

Finding a job in another city can take up to a year, so as you begin your long distance job search, there are some important things for you to consider. First of all, can you afford to wait that long? If you need employment now, you might look in your area for temporary employment that will help you pay the bills in the meantime. You could even look into consulting work that would pay you a freelance salary until you move. Also consider the time frame you have until you need to move. If you need to be in your new city in six months time, keep in mind that you may need another source of income when you get there if you haven't found your new career yet.

Here are the basics of successful long distance job searching:

1. Research the city.

Find out as much as you can about the place you are going. Look online for sites dedicated to this purpose. Check out all the resources in the new location, including industry, entertainment, cultural, and practical needs. You should feel very confident that the new city will be someplace you can be happy and have a thriving lifestyle.

2. Make at least two trips.

Go to the new location first to check out the surroundings, make some contacts, and investigate housing. On your second trip, you will have completed job interviews and perhaps be finalizing a housing search.

3. Find job opportunities.

Look online for geographic specific job search sites. You should be able to find sites dedicated to the state you wish to move to. You can also research the new area at the library by pulling out a phone book and checking out the listings in your field. Another way to find job opportunities is through the career planning offices of local colleges, which offer guidance to individuals on a daily basis and are up to date on industry trends.

4. Create a contact list.

This list should include several firms you are interested in, plus headhunters and employment offices. Try networking with the list of contacts in your current city to find information on potential openings in the new city. Contact each company on the list and even send your resume and a cover letter, stating your relocation plans and interest in a position should one become available.

5. Ask about relocation packages.

Once you have some interviews lined up, be sure you ask about potential relocation packages. Not all companies will offer this, but some do.