

James Benitez

Cover Letter

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Hiring Manager
Northstar Federal Systems
Washington, DC

Dear Hiring Manager:

I am applying for the Cloud Platform Engineer role at Northstar Federal Systems. I have 11 years of experience building and operating cloud infrastructure for federal health programs, including production landing zones supporting HHS and NIH stakeholders. My work has centered on turning architecture and security standards into platforms that teams can provision, operate, and audit consistently across Azure, AWS, and Google Cloud.

In my current role supporting an NIH research services program, I operate multi-cloud landing zones and maintain Terraform and Bicep modules for accounts, subscriptions, identity, networks, logging, and policy guardrails. I also built GitHub Actions workflows that validate formatting, review plans, run policy checks, and perform security testing before changes reach production. These controls replaced manual console changes with a reviewable process and gave delivery teams a reliable way to create compliant environments.

I have also implemented Azure Virtual Desktop host pools for clinical research and administrative users, connecting conditional access, device compliance, profile storage, and least-privilege assignments. In other federal health environments, I automated DNS and certificate workflows, integrated cloud telemetry with SIEM and SOAR processes, and built API-driven provisioning and secrets-rotation workflows with scoped credentials, retries, and structured logging. I lead quarterly reviews against NIST 800-53, FedRAMP, and CIS controls, then turn findings into tracked remediation work and updated runbooks.

I am a U.S. citizen and eligible to obtain and maintain a Public Trust background investigation. I hold Azure Administrator, AWS SysOps Administrator, Google Cloud Professional Cloud Engineer, and Terraform Associate certifications. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my experience operating secure, automated cloud platforms could support Northstar's federal program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Benitez

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