

U.S. Public Health Service Commission Corps

Officers in the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps

More than 6,500 Commissioned Corps officers work on the front lines of public health – fighting disease, conducting research, and caring for patients in underserved communities. Corps officers serve in 15 careers in a wide range of specialties within Federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). (see www.usphs.gov or <http://dcp.psc.gov/>).

Appointment	<p>U.S. Citizen Less than 44 years of age (at date of entry into EIS) Degree in appropriate health-related discipline Must meet medical standards (Please refer to the accompanying document labeled, Conditions that Are Disqualifications for Appointment in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps*) <i>*This list is not all inclusive</i></p>
Duration	<p>2-year program-limited appointment. Officer must be called to active duty from the United States or its territories.</p>
Assignment	<p>Officers are assigned based on the needs of the EIS program.</p>
Other	<p>Officers must meet basic readiness standards and wear the PHS uniform on a daily basis.</p>
Compensation	<p>Compensation includes non-taxable allowances, taxable base pay, and taxable special pay (for certain health professional categories).</p>
Leave	<p>Commissioned officers are subject to duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All leave must be approved in advance. Regular duty hours are set by supervisor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Leave - 2.5 days per month; 30 calendar days per year• Sick Leave - as needed• Station Leave - less than 1 workday; not charged to annual leave• All leave accrued during the EIS program must be used before the Ready Reserve appointment ends.
Health Care	<p>Commissioned officers and their families are automatically covered by a comprehensive health care plan called TRICARE which provides medical and dental care at little or no cost. This becomes active on the first day of service. Health care benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health care and dental care for officers at no cost• Low-cost health care and dental care family members• Health care benefits continue during retirement for officer and spouse

Additional Incentives

- Clinical practice liability coverage (estimated at \$1,000-\$2,000 value).
- Tax-free housing (Basic Allowance for Housing), and meal allowances (Basic Allowance for Subsistence).
- If an officer claims residency in a state that imposes no income tax (Alaska, Florida, Kentucky, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming) at the time of call to active duty, the officer will not be subject to the state income tax regardless of where the officer is stationed. If assigned to active duty in one of these states, an officer can establish residency in that state for the rest of their uniformed service career.
- A retirement pension plan (determined by an average of 50 percent of the officers three highest years of base pay) with benefits eligibility beginning after 20 years of service. Each additional year of service garners 2.5 percent until the officer reaches 75% with 30 years of service.
- Thrift Savings Plan [retirement saving and investment plan similar to a 401(k)].
- Financial support for education through the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the ability to transfer to dependents.
- Paid relocation when joining the Corps and relocation expenses when relocating between positions afforded by the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR).
- Relocation expenses to officer's home of record (or a shorter distance) upon retirement or separation.
- Access to military base lodging and "morale, welfare, and recreational" facilities (e.g., MWR Navy or MWR Army).
- Shopping privileges at military base grocery and department stores (e.g., AAFES and NEX).
- Space Available flights for officer and family members both domestically and internationally.
- Access to exclusive insurance and banking products targeting the needs of active duty officers.
- A host of VA benefits such as the VA Loan Guaranty Home Loan Program, VA Disability benefits, Group Life Insurance, and VA Survival and Death benefits.

Questions

Please contact the CDC Commissioned Corps Activity (CCA) Office, (404) 498-1820 or CCAEIS@cdc.gov.