

Relocation Allowances

§ 302-5.101

For	You are reimbursed
You and/or your spouse's transportation expenses.	Your actual transportation costs.
You and/or your spouse's subsistence expenses..	One of the following: (a) A per diem allowance for you and/or your spouse as prescribed under part 302-4, subpart C of this chapter; or (b) If you accept your agency's offer of the fixed amount option, and: (1) Both you and your spouse perform a househunting trip either together or separately, a single amount determined by multiplying the applicable locality rate (listed in appendix A to chapter 301 of this subtitle) by 6.25 or (2) Only one of you performs a househunting trip, an amount determined by multiplying the applicable locality rate (listed in appendix A to chapter 301 of this subtitle) by 5.

§ 302-5.16 May I receive an advance of funds for househunting trip expenses?

Your agency may authorize an advance of funds, in accordance with §302-2.20 of this chapter, for your househunting trip expenses. Your agency may not advance you funds in excess of the sum of your anticipated transportation costs and either the maximum per diem allowable under part 302-4 of this chapter for the location and duration of your househunting trip or your fixed amount househunting trip subsistence expenses payment, whichever applies.

§ 302-5.17 Am I in a duty status when I perform a househunting trip?

Yes, you are in a duty status when you perform a househunting trip.

§ 302-5.18 May I retain any balance left over from my househunting reimbursement if my fixed amount is more than adequate to cover my househunting trip?

Yes, if your fixed househunting amount is more than adequate to cover your househunting expenses any balance belongs to you.

§ 302-5.14 What transportation expenses will my agency pay?

Your agency will authorize you to travel by the transportation mode(s) (e.g., airline, train, or privately owned automobile) it determines to be advantageous to the Government. Your agency will pay for your transportation expenses by the authorized mode(s). If you travel by any other mode(s), your agency will pay your transportation expenses not to exceed the cost of transportation by the authorized mode(s).

§ 302-5.15 Must I document my househunting trip expenses to receive reimbursement?

To receive reimbursement for househunting trip transportation expenses you must itemize your transportation expenses and provide receipts as required by §301-11.3(c) of this title. For fixed amount househunting trip subsistence reimbursement, you do not need to document your subsistence expenses. For per diem househunting trip subsistence expense reimbursement, you must itemize your lodging expenses and you must provide receipts as required by §§301-7.9(b) and 301-11.3(c) of this title.

Subpart B—Agency Responsibilities

NOTE TO SUBPART B: Use of pronouns “we”, “you”, and their variants throughout this subpart refers to the agency.

§ 302-5.100 How should we administer the househunting trip expenses allowance?

You should administer the househunting trip expenses allowance to minimize or avoid its use when other satisfactory and more economical arrangement are available.

§ 302-5.101 What governing policies must we establish for the househunting trip expenses allowance?

You must establish policies and procedures governing:

- (a) When you will authorize a househunting trip for an employee;

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(b) Who will determine if a househunting trip is appropriate in each situation;

(c) If and when you will authorize the fixed amount option for househunting trip subsistence expenses reimbursement;

(d) Who will determine the appropriate duration of a househunting trip for an employee who selects a per diem allowance under part 302-4 of this chapter to reimburse househunting trip subsistence expenses; and

(e) Who will determine the mode(s) of transportation to be used.

§ 302-5.102 Under what circumstances may we authorize a househunting trip?

You may authorize a househunting trip on an individual-case basis when the employee has accepted the transfer and his/her circumstances indicate that a househunting trip actually is needed. You may not authorize a househunting trip when the purpose of the trip is to assist the employee in deciding whether he or she will accept the transfer.

§ 302-5.103 What factors must we consider in determining whether to offer an employee the fixed amount househunting trip subsistence expense reimbursement option?

You must consider the following factors:

(a) *Ease of administration.* Payment of a per diem allowance under part 302-4 of this chapter requires you to review claims for the validity, accuracy, and reasonableness of each expense amount, except for meals and incidental expenses. Fixed amount househunting trip subsistence expenses reimbursement is easier to administer because you do not have to review expense amounts.

(b) *Cost considerations.* You must weigh the cost of each reimbursement option on a case-by-case basis.

(c) *Treatment of employees.* The employee is allowed to choose between a per diem allowance under part 302-4 of this chapter and fixed amount househunting trip subsistence expenses reimbursement when you offer the fixed amount reimbursement method. You therefore should weigh employee morale and productivity considerations

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against actual cost considerations in determining which method to offer.

PART 302-6—ALLOWANCE FOR TEMPORARY QUARTERS SUBSISTENCE EXPENSES

Subpart A—General Rules

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- 302-6.1 What are “temporary quarters?”
- 302-6.2 What are “temporary quarters subsistence expenses (TQSE)”?
- 302-6.3 What is the purpose of the TQSE allowance?
- 302-6.4 Am I eligible for a TQSE allowance?
- 302-6.5 Who is not eligible for a TQSE allowance?
- 302-6.6 Must my agency authorize payment of a TQSE allowance?
- 302-6.7 Under what circumstances will I receive a TQSE allowance?
- 302-6.8 Who may occupy temporary quarters at Government expense?
- 302-6.9 Where may I/we occupy temporary quarters at Government expense?
- 302-6.10 May my immediate family and I occupy temporary quarters at different locations?
- 302-6.11 What methods may my agency use to reimburse me for TQSE?
- 302-6.12 Must I document my TQSE to receive reimbursement?
- 302-6.13 How soon may I/we begin occupying temporary quarters at Government expense?
- 302-6.14 How is my TQSE allowance affected if my temporary quarters become my permanent residence quarters?
- 302-6.15 May I receive an advance of funds for TQSE?
- 302-6.16 May I receive a TQSE allowance if I am receiving another subsistence expenses allowance?
- 302-6.17 Am I eligible for a TQSE allowance if I transfer to a foreign area?
- 302-6.18 May I be reimbursed for local transportation expenses incurred while I am occupying temporary quarters?

Subpart B—Actual TQSE Method of Reimbursement

- 302-6.100 What am I paid under the actual TQSE reimbursement method?
- 302-6.101 May my agency reduce my TQSE allowance below the “maximum allowable amount”?
- 302-6.102 What is the “applicable per diem rate” under the actual TQSE reimbursement method?
- 302-6.103 What is the latest period for which actual TQSE reimbursement may begin?
- 302-6.104 How long may I be authorized to claim actual TQSE reimbursement?