



# U.S. Public Health Service Dental Program



The U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) is a division within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

- Dentists interested in a career in public health can work as PHS Commissioned Corps officers, Civil Service dentists, or work directly for American Indian/Alaskan Native American Tribes or Nations.
- Agencies that we serve:
  - The Department of Health and Human Services(HHS)
    - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – <https://www.cdc.gov>
    - Food and Drug Administration (FDA) – <https://www.fda.gov>
    - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) – <https://www.hrsa.gov>
    - Indian Health Service (IHS) - <https://www.ihs.gov/dentistry/index.cfm/currentopenings/search/>
    - National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) – <https://www.nidcr.nih.gov>
  - The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
    - U.S. Coast Guard - <https://www.gocoastguard.com/active-duty-careers/officer-opportunities/programs/dental-officer>
    - Immigration and Customs Enforcement Health Service Corps (IHSC) - <https://www.ice.gov/ice-health-service-corps>
  - The Department of Justice (DOJ)
    - Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) - <https://www.bop.gov/jobs/positions/index.jsp?p=Dentist>
- Benefits of a career with the USPHS:
  - **Make a difference by helping underserved populations.**
  - **Be on the forefront of advancing the Nation’s oral health.**
  - **Experience variety from the different missions of the agencies we serve.**
  - **Choose a career path to include clinical dentistry, research, administration, or policy development.**
  - **Practice in different states with one dental license.**

	Commissioned Corps <a href="https://www.usphs.gov/profession/dentist/">https://www.usphs.gov/profession/dentist/</a>	Civil Service	Tribal Hire
Pay	Determined by rank & years of uniformed service; tax free housing and subsistence allowance; special pays/bonuses available	Determined by grade and step; based on civil service pay scale and available market pay depending on location; some locations offer additional bonuses	Negotiated directly with the employer; varies significantly by Tribe/Nation
Health Care	Active Duty Tricare coverage	Various federal plans to choose from	Negotiated directly with employer
Retirement	Uniformed Services Blended Retirement <a href="https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/blended-retirement-system.html">https://www.military.com/benefits/military-pay/blended-retirement-system.html</a>	Contributory retirement after 30 years	Negotiated directly with employer
Vacation	30 days paid vacation, 10 Federal holidays, sick leave as needed (unlimited)	13 days paid vacation to start, 10 Federal holidays, 13 days sick leave	Negotiated directly with the employer (dependent on individual Tribe/Nation)
Malpractice	No cost coverage (Federal Tort Claims Act)	No cost coverage (Federal Tort Claims Act)	No cost coverage (Federal Tort Claims Act)
Loan Repayment	Based on eligibility requirements and funding (IHS or NHSC)	Based on eligibility requirements and funding (IHS or NHSC)	Based on eligibility requirements and funding (IHS or NHSC)



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