

Tax Resources

Question:

When you are on an assignment your taxes and housing subsidy are affected by your home residency. What happens if you are on an assignment at the same facility for longer than one year? Where can I find information about travel nursing and taxes?

Response:

Good question. It is a relief to know some travelers plan ahead, unlike I did. I traveled for 2 years before realizing the financial benefits of claiming a permanent residence.

In general, I recommend travelers either take a new assignment within a year or at least return to their home state for a couple of months each year. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tends to get suspicious when you claim a permanent residence, and yet, you haven't resided in it for the entire year.

In my opinion, travelers are a group of professionals who can really use the advice of an experienced accountant. Between the pay and tax benefits, you can benefit nicely while traveling. You must make a few vital preparations (such as claiming a permanent residence), keep good records and find an accountant familiar with travelers. Ideally, you want an accountant who has already done their homework in regards to travelers. This way they can guide you in the right steps to take and make sure you claim the maximum deductions possible. Finding these accountants are not easy to do.

One company I know, called Hicks Financial in San Diego, California, caters to a growing traveler population. They actually started out with a traveler who taught them what she knew. After teaching them, this same traveler referred several of her fellow travelers to them. With each traveler, they learned more and more. Now, several years later, Hicks Financial has accountants that specialize in travelers taxes and a website with traveler information (www.hicksfinancial.com).

I like the fact that just one traveler can make a difference in the travel industry. That one nurse created a movement within Hicks Financial that will help her fellow travelers for years to come. She made a difference by sharing information and knowledge. Talking about sharing information, I intend to research tax resources for travelers and share that information with you over the next couple of months. I want you know who you can go to for your taxes this year.