

Relocation Allowances

§ 302-5.14

§ 302-5.7 Who may travel on a househunting trip at Government expense?

Only you and/or your spouse may travel on a househunting trip at Government expense.

§ 302-5.8 How many househunting trips may my agency authorize in connection with a particular transfer?

Your agency may authorize only one round trip for you and/or your spouse in connection with a particular transfer.

§ 302-5.9 May my spouse and I perform separate househunting trips at Government expense?

Yes, however, your reimbursement will be limited to the cost that would have been incurred if you and your spouse had traveled together on one round trip.

§ 302-5.10 How soon may I and/or my spouse begin a househunting trip?

You may begin your househunting trip as soon as your agency has notified you of your transfer and issued a travel authorization for a househunting trip. To take maximum advantage of your trip, however, it is very important that you become familiar as quickly as you can with your new official station area (e.g., housing market conditions, school locations, etc.). If you are selling your residence at your old official station, you should not begin your househunting trip until you have a current appraisal of the value of the residence so that you can more accurately determine the appropriate price range of residences to consider during your househunting trip.

§ 302-5.11 Is there a time limit on the duration of a househunting trip?

A househunting trip should be for a reasonable period, not to exceed 10 calendar days, as authorized by your agency under § 302-5.101(d).

§ 302-5.12 When must my househunting trip be completed?

You and/or your spouse must complete your househunting trip as indicated in the following table:

For	Your househunting trip must be completed by
You	The day before you report to your new Official station.
Your spouse.	The earlier of: (a) The day before your family relocates to your new official station; or (b) The day before the maximum time for beginning allowable travel expires (see § 302-2.100 of this chapter).

§ 302-5.13 What methods may my agency use to reimburse me for househunting trip expenses?

Your agency will reimburse your househunting trip expenses as indicated in the following table:

For	You are reimbursed
You and/or your spouse's transportation expenses. You and/or your spouse's subsistence expenses.	Your actual transportation costs. One of the following two: (a) A per diem allowance at the standard CONUS rate (see https://www.gsa.gov/perdiem), for you and/or your spouse if you travel separately, or if you both travel together, the standard CONUS rate multiplied by 1.75, for the 10 days or less that your agency authorizes for you; or (b) Only if offered by your agency and chosen by you, a lump sum, as follows: (1) If you perform a househunting trip and your spouse does not, or if your spouse performs a househunting trip and you do not, multiply the applicable locality per diem rate by 5.00 (see https://www.gsa.gov/perdiem). (2) If you and your spouse both perform a househunting trip, together or separately, multiply the applicable locality per diem rate by 6.25 (see https://www.gsa.gov/perdiem).

[FTR Amdt. 98, 66 FR 58196, Nov. 20, 2001, as amended by FTR Amdt. 108, 67 FR 57969, Sept. 13, 2002; FTR Amdt. 2011-01, 76 FR 18337, Apr. 1, 2011; 85 FR 39850, July 2, 2020]

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

(a) Your agency will authorize you to travel by any transportation mode(s) (e.g., common carrier or POV) that 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 one or more mode(s) other than the one(s) authorized by your agency, your agency will pay your transportation

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expenses up to the constructive cost of transportation by the authorized mode(s). For trips of less than 250 miles, your agency will authorize travel by POV, unless there are reasons for not using a POV that are acceptable to the agency (e.g., traveler is physically impaired, does not own or lease a POV, has only one POV that is used for family transportation, or the POV is not roadworthy for such a trip). POV mileage reimbursement will be in accordance with § 302-4.300 of this chapter.

(b) Unless the agency performs a written cost comparison that demonstrates cost savings, only common carrier may be authorized for trips with a distance of 250 miles or more.

[FTR Amdt. 2011-01, 76 FR 18337, Apr. 1, 2011]

§ 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 §§ 301-11.25, 301-11.306 and 301-52.4(b) of chapter 301. For lump sum 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), 301-11.25, 301-11.306 and 301-52.4(b) of chapter 301.

[FTR Amdt. 98, 66 FR 58196, Nov. 20, 2001, as amended by FTR Amdt. 108, 67 FR 57969, Sept. 13, 2002; FTR Amdt. 2011-01, 76 FR 18337, Apr. 1, 2011]

§ 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 §§ 302-2.23, 302-2.24, and 302-2.25 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 lump sum

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househunting trip subsistence expenses payment, whichever applies.

[FTR Amdt. 98, 66 FR 58196, Nov. 20, 2001, as amended by FTR Amdt. 2011-01, 76 FR 18337, Apr. 1, 2011; FTR Amdt. 2014-01, 79 FR 49645, Aug. 21, 2014]

§ 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 lump sum is more than adequate to cover my househunting trip?

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

[FTR Amdt. 98, 66 FR 58196, Nov. 20, 2001, as amended by FTR Amdt. 2011-01, 76 FR 18337, Apr. 1, 2011]

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;

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

(c) If and when you will authorize the lump sum 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