



Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health
Service
Scientist Professional Advisory Committee



Scientist Category Handbook: Mobility

Last Updated: October 2022

Mobility

As part of its mission, the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps comprises highly trained and mobile public health professionals who carry out programs, provide care to the vulnerable and underserved, and respond to public health emergencies and disasters to promote the health of the nation. In taking the oath of office upon commission, PHS officers promise "to serve in any area or position or wherever the exigencies of the Service require." The mobility of its officers enhances the USPHS Commissioned Corps' ability to respond to new and ever demanding public health challenges. Thus, to enhance their usefulness to the USPHS Commissioned Corps, it is beneficial for PHS officers to consider opportunities for mobility.

Definition of Mobility

Mobility in the USPHS Commissioned Corps is defined as either:

- Assumption of new duties in a different geographical region; or
- A change in programmatic responsibility within a duty station, to include temporary duty assignments.

Promotion and Mobility

Mobility is considered a factor for the Career Progression & Potential Promotion Precept in the 2022 Promotion Benchmarks for PHS officers:

https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/promotions/PROMOTIONS_category_benchmarks_m.aspx

Factor	Benchmarks T-03/P-02	Benchmarks T-04/P-03	Benchmarks T-05/P-04	Benchmarks T-06/P-05 & P-O-6
Mobility (Programmatic or Geographic):	≤ 1 geographic or programmatic move excluding initial call to duty		≥ 2 geographic or programmatic moves excluding initial call to duty	≥ 3 geographic or programmatic moves excluding initial call to duty
Geographic or programmatic moves must be documented via personnel orders and the PIR.				

Guidance/Resources

- Definition of Permanent Change of Station (PCS)
https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/travel/ASSIGNMENTS_travel_relocate_m.aspx

- Definition of Temporary Duty Assignments
https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/travel/ASSIGNMENTS_travel_tempdu_m.aspx
https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF_docs/ccpm51.pdf
- USPHS Commissioned Corps liaison contact list for HHS and non-HHS agencies. The assistance of an agency liaison can be useful when a PHS officer is seeking a reassignment within their current agency or another agency.
https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF_docs/liaison.pdf
- Consider consulting with the Scientist Chief Professional Officer and/or PAC members, supervisors, mentor(s), or other officers.
<https://dcp.psc.gov/osg/scientist/default.aspx>
- All Scientist Officers are encouraged to subscribe to the Scientist Category listserv (usphs-scientist@list.nih.gov). Instructions for signing up for the listserv are provided on the Scientist Category Listserv page at <https://dcp.psc.gov/OSG/scientist/listserv.aspx>
- Look for official job announcements disseminated through agency email.
- Review job announcements throughout the federal government at USAJobs.
<http://www.usajobs.gov/>

Relocation Costs

The hiring agency usually pays for relocation costs for PHS officers who are assuming new responsibilities that require a geographical move. Please consult the Commissioned Corps Issuance System (CCIS) on the Commissioned Corps Management Information System (CCMIS) at <https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/ccis/CCISForeword.aspx>. For more details, review Book 7 (Travel and Transportation), Chapter 1 (Permanent Change of Station).