

Travel Charged to Federal Sponsored Agreements

All travel costs charged to grants and contracts must be reasonable and comply with policies established by SMU, Federal regulations and the sponsoring agency terms, conditions and regulations. Travel policies of federal and nonfederal sponsors vary. The specific terms and conditions of an award must be consulted before making any travel arrangements. If there is a conflict between a sponsor's rule and SMU's rule, the more restrictive rule applies.

In the event that the trip is completed in the last month of a sponsored agreement, expenses must be submitted within 30 calendar days of trip completion to allow for submission of the final financial report.

Listed below are two of the general terms affecting Federal funded grants and contracts:

I. Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance (OMB-UG) provides principles for determining the costs applicable to research and development, training,

T a v e l e n e e

(2) The costs are reasonable and consistent with non-Federal entity's established travel policy.

(c) Other Considerations.

(1) Temporary dependent care costs (as dependent is defined in 26 U.S.C. 152) above and beyond regular dependent care that directly results from travel to conferences is allowable provided that:

(i) The costs are a direct result of the individual's travel for the Federal award;

(ii) The costs are consistent with the non-Federal entity's documented travel policy for all entity travel; and

(iii) Are only temporary during the travel period.

(2) Travel costs for dependents are unallowable, except for travel of duration of six months or more with prior approval of the Federal awarding agency. See also §200.432 Conferences.

(3) In the absence of an acceptable, written non-Federal entity policy regarding travel costs, the rates and amounts established under 5 U.S.C. 5701-11, ("Travel and Subsistence Expenses; Mileage Allowances"), or by the Administrator of General Services, or by the President (or his or her designee) pursuant to any provisions of such subchapter must apply to travel under Federal awards (48 CFR 31.205-46(a)).

(d) Commercial air travel.

(1) Airfare costs in excess of the basic least expensive unrestricted accommodations class offered by commercial airlines are unallowable except when such accommodations would:

(i) Require circuitous routing;

(ii) Require travel during unreasonable hours;

(iii) Excessively prolong travel;

(iv) Result in additional costs that would offset the transportation savings; or

(v) Offer accommodations not reasonably adequate for the traveler's medical needs.

The non-Federal entity must justify and document these conditions on a case-by-case basis in order for the use of first-class or business-class airfare to be allowable in such cases.

(2) Unless a pattern of avoidance is detected, the Federal government will generally not question a non-Federal

(c) You are an officer or employee of the Department of State, United States Information Agency, United States International Development Cooperation Agency, or the Arms Control Disarmament Agency, and your travel is paid with funds appropriated to one of these agencies, and your travel is between two places outside the United States; or

(d) No U.S. flag air carrier provides service on a particular leg of the route, in which case foreign air carrier service may be used, but only to or from the nearest interchange point on a usually traveled route to connect with U.S. flag air carrier service; or

(e) A U.S. flag air carrier involuntarily reroutes your travel on a foreign air carrier; or

(f) Service on a foreign air carrier would be three hours or less, and use of the U.S. flag air carrier would at least double your en route travel time; or

(g) When the costs of transport4(r)-3(eig)-4(n)-12(a)1(ir)-3(c)-9(a)1(r)-3

defined as the fifty states, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, possessions of the United States, and the District of Columbia.

It is safe to say that any travel outside of the 48 contiguous states should be looked at carefully before making arrangements.