



Give Back Through Government Locum Tenens

Growing Your Locum Tenens Career
with Government Work

What's it Like to Work Government Locum Tenens?

Locum tenens work comes with a lot of inherent advantages — like a flexible schedule, the ability to travel, plus the comfort of job security. Government healthcare facilities offer the opportunity to enjoy those benefits with the added fulfillment of giving back and helping vulnerable, often underserved populations.

There are a variety of government facilities across the country, and plenty to choose from if you're looking to expand your medical career with a government assignment.

- Department of Defense (DoD) work includes serving the major branches of the military — the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.
- Thousands of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, including prominent teaching hospitals, make a difference in the lives of veterans.
- Indian Health Service hospitals and clinics bring needed support to distinctive geographical and tribal areas.
- Healthcare providers are needed at hundreds of state and federal correctional facilities.
- Medical scientists and physicians serve the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) in thousands of labs and facilities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- If it sounds different from the private sector, that's because it is.

Working locum tenens in the government sector comes with unique professional and personal rewards. Read on for a closer look at what taking a position in government medicine would be like, with perspectives from professionals in the field.



The Many Perks of Government Positions

Whether you're doing military or civilian work, supporting federal research initiatives or providing care to the underserved, you can expect the following from government locum tenens:

Financial Advantages

Federal work can offer the chance to travel extensively. There are also opportunities for "burst work," positions requiring one block of work per month with good pay. These are typically available for Emergency Medicine, Hospitalists or MOD (Medical Officer of the Day) assignments.

Ease of Licensing and Credentialing

With the exception of correctional facility work, federal work typically requires only one state license. Facilities accept any valid (meaning current, non-restricted) state medical license in good standing. This is true whether you're traveling for a federal program or working at a federal facility in another state. This makes it easier to get into your first locum tenens assignment, work in a variety of assignments or even create a rotating schedule through multiple facilities.

Being hired by the government requires thorough background checks, but the time and effort invested pays off. Candidates who successfully pass a government background check should find it easier to secure future employment in other practice settings.

Work-Life Balance with Job Security

The locum tenens lifestyle comes with flexibility, and government locum tenens providers enjoy regular schedules while removing the administrative hassles of running a practice. You have the freedom to create your own work-life balance and spend time with family, on interests and hobbies, or traveling.

Compared to private sector temporary work — which can be as brief as a day — government locum tenens assignments can be more regular, ranging from three months to a year or longer, and may also offer temp-to-permanent hire options. This means you can test drive locations before uprooting your life and loved ones, and be able to make smooth transitions to full-time employment. Furthermore, there are many outpatient jobs that offer regular schedules with little or no on-call work.

A Variety of Opportunities

Working in the government healthcare sector allows you to choose the type of location and practice you want — whether that's at high-tech facilities or smaller, mostly outpatient assignments, in rural areas or bustling city centers. The work varies not just in location and clinical setting, but in the type of practice and the expertise you can gain on the job, too. You have the opportunity to learn from and network with a range of professionals and experts that can become valuable references and contacts.

A Chance to Give Back

Taking a government healthcare assignment could mean working with patients in underserved regions, active duty military personnel or people who have served our country. It's an opportunity to help people who need it, and gain a great deal of personal and professional satisfaction.

Military & Veterans Affairs (VA)

We owe our nation's freedom, safety and security to the brave men and women who serve or have served in the United States armed forces — the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

Supporting Troops on Home Soil

Men and women in the United States armed forces put their lives on the line and face unfathomable dangers when deployed. Ensuring their health and well-being at home is critical. There are both short- and long-term locum tenens opportunities at military bases throughout the country, giving you an exciting opportunity to see different locations and serve appreciative, deserving patients.

Many critical breakthroughs in healthcare have their origins in military medical settings. The treatment of injured troops, wartime research, infection control techniques and tools, and other military innovations have been catalysts for historical developments in medicine. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan prompted groundbreaking advances in medical technology and equipment — including the invention of the Golden hour blood

container, transporting life-saving blood through extended evacuation times, and XStat, a pocket-sized medical sponge injector that can stop bleeding within 15 seconds. The military has played a critical role in advancing prosthetics, regenerative medicine, vaccine development and more.

Serving Those Who Served

As the largest health care system in the country, the VA offers endless career opportunities — and the fulfillment that comes with caring for brave men and women who made sacrifices to protect our freedoms.

As with other government locum tenens assignments, VA locum tenens work requires only one active, non-restricted state license to practice across the country, and providers need to go through the credentialing process just once. VetProm — offers a simple, intuitive online experience, streamlining your steps for future assignments once your credentials are accepted. Based on your position and the length of contract, you can expect a robust benefits package from VA work.



Indian Health Services

The mission of Indian Health Services (IHS) is to raise the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives. That includes ensuring they have access to comprehensive, culturally acceptable health services, and dedicated public health professionals that respect and honor their cultural beliefs and inherent rights.

Changing Outcomes for Culturally Rich Communities

American Indians and Alaska Natives suffer from many illnesses and diseases at much higher rates than the overall population. Taking on locum tenens work with IHS can help provide a much-needed service for a highly appreciative community. Federal, tribal and urban IHS programs focus on public health and community outreach, blending traditional practices with the modern medical model. The IHS model has made tremendous strides

for Indian people, with reported health improvements including a 10-year increase in life expectancy since 1973, plus marked decreases in maternal and infant mortality, unintentional injuries and accidents, pneumonia and influenza, homicide, suicide and alcoholism. A career at IHS represents an extraordinary opportunity to continue moving the needle for an underserved population.

"I appreciate the freedom I received when I moved to the United States. I am serving those men and women who have made that freedom possible.

Everyday is a learning experience from my patients. I have learned to be more humble and to serve others better since I work for ex-soldiers. I have educated a few, and I have been taught a lot by many.

If you're a physician on the fence about whether to take a government health care position, I would say give it a try. There is always something to learn from our ex-military personnel. Hear their stories. Give them some relief when in need. It becomes really hard to leave when you get to know a few of them. It becomes a need to serve them after learning what many of them have been through."

— Dr. Duany

Muskogee VA Hospital Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center

State Healthcare Facilities

State facility work can include treating patients at psychiatric hospitals or correctional facilities. In these settings, locum tenens providers often encounter people with addictions and mental illness, those dealing with tremendous loss or pain, and many situations that require sensitivity. It can seem intimidating, but the payoff can't be found in other settings.

Caring for Highly Vulnerable Populations

Correctional health consists of healthcare programs at hundreds of state and federal prisons throughout the country, ranging from low- to maximum-level security. It may be challenging to overcome preconceived notions of prison, but one thing is clear — supporting this population can make a remarkable impact on public health. Pathology and health disparities among the convicted are significant, and you can make a difference by giving them access to care.

Broaden Your Horizons. Enhance Your Career.

Government healthcare can be a great next step for locum tenens providers in all different specialties. Whether you're looking for short-term or long-term stability, locum tenens government positions combine flexibility with the hours you want, and consistent pay and contract periods. No two opportunities are the same, and each offers a unique path to growth — both in the context of building your resume and professional experience, and broadening your horizons by serving culturally diverse communities.

"The work is doubly rewarding in that as the patients do better, so does all of society."

The first time I sought a locum tenens job with VISTA was for purely personal reasons — to care for my mom during her last illness. The job VISTA found me ended up being a pleasant surprise. Working at the women's admission unit in a state maximum security forensic hospital was not a job I would have accepted except for its location near my mom, but it won me over! I call it my "social justice job."

My patients inspire me. Some are severely disadvantaged and some are severely mentally ill. Many respond well to treatment and return to their communities. They have had to struggle mightily to survive in our society, but I have found most to be warm, decent people at heart. Their psychiatric and personal histories are mixtures of tragedy, inspiration, and perseverance.

Few psychiatrists seem drawn to this population, but they are very much in need of our services and very appreciative. This job will test both your adaptability and determination, but the personal rewards are great."

— Steve Holsenbeck, MD

"VISTA has a very good working relationship with government facilities, good communication and the desire to work through problems as they arise. You don't always find this with other companies. They seem to understand the government system well, which can be more challenging than civilian facilities. Working with VISTA, I was able to get a consistent schedule and number of shifts to meet my monthly financial needs and goals. I especially appreciate the timely travel arrangements and the team's responsiveness. I've worked for several companies in the past, and VISTA is one the best."

— Dr. Franklin

Muskogee VA Hospital (Jack C. Montgomery VA Medical Center)

About VISTA

VISTA has government physician and advanced practitioner job openings in facilities across the country, providing the opportunity to make important contributions while earning steady income.

- VISTA provided close to 200,000 hours of physician and AP coverage at government facilities
- Facilities covered include VA, Indian Health, Military/DOD and State
- Coverage was provided in nearly half the states as well as the Marshall Islands
- Locations range from highly remote to rural and semi-rural to metropolitan
- Specialties include Emergency Medicine, Hospitalist, Primary Care (Family Practice, Internal Medicine & Pediatrics), Psychiatry and Surgery
- 20+ team members are dedicated to our government business, including Credentialing and Privileging specialists to help facilitate getting you to work as efficiently as possible

Contact one of our experienced recruiters to discuss your plans and priorities, or check out our government job board.

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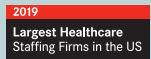
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