

Opportunity Adventure Purpose

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

# Physical Rehabilitation



“Serving with the Indian Health Service has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional and personal life. I’ve had the chance to experience wonderful cultures and to build lasting friendships. For an avid outdoors person, traveler and enthusiast of cultures, IHS offers it all.”

— Chief Therapist, Juneau AK

## Choose Your Lifestyle

More than 100 physical and occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists and audiologists with Indian Health Service (IHS) provide rehabilitation services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. These communities, located mainly, but not exclusively, in rural settings, are appreciative societies with deep traditions. IHS rehabilitation service professionals live and work in some of the most beautiful areas of the country.

IHS therapists and audiologists participate in an integrated, multi-disciplinary team environment, collaborating closely with nurses, physicians, pharmacists, and other related health care providers. Unlike most private practice clinics, IHS therapists regularly use a wide variety of clinical knowledge and skills, in both ambulatory and inpatient settings. This collegial teamwork environment, combined with opportunities to be part of a rich cultural tradition, to have the benefit of a structured but flexible work schedule, and to serve in-need and appreciative patients, is the hallmark of an IHS career.

## Choose to Serve

While IHS clinical practice is focused most directly on primary care for the communities we serve, our care is comprehensive. For a licensed therapist or audiologist, within your discipline there is ample opportunity and pressing need-for-care in a wide range of specializations, including:

- Diabetes
- Pediatrics
- Orthopedics
- Geriatrics
- Specialty Hand and Foot Care
- Wound Care
- Health Promotion
- Electrophysiology
- Audiology Services
- Speech-Language Pathology Specialty Services
- Neurological Rehabilitation

In addition, many IHS therapists are deeply involved in non-traditional community outreach programs. This kind of outreach into culturally rich communities is a central factor in the total experience of being an IHS professional, serving any of the 560 diverse and distinct American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. In virtually every area of practice, rehabilitation health professionals are valuable and appreciated members of the IHS Public Health Professions team. In addition, many IHS therapists have been involved with national disaster response efforts.





## Choose Your Career Path and Benefits

Therapists who enter IHS as Federal Civil Service employees can expect a comprehensive package of compensation and benefits that includes:

- Competitive starting salary and benefits
- 13 days paid vacation initially
- 10 paid federal holidays
- 13 days sick leave initially
- Annual continuing education (available at all sites with varied cost reimbursement)
- Comprehensive retirement program
- Comprehensive health care
- No-cost malpractice coverage
- No overhead expenses
- Opportunity to transfer
- Thrift savings (contributory) retirement plan with government match
- Military service retirement credit is transferable with limits

Therapists who enter IHS through the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps receive:

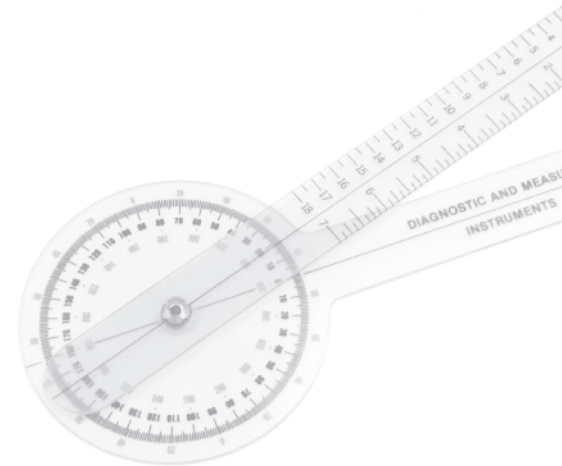
- 30 days paid vacation per year
- Sick leave as needed
- 10 paid federal holidays
- Tax-free housing allowance
- Full Commissary and PX/BX benefits at military bases around the world
- Space-available flights on military aircraft
- Non-contributory retirement
- No cost malpractice coverage
- Military service retirement credit is transferable with limits

Direct hire by a federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native Tribe is another possible point of entry for a career in physical rehabilitation. Openings may be available in both urban and rural areas, and employment compensation and benefits are negotiated directly with the Tribal employer.

Civil Service, Commissioned Corps, Tribal, and Urban Program employees are eligible for the **IHS Loan Repayment Program**. Participation is dependent on eligibility requirements and funding availability.

## Choose IHS

Whichever path you select, exciting and rewarding careers are available in many locations throughout the areas we serve. Whether you are a new graduate seeking a meaningful start to your career, or experienced professional looking for new challenges, you can find it in IHS. You will be entering an outward-directed career, focused on an appreciative community that recognizes the vital needs you are filling in their lives. You will be working with dedicated, like-minded colleagues on a multi-disciplinary health care team who enjoy unique opportunities, adventure, and purpose.



*"It's very satisfying for me to positively affect people's lives and their ability to function. Without IHS, many of our patients might not be treated."*

*— Chief Therapist,  
Stillwell, OK*

For more information about career opportunities with IHS Public Health Professions, visit: [www.careers.ihs.gov](http://www.careers.ihs.gov)

