

**MERIT PROMOTION
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

ABERDEEN AREA INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES
FEDERAL BUILDING, RM. 309, 115-4TH AVENUE S.E.
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57401

ABERDEEN AREA IHS IS A SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT

September 10, 2008

POSITION: Medical Support Assistant (FT3303)
#of positions: 1

LOCATION: PHS Indian Clinic, Business Office Billing Section,
Fort Totten, North Dakota.

BEGINNING SALARY: GS-679-5: \$29,726 - \$38,639 Annual
GS679--6: \$33,135 - \$43,076 Annual

VACANCY NUMBER: NP-08-0070-FT-MPP

OPENING DATE: September 15, 2008

CLOSING DATE: September 19, 2008

Applications and related documents **MUST** be received at the above address by **5:00 p.m.** on the issuance date of the selection roster. For information contact **Brandon Clark** at **(605) 226-7564**. All applications are subject to retention; requests for copies will not be honored. Applications can be faxed to **(605) 226-7668**, **(NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR UNSUCCESSFUL TRANSMISSIONS)**. Applications by e-mail will be accepted. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit a complete application.

E-MAIL TO: brandon.clark@ihs.gov

APPOINTMENT:

Permanent
 Not-To-Exceed The applicant selected for this position may be appointed to either a one year appointment or an appointment in excess of one year, depending on the status of the applicant.

WORK SCHEDULE:

Full-Time
 Part-Time
 Intermittent
 May include weekends and/or evenings

AREA OF CONSIDERATION:

IHS-Wide
 DHHS-Wide
 Commuting Area

REDUCED AREA OF CONSIDERATION: Management determines in advance of the announcement that there is likely to be an adequate number of qualified applicants in the local commuting area.

MOVING: Relocation expenses will not be paid. Employees who wish to relocate to Fort Totten, North Dakota for their own benefit may apply. Outside non-Indian preference candidates will not be considered. If there are no Indian preference eligible candidates within the commuting area and an Indian preference candidate is selected from outside the commuting area, relocation costs will be paid.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

ON-CALL YES NO *call-back duty is defined as irregular or occasional work performed by an employee on a day when the work was not scheduled for the employee. This will require the employee to return to his/her place of employment within the specified timeframes.

- **Must provide AVERAGE HOURS WORKED PER WEEK on application.**
- **Applicants applying for the position may be required to be immunized, for measles and rubella, if he or she provides services or has contact with patients at the service units. Persons born before 1957 are not required to take the measles vaccine or provide proof of immunity. Special consideration may be allowed to individuals who are allergic to a component of a vaccine or have a history of severe reaction to a vaccine or who are currently pregnant.**

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: NO YES to grade(s) GS- 6.

SUPERVISORY/MANAGERIAL: NO YES

may require one year probation

****Employment is contingent on a cleared suitable Background Investigation for the level required for your position. ****

PREFERENCE IN FILLING VACANCIES IS GIVEN TO QUALIFIED INDIAN CANDIDATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INDIAN PREFERENCE ACT (TITLE 25, U.S.C. CODE, SECTION 472 AND 473). THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE HAS A ZERO TOLERANCE SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY, IHS CIRCULAR NO. 95-11, IN PLACE WHICH IT DISSEMINATES TO ITS EMPLOYEES.

WHO MAY APPLY FOR PERMANENT POSITIONS: (1) Federal employees occupying a permanent position who have competitive civil service status or those who acquired comparable status as a result of serving in an IHS excepted service position on an Excepted appointment; (2) Indian Preference eligibles occupying a temporary position or unemployed; (3) Other sources, e.g., positions covered by severely handicapped; Reinstatement eligibles, etc; (4) Current permanent employees with Indian Preference may also apply under the provisions of the Indian Health Service Excepted Service Examining Plan.

Applicants must indicate on their application whether they are applying under the Merit Promotion Plan, Excepted Service Examining Plan, or both. Current IHS employees and those applicants eligible for reinstatement or transfer who do not indicate which procedures they are applying under will be considered under merit promotion only.

"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."

WHO MAY APPLY FOR TEMPORARY POSITIONS: Applications will be accepted from most anyone if the position is temporary and will last one year or less. Applications will also be accepted from Indian Preference applicants if the appointment will be made in excess of one year. Non-Indians may apply for term positions provided he or she has status and the appointment can be made in the competitive service.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The primary purpose of this position is to provide patient accounts billing services and accounts receivable services to the service unit. Analyzes and maintains a portion of the total billing operation for third party programs and acts as an advocate for the Indian Health Service in the collection of alternate resources. Verifies that medical records contain proper documentation in accordance with regulations. Perform other billing duties as assigned. Maintains all Medicaid accounts receivable. Will post all payments to Accounts Receivable. Incumbent is responsible for follow up of all unpaid and pended claims. Will reconcile all Medicaid accounts receivable. Will do all claim adjustments and also all requests for refunds for the Medicaid program. Responsible for filing of Business Office documents. Serves as alternate patient registration clerk on as needed basis.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must meet qualification standards as specified in OPM Operating Manual (Qualification Standards for General Schedule Positions) and/or the Excepted Service Qualification Standard:

GS-5: One (1) year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the GS-4 grade level OR Four (4) years of above high school

GS-6: One (1) year of specialized experience equivalent to at least the next lower grade level.

NOTE: Equivalent combinations of education and experience are qualifying for all grade levels and positions for which both education and experience are acceptable.

Specialized Experience: Experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA's) to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the position to be filled. To be creditable, specialized experience must have been equivalent to at least the next lower grade level.

Examples of Specialized Experience: Bills the applicable agency or insurance company for services provided. Responds to correspondence from requests for information and denied claims. Interviews patients to obtain demographic, insurance and other pertinent patient information. Obtain signatures on documents to enable to bill for alternate resources.

EXCEPTED SERVICE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Same as above.

Your description of work experience, level of responsibility, and accomplishments will be used to determine that you meet these requirements. Applicants who meet the basic qualification requirements and **selective factors, if any, described in this announcement** will be further evaluated by determining the extent to which your work or related experience, education, training, awards, outside activities, and performance appraisal, etc., indicate you possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities described below. All applicants should provide clear, concise examples that show level of accomplishment or degree to which they possess the KSA's either on their application/resume or as a separate attachment. The information provided will be used to determine the "best qualified" candidates.

Failure to submit the supplemental questionnaire will result in not being considered for the position.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE - KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

- Knowledge of the purpose of health records containing confidential data and using office automation software and paper filing systems.
 - Basic knowledge of office automation including word processing in a health care setting.
 - Knowledge, skills and ability for communicating with health care professionals and community members regarding issues of patient care, scheduling appointment and continuity of care.
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LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS: Candidates must meet time-after competitive appointment, time-in-grade, and qualification requirements by the closing date of the vacancy announcement, if applicable.

HOW TO APPLY: Applicants must submit their applications to the Aberdeen Area Indian Health Service, Division of Human Resources,

1. Applicants **MUST** submit ONE of the following: a) OF-612, Optional Application for Federal Employment; b) Resume; or c) any other written application format.
2. Current Performance Rating, if available.
3. Applicants claiming Indian Preference **MUST** submit along with their application, FORM BIA-4432, Verification of Indian Preference. **BIA FORM-4432 IS THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE FORM USED IF CLAIMING INDIAN PREFERENCE IN THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.**
4. If you wish to substitute appropriate education for experience, you **MUST** submit your transcripts along with your application. If your education is appropriate for the position being filled then your education may be substituted for experience. Depending on grade level.
5. For current or former Federal employees, a copy of your latest Notification of Personnel Action (**SF-50B**).
6. **VETERAN'S PREFERENCE CERTIFICATION: Form DD-214** indicating discharge and or **Form SF-15**, claiming 10 point preference. Preference **will not be allowed unless a copy** of the DD-214 is attached to the application. Applicants claiming 10-point preference **MUST** complete an SF-15. *Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference.* Veterans who are still in the service **MAY BE** granted 5-points tentative preference on the basis of the information contained in their applications. **You MUST produce a DD-214 (Member 4 Copy) prior to the appointment to document entitlement to preference.** For information on Veteran's Preference, Please Visit: <http://www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetsinfo.asp>

EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:

IHS provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify **Alice LaFontaine, Staffing Officer, at (605) 226-7213**. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED CORPS CANDIDATES: Applicants should submit the following:

1. Copy of resume or curriculum vitae showing work experience, dates of employment, names and addresses of supervisors, include any education and other information reflecting individual qualifications for consideration.

Commissioned Corp Applicants claiming Indian Preference must submit BIA form 4432 and will be evaluated against existing applicable standards.

INFORMATION REQUIRED ON RESUMES AND OTHER APPLICATION FORMATS: Resumes or other application formats must contain all of the information listed below in sufficient detail to enable the Personnel Office to make a determination that you have the required qualifications for the position. **Failure to include any of the information listed below may result in loss of consideration for this position. Additional information will not be solicited by this office.**

- a. Announcement Number, Title, and Grade of the job for which you are applying.
- b. Full name, mailing address (with zip code) and day/evening telephone numbers (with area codes).
- c. Social Security Number
- d. Country of citizenship
- e. Veteran's preference
- f. Highest Federal Civilian Grade held (give job series and dates held).
- g. High School - Name, City, State (with zip code), and date of diploma or GED.
- h. Colleges and Universities - Name, City, State (with zip code), majors, type and year of any degrees received (if no degree show total semester/quarter hours earned) (Attach transcripts).
- i. Work experience (paid/nonpaid)-Job title (include series if a Federal job), duties, responsibilities and accomplishments (*if you describe more than one type of work, i.e., carpentry and painting, or personnel and budget, write the approximate amount of time your spent doing each*), employer's name and address, supervisor's name and phone number, starting and ending dates (month/year), **AVERAGE HOURS WORKED PER WEEK**, and salary (beginning/ending).
- j. Indicate if we may contact your current and/or former supervisor.
- k. Job-related training courses, skills, certificates, registrations, and licenses (current only), honors, awards, and special accomplishments.

DO NOT SUBMIT POSITION DESCRIPTIONS. All material submitted for consideration under this announcement becomes the property of the Division of Human Resources and is subject to verification. Careful consideration should be given to the information provided, fraudulent statements or any form of misrepresentation in the application process could result in loss of consideration for this position and or determination of unsuitability for Federal employment. If position is **RE-ANNOUNCED**, please call the Division of Personnel Management as to status of application.

SURPLUS OR DISPLACED EMPLOYEES REQUESTING SPECIAL SELECTION PRIORITY CONSIDERATION.

If you are currently a DHHS employee who has received a Reduction in Force (RIF) separation notice or a Certificate of Expected Separation (CES) you may be entitled to special priority selection under the DHHS Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP). To receive this priority consideration you must:

1. Be a current career competitive or excepted service employee in Tenure 1 or 2 who has received a Reduction in Force (RIF) separation notice or a Certificate of Expected Separation (CES), and the date of the RIF separation has not passed and you are

- still on the rolls of the DHHS/IHS. You MUST submit a copy of the RIF separation notice or CES along with your application.
2. Be applying for a position that is at or below the grade level of the position from which you are being separated. The position must not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you are being separated.
 3. Have a current (or last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent. This must be submitted with your application package.
 4. Be currently employed in the same commuting area (or nationwide for IHS employees GS-09 and above) of the position for which you are requesting priority consideration.
 5. File your application by the vacancy announcement closing date & meet all the application criteria (e.g., submit all required documentation etc.)
 6. Meet the basic qualifications for the position, any documented selective factor, physical requirements with any reasonable accommodation and is able to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position without undue interruption.
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INFORMATION FOR DISPLACED EMPLOYEES REQUESTING SPECIAL SELECTION PRIORITY CONSIDERATION UNDER THE INTERAGENCY CAREER TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ICTAP).

If you are a displaced federal employee you may be entitled to receive special priority selection under the ICTAP. To receive this priority consideration you **MUST**:

1. Be a displaced Federal employee. You must submit a copy of the appropriate documentation such as a RIF separation notice, a letter from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) or your agency documenting your priority consideration status with your application package. The following categories of candidates are considered displaced employees.
 - A. Current or former career or career-conditional (tenure group I or II) competitive service employees who:
 1. Received a specific RIF separation notice; or
 2. Separated because of a compensable injury, whose compensation has been terminated, and whose former agency certifies that it is unable to place; or
 3. Retired with a disability and shows disability annuity has been or is being terminated; or
 4. Upon receipt of a RIF separation notice retired on the effective date of the RIF and submits a Standard Form 50 that indicates Retirement in lieu of RIF; or
 5. Retired under the discontinued service retirement option; or
 6. Was separated because he/she declined a transfer of function or directed reassignment to another commuting area.
 - OR**
 - B. Former Military Reserve or National Guard Technicians who are receiving a special OPM disability retirement annuity under section 8337 (h) or 8456 of Title 5 United States Code.
2. Be applying for a position at or below the grade level of the position from which you have been separated. The position must not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you were separated.
3. Have a current (or last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent. This must be submitted with your application package. (This requirement does not apply to candidates who are eligible due to compensable injury or disability retirement).
4. Occupy or be displaced from a position in the same local commuting area of the position for which you are requesting priority consideration.
5. File your application by the vacancy announcement closing date & meet all the application criteria (e.g., submit all required documentation, etc.)
6. Eligible applicants will be considered "well qualified": If they attain a numerical rating of 85 or better as determined from your responses to the Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (see "Qualifications Requirement section.")

THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.