:

Trainer and a service animal in training

- Admission to public places.

1. A trainer with a service animal in training may enter any place of public accommodation, common carrier, facility of a health care provider, and any place to which the public is generally invited, without being required to pay an extra charge for the service animal in training, provided:

- a. The trainer notifies an onsite manager that a service animal in training is being brought onto the premises.
- b. The trainer wears a photo identification card issued by a nationally recognized service animal training program; and
- c. The trainer is liable for any damage done to the premises or facility by the service animal in training.

2. Upon receiving notice as provided in subsection 1, the onsite manager may not deny admission to the trainer and the service animal in training without good cause.

25-13-04. North Dakota Century Code:

Penalty for interfering or denying use of facilities.

Any person who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public places or facilities enumerated in section 25-13-02 or otherwise interferes with the rights of an individual Page No. 1 who is blind or visually impaired, or with the rights of an individual who is accompanied by a service animal, is guilty of a class A misdemeanor. This section does not apply to a denial of admission under section 25-13-02.1.

American Disability Act (ADA) States:

Service animals are defined as dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities. Service animals are working animals, not pets. The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability. Dogs whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals under the ADA.

Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls.

Under the Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA), a service animal is "any animal that is individually trained or able to provide assistance to a person with a disability, or any animal that assists persons with disabilities by providing emotional support."

ADA Disability Requirements

Under the ADA, you must fall under one of the three definition prongs. 1. A disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. 2. If an individual has a history or record of such an impairment. 3. If an individual is considered disabled under the first definition of disability, i.e. if an employer believes that you have such a disability, even if you don't.

Even if a condition is an impairment, it is not automatically a "disability." To rise to the level of a "disability," an impairment must "substantially limit" one or more major life activities of the individual.

What major life activities are limited by mental impairments (ADA)?

The major life activities limited by impairments differ from person to person. There is no exhaustive list of major life activities. For some people, mental impairments restrict major life activities such as learning, thinking, concentrating, interacting with others, caring for oneself, speaking, performing manual tasks, or working. Sleeping is also a major life activity that may be limited by mental impairments.

Example A: An employee has had major depression for almost a year. He has been intensely sad and socially withdrawn (except for going to work), has developed serious insomnia, and has had severe problems concentrating. This employee has an impairment (major depression) that significantly restricts his ability to interact with others, sleep, and concentrate. The effects of this impairment are severe and have lasted long enough to be substantially limiting.

Physical Impairments:

A physical impairment is a physiological disorder or condition, anatomical loss or cosmetic disfiguration the impacts one or more of these body systems(including but not limited to):

- Neurological
- Special-sense organs
- Musculoskeletal
- Digestive
- Cardiovascular
- Respiratory
- Reproductive
- Hemic and/or Lymphatic
- Endocrine
- Skin
- Genitourinary
- Cerebral Palsy
- Orthopedic, Speech, and Hearing Impairments
- Heart Disease
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Visual Impairments
- Diabetes

Mental Impairments

A mental impairment is any psychological or mental disorder, such as emotional or mental illness, mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, and learning disabilities (including but not limited to):

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Military Induced Anxiety Depression Syndrome (MIADS)
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Major Depression
- Bipolar Disorder
- Anxiety or panic disorders
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Epilepsy
- Mental Retardation
- Drug Addiction
- HIV Infection
- Specific Learning Disabilities
- Schizophrenia
- Personality Disorders

Conditions not considered as Disabilities

- Active use of Illegal drugs
- Cancer
- Multiple Sclerosis

Examples of Service Animal Work or Tasks

- Guiding people who are blind or who live with low vision
- Providing non-violent protection or rescue work
- Pulling a wheelchair
- Helping someone during a seizure
- Retrieving items such as medicine, phone, keys, telephone
- Providing physical support and assistance for people who need help with balance and stability
- Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disability by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors

Training Outline

Different breeds are designed to do different tasks and each breed of dog will go about doing the same job in different ways. A Labrador Retriever may be better at getting the remote control than a Chihuahua. Whereas a Chihuahua may be better at being petted and offer snuggling to relieve tension than the bouncing Border Collie. We primarily train German Shepherds from Czech Republic blood lines. These dogs either come from service dog lineage or boarder patrol lineage that are bred to work and please

When your dog is wearing the VEST, it is all about work and learning, and no playing. When you are finished, remove the VEST and play all you want. This way the dog knows what you expect from your dog.

Training methods are based on balanced training with a focus on positive reinforcement with a treat and a marker to train the dog. Basic commands are taught to all SDC. Once paired with a client, SDC will be taught specific commands to offer assistance to the client.

BASIC/COMMON COMMANDS:

- (1) Yes (Reward Marker)
- (2) Sit
- (3) Down
- (4) Place
- (5) All Done (settle)
- (6) On By
- (7) Wait/Stay
- (8) Here/Come (recall)
- (9) Leave It
- (10) Touch
- (11) Back
- (12) Help
- (13) Cover
- (14) Easy (slow)
- (15) Left/Right
- (16) Stop
- (17) Walk
- (18) Heel (left Side)
- (19) Side (Right Side)

Please note: Commands are to be given ONLY ONE command, Not Multiple Commands!!!!!!

Training Phases

The training of our dogs is performed on a daily basis by our professionals and assistant trainers. Trainer's work with the dogs in the different phases: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced and Testing. Dogs in the beginning phase work on basic obedience, socialization, and kennel manners. The intermediate phase works on public access training including taking the dog into social situations where dogs ARE allowed. The intermediate training also works on task training such as cover, block and brace. Dogs in the advanced phase train in public settings that are limited to service dogs only. The trainers work with the SDC in a higher stress environment and expose the dogs to higher distraction. The final phase covers the training of the client and SDC along with all required testing.

Phase 1: (7-8 weeks)

The basic training phase focuses on basic obedience commands, appropriate behavior in public as well as following the AKC Canine Good Citizen test. Usually, 2 hours daily is set aside for task training for 6 months and results in 350 hours of direct training time.

Phase 2: (7-8 weeks)

The social interaction phase is the second part of the service dog program focuses on social interaction skills including pet stores, Home Depot, parks and other local public settings where dogs ARE allowed. The trainer also will start to work on specialty commands and tasks. During this phase the trainer focuses on training the SDC for 3 to 4 Quality of Life tasks for the Client, such as but not limited to; Deep Pressure Therapy, finding Keys, or standing behind the Client while at the checkout counter (cover). During socialization the Trainer will teach the SDC not to focus on other dogs and be around other people.

Phase 3: (6-9 weeks)

The public access training in the thirds and last phase of the service dog training. This training includes taking the SDC thru public area of department of grocery stores, shopping, dining, or other such business allowing the Person with a disability, to be protected by the Right of Access into all areas serving the general public. This training may last 2 hours daily for a period of 4-1/2 months, resulting in 180 hours of training time.

Phase 4: (3 weeks)

After all above hours have been completed the Trainer will set up final training and testing dates requiring of 3 weeks totaling 120 hours. Client will be brought into the facility for the first 2 weeks to learn how to work with their SDC. The final week will be done in public setting to allow the client to understand their dog. The final day will be do their official testing for all the levels (CGC,CCC,PATT)

Reeds K9 Training Service Dog Completion Testing

Canine Good Citizen

1. Accepting a Friendly Stranger
 - a. Evaluator approaches and pretends to shake hands with handler (hands 6-12" apart) Evaluator does not touch the dog
2. Sitting Politely for Petting
 - a. Evaluator pets dog; dog must show no shyness or resentment.
3. Appearance and grooming
 - a. Evaluator inspects dog, combing or brushes lightly. Examine ears and both front feet
4. Out for a Walk
 - a. Handler takes dog for a short walk, demonstrating a right turn, left turn, about turn, and stop
5. Walking Through a Crowd
 - a. Handler and dog walk close to several people. Dog may show casual interest but not jump.
6. Sit and down on Cue/Staying in Place
 - a. Handler shows dog can sit & lay on command. Handler chooses a position, leaves the dog in position and walks to the end of a 20ft line and returns immediately.
7. Coming When Called
 - a. With dog still on the 20ft line, handler walks out 10 ft away and calls the dog.
8. Reaction to Another Dog
 - a. Two handlers and dogs approach, pretend to shake hands (hands 6-12" apart), exchange pleasantries, then move on.
9. Reaction to Distraction
 - a. Distractions are presented; dog may not panic or show aggression
10. Supervised Separation
 - a. Handler goes out of sight for 3 minutes. Dog is held on a 6ft leash by evaluator.

Community Canine

1. Dog stands, sits or lies down and waits under control while the owner: sits at the registration table and fills out paperwork, or, if the test is done in the community, dog waits while the owner sits and has a snack or visits with another person (e.g., at a park)

2. Walks on a loose leash in a natural situation (not in a ring) — does not pull.

- left turn
- right turn
- stop
- fast and slow pace

3. Walks on loose leash through a crowd:

at a show or in class, this item is tested in a real crowd, not in a ring in the community, dog walks on sidewalk, through a crowd at a community fair, park, on a trail, through a busy hallway, etc.

4. Dog walks past distraction dogs present; does not pull.

This item may be tested along with #3 if there are dogs in the crowd, etc.

at a show or class, dog walks by dogs waiting in the crowd—dogs 2 ft. apart in the community, dog walks by other dogs on a trail, sidewalk, in a hallway, etc.

5. Sit-stay in small group (two other people with dogs, total of 3 people, 3 dogs in group).

6. Dog allows person who is carrying something (backpack, computer bag, etc.) to approach and pet it. “May I pet your dog?” (Item is placed on floor/ground before the person pets the dog)

7. “Leave it.” Dog walks by food and follows owner instructions, “Leave it.”

This can be food placed by the evaluator on the floor or ground in a food dish with a wire cover as in Rally.

8. Down or sit stay — distance (owner’s choice).

Dog is on 20–ft line, owner walks away with back to dog, picks up an item (e.g., backpack, training bag, clipboard, folder etc.) placed on the floor/chair/ground by the evaluator and returns to the dog.

9. Recall with distractions present (coming when called). Handler goes out 20–ft. *(off center) and calls dog.

Dog is on the 20–ft. line from #8 above.

Handler

Distraction



Dog

10. Dog will sit or stand stay (owner’s choice) while owner enters/exits a doorway or narrow passageway.

Owner calls dog through door when ready.

Owner may also choose to:

send the dog through first and have the dog wait for the owner, or

the owner may choose to have the dog go through the doorway at the owner’s side.

Whichever method is used, the dog must not pull the owner and must be under good control. Think of the handler having the leash in one hand and a cup of coffee in the other.

Doorway or gate can be real or simulated with ring gates, two chairs, or a natural passageway (e.g., entrance to trail) in the community.

NSAR Public Access Test for Service Dogs

1. CONTROLLED UNLOAD OUT OF A VEHICLE:
 - a. The service dog must wait until released before coming out of the vehicle. Once outside, it must wait quietly unless otherwise instructed by the Individual. The service dog may not run around, be off lead, or ignore commands. Essentially, the service dog should be unobtrusive and unloaded in the safest manner possible.
2. APPROACHING A BUILDING:
 - a. After unloading, the service dog should stay in a relative heel position and not forge ahead or lag behind. The service dog should not display a fear of cars or traffic noises and must display a relaxed attitude. When you stop for any reason, the service dog should also stop.
3. CONTROLLED ENTRY THROUGH A DOORWAY:
 - a. Upon entering a building, the service dog should not wander off or seek attention from the public. The service dog should wait quietly until you are fully inside, and then should calmly walk beside you. The service dog must not pull or strain against the lead or try to push its way past the individual but should wait patiently while entry is completed.
4. HEELING THROUGH A BUILDING:
 - a. Once inside a building, you and your service dog should be able to walk through the area in a controlled manner. The service dog should always be within touching distance where applicable or no greater than a foot away from you. The service dog should not seek public attention or strain against the lead (except in cases where the service dog may be pulling your wheelchair, if applicable). The service dog should readily adjust to speed changes, turn corners promptly, and travel through a crowded area without interacting with the public. In tight quarters, such as store aisles, the service dog must be able to get out of the way of obstacles and not destroy merchandise by knocking it over or by playing with it.
5. SIX FOOT RECALL ON LEAD:
 - a. You should be able to sit your dog, leave it, travel six feet, then turn and call the service dog to you. The service dog should respond promptly and not stop to solicit attention from the public or ignore the command. The service dog should come close enough to you to be readily touched. The recall should be smooth and deliberate without your service dog trudging to you or taking any detours along the way.
6. SITS ON COMMAND:
 - a. Your service dog must respond promptly each time you give it a sit command, with no more than two commands with no extraordinary gestures.
7. DOWNS ON COMMAND:
 - a. After your service dog follows the down command, food should be dropped on the floor. Your service dog should not break the down to go for the food or sniff at the food. You may give verbal and physical corrections to maintain the down, but without any extraordinary gestures. The second down will be executed, and then an adult and child should approach your dog. The service dog should maintain the down and not solicit attention. If the child pets the dog, the service dog must behave appropriately and not break the stay. The individual may give verbal and physical corrections if the service dog begins to break the stay.

Reeds Service Dog

8. NOISE DISTRACTION:

- a. Your service dog may acknowledge nearby noises but may not in any way show aggression or fear. A normal startle reaction is fine (the service dog may jump and or turn), but the service dog should quickly recover and continue along on the heel. The service dog should not become aggressive, begin shaking, etc.

9. RESTAURANT:

- a. While seated at a dining table (restaurant or other suitably alternative location), your service dog should go under the table or, if size prevents that, stay close by the individual. If the service dog is a very small breed and is placed on the seat beside you, it must lie down. The service dog must sit or lie down and may move a bit for comfort during the meal but should not be up and down a lot or need a lot of correction or reminding.

10. OFF LEAD:

- a. While your service dog is on the leash, drop the leash while moving so it is apparent to the dog. You should be able to maintain control of the service dog and get the leash back in its appropriate position. This exercise will vary greatly depending on your disability. The main concern is that the service dog be aware that the leash is dropped, and that the person is able to maintain control of the dog and get the leash back into proper position.

11. CONTROLLED UNIT:

- a. When you leave a building with your service dog on leash, the dog should be in appropriate heel position and not display any fear of vehicle or traffic sounds

Acknowledgements

- If approved to receive a service dog from RSD, I will be required to travel to RSD'S Campus for 3 weeks minimum for training, at my own expenses
- If approved to receive a service dog from RSD, I understand the cost of a service dog is 25,000. There are sometimes grants and fundraising opportunities available for qualified and approved applicants. Available grants are awarded on a first come, first serve basis.
- I understand I must have a medical disability based on documented diagnoses/es (from a qualified, licensed medical professional) that warrants placement of a service dog
- If applying for a PTSD service dog, I must have a PTSD Diagnosis (from a qualified and Licensed medical or mental health professional) and be actively engaged in therapy
- I understand the estimated yearly cost of caring for a service dog is roughly \$2500 and I understand that I am responsible for (and can afford) these expenses.
- If approved, for a service dog from RSD, I will be subject to a criminal background check & home visit prior to the service dog placement
- I have read and fully understand the RSD procedure of application (including eligibility requirements and disclaimers) as described in the Pre- Application documentation
- I understand only completed applications will be considered
- I understand applying for a service dog from RSD does not guarantee I will receive a service dog from this organization
- I have read and understand the policies and procedures set above.
- I understand the types of service dogs trained by RSD and acknowledge that RSD is not accredited for/does not train dogs for individuals with multiple complex physical health issues
- I understand and acknowledge the entire application procedure, and understand I will have to aid RSD in gathering required information including doctors' notes
- I understand and acknowledge the notification, travel, training procedure requirements of RSD, including understanding the requirements of private training for 3 weeks
- I understand the team sponsor Requirements
- I understand the Post Placement Procedure required by RSD
- I understand that RSD Reserves the right to stop the application, training, and/or placement process at any time,

Disclaimers

All applicants will be considered regardless of race, gender, religion, creed, sexual orientation, and ethnic origin. Approved successor dog applicants have priority over first-time applicants. Wait time for training and placement will vary depending on specific needs of applicant and dog availability. RSD reserves the right to stop the application process, training and placement process at any time.

It is illegal to represent your pet as a Service Dog if you do not qualify as disabled. If you have any question concerning the legality of your service dog in relation to compliance with the ADA, or any other laws pertaining to service dogs and the laws regarding access we recommend you contact the Justice Department and/or representatives of your state. If you have additional questions concerning the ADA and service dogs, please call the Department's ADA Information Line at (800) 514-0301 (voice) or (800) 514-0383 (TTY) or visit the ADA Business Connection at <http://www.ada.gov>.