

Relocation Allowances

§ 302-4.6

Subpart B—Agency Responsibilities

- 302-4.100 How should we administer the househunting trip expenses allowance?
- 302-4.101 What governing policies must we establish for the househunting trip expenses allowance?
- 302-4.102 Under what circumstances may we authorize a househunting trip?
- 302-4.103 What factors must we consider in determining whether to offer an employee the fixed amount househunting trip subsistence expenses reimbursement option?

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5738; 20 U.S.C. 905(a); E.O. 11609, 36 FR 13474, 3 CFR, 1971-1975 Comp., p. 586.

SOURCE: FTR Amdt. 63, 62 FR 13768, Mar. 21, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Employee's Allowance for Househunting Trip Expenses

NOTE TO SUBPART A: Use of the pronouns "I" and "you" throughout this subpart refers to the employee.

§ 302-4.1 What is a "househunting trip"?

The term "househunting trip" refers to a trip made by the employee and/or spouse to the new official station locality to find permanent living quarters to rent or purchase. The term "living quarters" in this part includes apartments, condominiums, and cooperatives in addition to townhomes and single family homes.

§ 302-4.2 What is the purpose of the househunting trip expenses allowance?

The allowance for househunting trip expenses is intended to facilitate and expedite the employee's move from the old official station to the new official station and to lower the Government's overall cost for the employee's relocation by reducing the amount of time an employee must occupy temporary quarters. The allowance for househunting trip expenses provides the employee and/or spouse a period of time to concentrate on finding a suitable permanent residence at the new official station and thereby expedites the employee's relocation.

§ 302-4.3 Am I eligible for a househunting trip expenses allowance?

You are eligible for a househunting trip expenses allowance if you are an employee who is authorized to transfer, and in addition:

- (a) Both your old and new official stations are located within the United States;
- (b) You are not assigned to Government or other prearranged housing at the new official station; and
- (c) Your old and new official stations are 75 or more miles apart (as measured by map distance) via a usually traveled surface route.

§ 302-4.4 Who is not eligible for a househunting trip expenses allowance?

New appointees and employees assigned under the Government Employees Training Act (5 U.S.C. 4109) are not eligible for a househunting trip expenses allowance.

§ 302-4.5 Must my agency authorize payment of a househunting trip expenses allowance?

No. Your agency determines when it is in the Government's interest to authorize you a househunting trip and the procedures you must follow if it is authorized.

§ 302-4.6 Under what circumstances will I receive a househunting trip expenses allowance?

You will receive a househunting trip expenses allowance if:

- (a) Your agency authorized you to perform a househunting trip in advance of the travel (the agency authorization must specify the mode of transportation and the period of time allowed for the trip);
- (b) You have signed a service agreement;
- (c) Your agency has established, and informed you of, the date you are to report to your new official station; and
- (d) You meet any additional conditions your agency has established.