



Great Plains Area

Indian Health Careers

Opportunity. Adventure. Purpose.



Enjoy a thriving metropolis with a storied past, countless recreational activities and extensive opportunities for professional fulfillment and cultural enrichment.

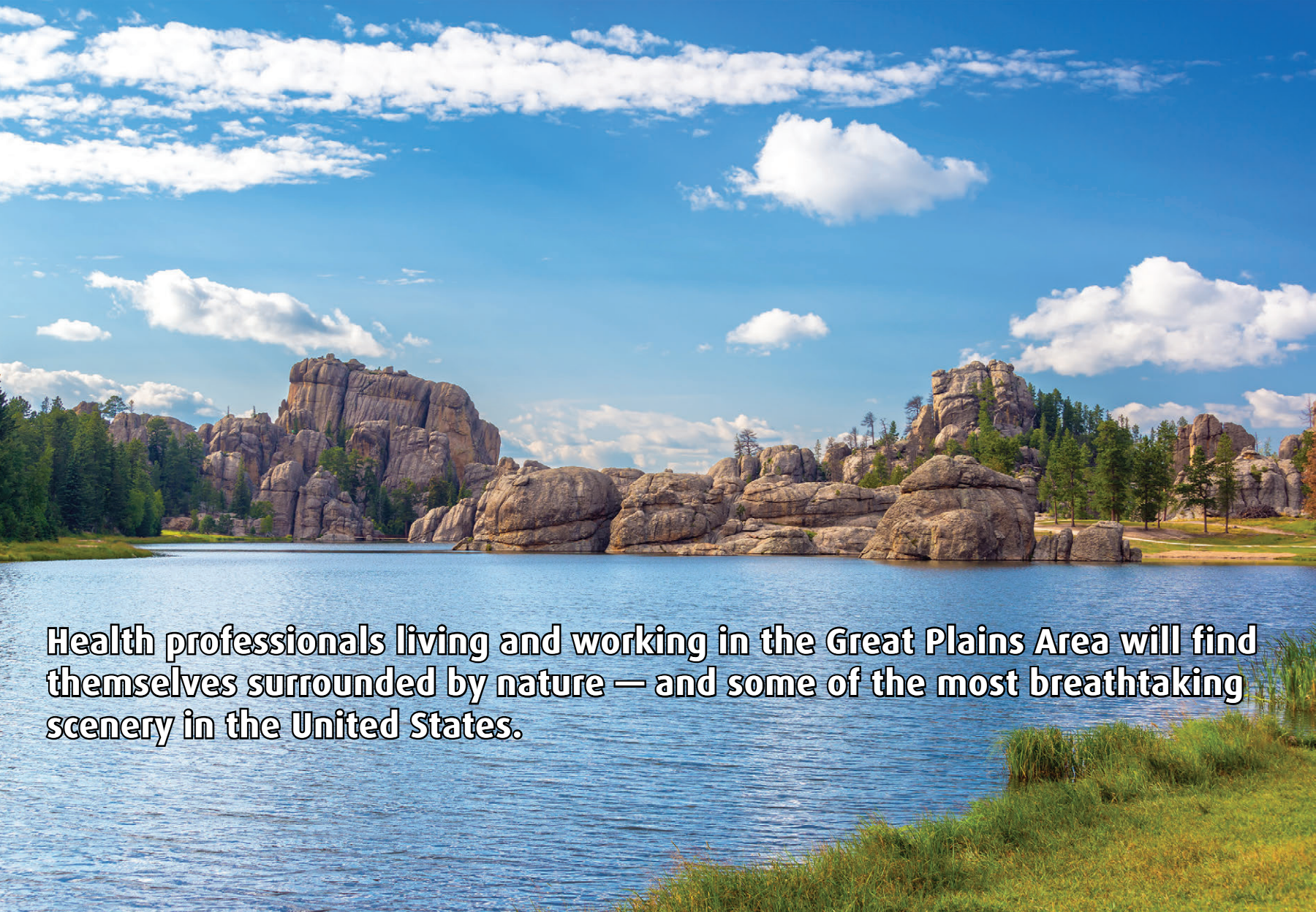




*Photo by Artography & Design: Starr
Chief Eagle, Lakota Artist & Hoop Dance
Sicangu Lakota of the Oceti Sakowin.*

Tribes of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Crow Creek Sioux Tribe • Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe • Lower Brule Sioux Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Omaha Tribe of Nebraska • Ponca Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe • Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi • Santee Sioux Nation • Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate • Spirit Lake Dakota Nation • Standing Rock Sioux Tribe • Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation • Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa • Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska • Yankton Sioux Tribe



Health professionals living and working in the Great Plains Area will find themselves surrounded by nature — and some of the most breathtaking scenery in the United States.

Providing Care in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Iowa

The Indian Health Service (IHS) Great Plains Area, headquartered in Aberdeen, SD, provides health services to approximately 120,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa. An agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), IHS offers health care professionals an unparalleled opportunity to provide comprehensive, patient-centered care in a variety of disciplines and settings.

The Area's 23 IHS and Tribally managed Service Units include hospitals, health centers, health stations and satellite clinics that provide inpatient and outpatient care, including preventive and curative health care services.

The facilities' approximately 2,600 employees include 134 Physicians, more than 500 Registered Nurses, 42 Nurse Practitioners, 31 Physician Assistants, 21 Psychologists, 22 Social Workers, 103 Pharmacists, 15 Optometrists, 42 Dentists and a host of other health professionals. The Area operates an active research effort through its Epidemiology Program. Research projects deal with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and the application of health risk appraisals in all communities.

The Great Plains' vast prairies and abundant waterways are home to 16 Tribal reservations: Eight in South Dakota, four in North Dakota, three in Nebraska and one in Iowa. Three facilities serve Indian populations living outside of reservations; these are in Rapid City, SD; Trenton, ND; and Norfolk, NE.

Photo Left: Rock formations on the shore of Sylvan Lake in Custer State Park. Right photos top to bottom: Toddler and doctor interact during a routine check-up, two buffaloes roaming the prairie and dental team with a young patient.





A World of Opportunities

The Great Plains Area is hiring! Positions are available in many medical, professional and administrative specialties. New hires can expect competitive salaries, a full range of benefits and, in some cases, signing bonuses. Many positions also offer relocation incentives and opportunities for government housing.

Health Profession Openings by Discipline

- Advanced Practice Nurses
- Behavioral Health Providers
- Dentists
- Dental Hygienists
- Physicians
- Medical Technologists
- Nurses
- Optometrists
- Pharmacists
- Physician Assistants

Pay and Benefits

While salary is an important consideration, IHS provides many other forms of compensation that significantly contribute to your overall experience and make IHS a competitive employer. This concept of “Total Compensation” includes not only salary, but also the benefits, awards, leave, retirement and other incentives you may receive as part of a rewarding work environment. These are just some of the many ways that IHS recognizes employee contributions. In some cases, signing bonuses and/or relocation incentives are available.

IHS health professionals work in team-based environments and interact with many different disciplines on a daily basis, improving the quality of health care delivery and building strong partnerships with both their colleagues and the people they serve.



Photo Left: A young American Indian girl on an exam table while a nurse listens to her heart, a team of health professionals posing for the camera, two pharmacists smiling for the camera.

IHS Career Options

IHS offers clinicians a choice of three options to practice their specific health profession discipline: working as a federal civil service employee, as an Officer in the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service (USPHS) or directly for a Tribal or Urban Indian Program. Each of these options offers career flexibility, competitive salaries and benefits and ample opportunity for advancement.

Federal Civil Service

Professionals who choose to work in the federal civil service earn competitive salaries and are eligible for comprehensive federal and retirement benefits. They also enjoy significant career flexibility, eligibility for advancement and can transfer throughout IHS facilities while still maintaining their benefits.

US Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps

One of the seven uniformed services of the United States, the Commissioned Corps offers the opportunity to serve our nation in uniform as a health professional in certain disciplines. The Commissioned Corps is comprised of highly qualified public health professionals protecting, promoting and advancing the health and safety of the nation. Approximately 2,000 Commissioned Corps officers currently serve within IHS. Commissioned Corps officers are eligible for military retirement benefits.

Tribal or Urban Indian Programs

Individuals interested in working within a Tribal or Urban Indian Program negotiate compensation and benefits directly with the Program or Tribe with whom they seek to work. Openings are available in both urban and rural areas.

Our Mission: to raise the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.

Photo right: Young health professionals are attracted to the financial freedom of the IHS LRP.



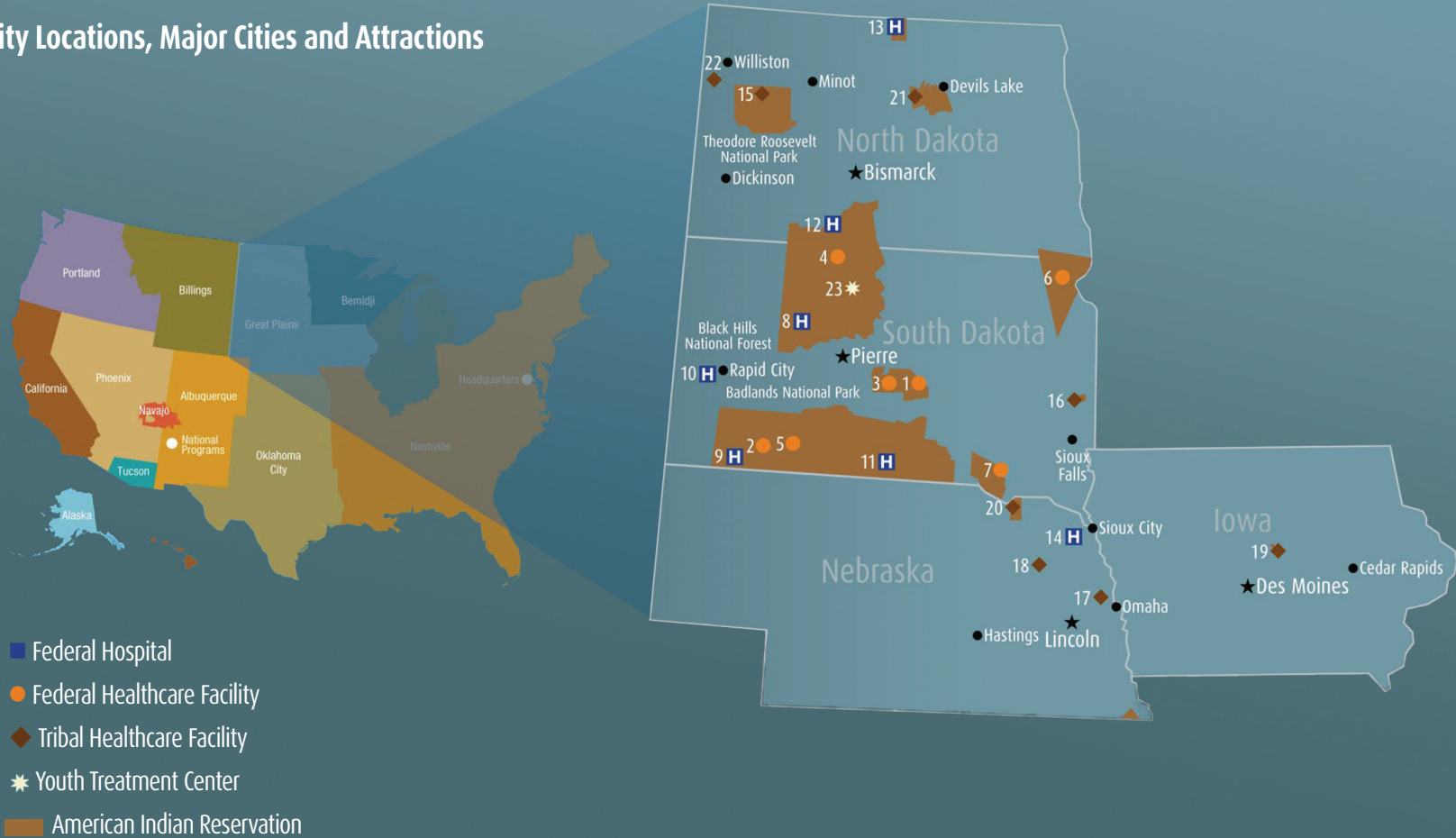
Did you know that you can pay off your health profession loans through our Loan Repayment Programs?

The IHS Loan Repayment Program (LRP) offers health professionals practicing at Indian health facilities an opportunity to pay off all of their eligible health education student loans in addition to receiving competitive salaries and benefits. Participants are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 per year and can extend their contract annually until all of their loans are paid off. Pursue the opportunity to build your career with IHS and work as part of an interdisciplinary team of health professionals, while gaining the financial freedom to live and work within some of the most picturesque settings in the country.

Additionally, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program (LRP) offers primary care providers up to \$75,000 for a two-year service commitment to work at an approved NHSC site in a high-need, underserved area. Like IHS, NHSC LRP recipients can obtain additional loan repayment by extending their service.

Great Plains Area

Facility Locations, Major Cities and Attractions



- 1 ● Fort Thompson Service Unit Fort Thompson, SD
- 2 ● Kyle Health Center Kyle, SD
- 3 ● Lower Brule Service Unit Lower Brule, SD
- 4 ● McLaughlin Health Center McLaughlin, SD
- 5 ● Wanblee Health Center Wanblee, SD
- 6 ● Woodrow Wilson Keeble Memorial Sisseton, SD (WWKMHC)
- 7 ● Yankton Service Unit Wagner, SD
- 8 ■ Cheyenne River Service Unit Eagle Butte, SD
- 9 ■ Pine Ridge Service Unit Pine Ridge, SD
- 10 ■ Rapid City Service Unit Rapid City, SD
- 11 ■ Rosebud Service Unit Rosebud, SD
- 12 ■ Standing Rock Service Unit Fort Yates, ND
- 13 ■ Turtle Mountain Service Unit Belcourt, ND
- 14 ■ Winnebago Service Unit Winnebago, NE
- 15 ◆ Elbowoods Memorial Health Center New Town, ND
- 16 ◆ Flandreau Service Unit Flandreau, SD
- 17 ◆ Omaha Service Unit Omaha, NE
- 18 ◆ Ponca Service Unit Norfolk, NE
- 19 ◆ Sac and Fox Service Unit Tama, IA
- 20 ◆ Santee Service Unit Santee, NE
- 21 ◆ Spirit Lake Service Unit Fort Totten, ND
- 22 ◆ Trenton Community Health Clinic Trenton, ND
- 23 ★ Great Plains Youth Regional Mobridge, SD

Photo Right: Migrating sandhill cranes along the Platte River at sunset in Nebraska.



North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa Parks

124 State Parks
6 State Forests
6 State Fish Hatcheries
25 State Wildlife Areas
114 State Wildlife Management Areas
5 State Wildlife Refuges
3 National Forests
86 National Wildlife Refuges
3 National Historic Sites
8 National Wildlife Areas
1 National Recreation Area
2 National Parks
2 National Memorials

Learn more about the area state parks and national attractions, visit www.stateparks.com.



Discover a Work/Life Balance

Health professionals living and working in the Great Plains Area will find themselves surrounded by nature — and some of the most breathtaking scenery in the United States. You'll interact daily with Native communities, where you will learn about Tribal heritage and customs, experience community gatherings and Tribal ceremonies and gain cultural insight into American Indian and Alaska Native beliefs and values.

In your leisure time, you'll discover a wealth of outdoor recreation and family activities within easy reach. From the farms and fields of the Eastern Great Plains Area to the rugged landscapes of the Western Dakotas, there's great geographic diversity — and abundant opportunities for fishing and boating along miles of shoreline, as well as hiking, camping and cycling.

Explore landmark attractions such as Mount Rushmore and Theodore Roosevelt National Park and drive the Native American Scenic Byway, which winds across five reservations and through 450 miles of Tribal lands.

Living in the Great Plains means relaxing into a spacious, low-key lifestyle, getting to know your colleagues, patients and neighbors and enjoying the simple pleasures of nature and daily living. You'll marvel at the vast seas of prairie grass and watch brilliant crimson sunsets spread across a wide-open sky. And at night when you look up at thousands of stars (especially in places like Badlands National Park, which features some of the darkest skies in the nation) you'll know this is the place to call home.

In the Great Plains Area, you'll marvel at the beauty of diverse landscapes and watch brilliant crimson sunsets spread across a wide-open sky

Photos top to bottom: Mother and son enjoy a trail ride, grandfather enjoying fishing with grandsons and snowmobiler enjoying a scenic trail at sunset.



Photo: Sacred Black Elk Peak, the highest point in South Dakota with great hiking trails.

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May 2024



Contact a recruiter to learn more!
IHS, 115 4th Avenue SE, Room 309, Aberdeen, SD 57401
Email: GreatPlainsRecruiters@ihs.gov



The policy of the IHS is to provide absolute preference to qualified Indian applicants and employees who are suitable for federal employment in filling vacancies within the IHS. IHS is an equal opportunity employer.