

Relocation Allowances

However, you and your agency must carefully study the rules in both states and include everything that each state considers to be income on each of your state tax returns.

[FTR Amdt. 2014-01, 79 FR 49645, Aug. 21, 2014. Redesignated at 86 FR 73684, Dec. 28, 2021]

§ 302-17.10 When is an expense considered completed in a specific tax year?

A reimbursement, allowance, or direct payment to a vendor is considered completed in a specific tax year only if the money was actually disbursed to the employee or vendor during the tax year in question.

[FTR Amdt. 2014-01, 79 FR 49645, Aug. 21, 2014. Redesignated at 86 FR 73684, Dec. 28, 2021]

§ 302-17.11 Where can I find additional information and guidance on WTA and RITA?

GSA has published additional information on WTA and RITA, including the illustrations and examples of various RITA computations, in FTR Bulletins which are updated as necessary. GSA FTR Bulletins may be found at <https://gsa.gov/ftrbulletins>.

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§ 302-17.12 How are taxes on extended TDY benefits and taxes on relocation allowances related?

(a) Taxes on extended TDY benefits are computed using exactly the same processes described in this Part for the WTA and RITA except that:

(1) The tax process for extended TDY benefits uses the term “withholding tax allowance” (WTA) in exactly the same fashion as the process for taxes on relocation allowances; however, in place of the term “relocation income tax allowance,” the tax process for extended TDY benefits uses the term “extended TDY tax reimbursement allowance” (ETTRA); and

(2) All benefits are taxable under extended TDY, so the sections of this Part that discuss which benefits are taxable and which are not have no relevance to ETTRA.

§ 302-17.21

(b) See part 301-11, subpart F of this title for additional information about taxes on extended TDY benefits.

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Subpart B—The Withholding Tax Allowance (WTA)

§ 302-17.20 What is the purpose of the WTA?

The purpose of the WTA is to protect you from having to use part of your relocation expense reimbursements to pay Federal income tax withholding; it does not cover state taxes, local taxes, Medicare taxes, or Social Security taxes (see § 302-17.22(c) and (d)).

NOTE TO § 302-17.20: If your agency offers you the choice, the WTA is optional to you. See §§ 302-17.61 through 302-17.69.

§ 302-17.21 What relocation expenses does the WTA cover?

The WTA covers certain allowances, reimbursements, and/or direct payments to vendors, to the extent that each of them is taxable income. In particular, the WTA covers:

(a) En route lodging, meals and incidental expenses—Reimbursements for lodging, meals and incidental expenses while en route to the new official station for you and your immediate family member(s). (See part 302-4 of this chapter).

(b) Transportation—Transportation expenses, to include commercial air or privately owned vehicle, for you and your immediate family member(s) transferred between official stations. (See part 302-4 of this chapter).

(c) Househunting trip—Travel (including per diem and transportation) expenses for you and/or your spouse for a round trip to the new official station to seek permanent residence quarters. Househunting is covered regardless of whether reimbursed under the per diem allowance or lump sum method. (See part 302-5 of this chapter).

(d) Temporary quarters—Subsistence expenses for you and your immediate family during occupancy of temporary quarters at the old or new official station. Temporary quarters are covered regardless of whether reimbursed under the lodgings-plus, actual expense, or