

## 6A. Travel Guide

Revised 01/01/2021

### A. General Travel Information

1. **This is a State Division of Finance mini-Policy and Procedure Guide. The guidelines in this pamphlet are informational only. See State of Utah Accounting Policies and Procedures section FIACCT 10-02.00 for actual policy and detailed travel information.**
2. For **HELP** regarding procedural information on travel or regarding questions related to the State Travel Office, call the State Travel Office at 801-957-7280 or 801-957-7281.
3. **Travel Agency.** The State has contracted with a travel agency to provide business reservation assistance for the following services:

In-State Travel: Airline, rental car, hotel/motel, rail and bus reservations. (Travelers may secure their own in-state lodging reservations **as long as the rate is within the state lodging per diem.**)

Out-Of-State Travel: Airline, rental car, hotel/motel, rail and bus reservations.

- Corporate Travel 800-367-3230, statetravel@utah.gov, www.statetravel.utah.gov
- Emergency Line
 

Monday - Friday	800-367-3230 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)
After Hours	1-888-739-7018

The Division of Finance will not honor any reimbursement requests for any expenses that are not made in accordance with this policy. Exceptions to this policy may be granted when the travel is being paid for by a third party other than the State and the third party makes the arrangements and payments directly through their own travel agency.

4. **Business Travel Account (BTA).** All airline tickets must be purchased using the Business Travel Account. Airline tickets issued through the Business Travel Account are **not** reimbursed to the employee, but paid directly to the travel card company. The State will not reimburse the employee for the cost of airline travel if it is charged to an individual credit card or to the employee's state purchasing card.
5. **Reimbursement By A Third Party.** When a third party is reimbursing travel related expenses of an employee that travels on state time or for state business, the maximum that the traveler may be reimbursed for meals is the federal meal and incidental per diem rate (M&IE) for their travel destination. The federal M&IE amounts by location are found on the federal GSA website [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov), or you can obtain the allowable amount from the State Travel Office. Travel expenses reimbursed by a third party may be treated by an employee in one of the following ways:

**State Reimbursement** – Obtain a regular travel reimbursement from the state and then deposit the total third party reimbursement with the state as a refund of expenditure.

**No State Reimbursement** – Retain the amount reimbursed by the third party, up to the amount allowed by the travel policy, and do not submit a state reimbursement. If the amount reimbursed by the third party is greater than allowed by the travel policy, the difference must be deposited by the employee with the State. The department may return the difference to the third party. If retained by the employee, it must be included in the taxable income on the W-2 of the traveler.

Regardless of which method above the employee selects, upon completion of a trip for which a third party is reimbursing the traveler directly, the following must occur:

1. The traveler must submit a copy of the reimbursement check, itinerary, all receipts that were required, and the third party reimbursement form.
2. This information must be attached and filed with their [FI 5](#) form or uploaded into ESS.

For unique circumstances that prevent you from following the policy, contact the State Travel Manager at 801-957-7280.

6. **Visa Purchasing Card.** Employees should use the card for payment of **official state business travel expenses**. These cards **cannot be used for personal use**. Employees with a state Pcard must charge hotel and car rental expenses to the card. Whenever possible, additional business-related travel expenses such as books, fees, and registrations should be charged to the Pcard. The Pcard policy FIACCT 05-15.00 must be followed.
  - Customer Assistance 1-800-344-5696
  - Lost or stolen cards 1-800-344-5696
7. **Meals included in registration fee and complimentary meals.** The value of meals included in the registration for a function will be deducted according to the meal allowances. If meals are complimentary of a hotel, motel, and/or association, no reimbursement will be made for that portion which is “free.” However, meals provided on airlines will not reduce the meal allowance.
8. **Lodging At Other Than a Hotel/Motel.** If a traveler stays with friends or relatives rather than in a motel/hotel or uses a personal camper or trailer home, the travel will be reimbursed as follows:
  - \$25 – No receipts required
  - Actual cost up to \$40 plus tax – With signed receipt (campground, trailer parks, not a private residence)

9. **Driving a Private Vehicle Instead of Flying.** Prior approval by the executive director/designee is required. Mileage reimbursement will be for the lesser of mileage or air fare unless approved by the executive director/designee. Reimbursement will be limited to the lower of the 38 cent per mile rate or the cost calculated in the personal vs. rental comparison in the below link.  
<https://fleet.utah.gov/motor-pool-a/demand-motor-pool/personal-vehicle-vs-rental-vehicle/>

The mileage rate includes toll fees, fuel, etc. For out-of-state travel, rental car rates cannot be used to calculate the private vehicle rate unless no direct flight is available. Meals and lodging are allowed for a reasonable driving time; however, the total cost of the trip cannot exceed the equivalent cost of the airline trip. Travel time taken for driving during the employee’s normal work week that is greater than that which would have occurred had the employee flown will be taken as annual leave and deducted on the payroll system.
10. **Gratuities/Tips.** Allowances for meal reimbursements are inclusive of tax and tips. Gratuities/Tips for various services such as assistance with baggage, maid service and bellman may be reimbursed up to a combined maximum of \$5.00 per day. Tips for taxi/shuttle/ground transportation may be reimbursed up to the greater of \$5.00 or 18% for each ride.
  - An original receipt is required for each individual incidental item of \$20 or more. Subject to Division of Finance oversight through post-audit, when an original itemized receipt is not available, a Department Finance Director or designee may use discretion on a case by case basis in determining sufficient documentation for the reimbursement request. The Finance Director’s approval should be included in the reimbursement documentation
11. **Incidental Ground Transportation and Parking Expenses.** The traveler will be reimbursed for the use of taxi, bus, parking and other ground transportation expenses as follows. **Personal use such as transportation to restaurants is not reimbursable.**
  - Individual amounts less than \$20 – Submit a schedule of payments including date, to destination, from destination, type of travel, location, and dollar amount. If using a Pcard all original receipts must be obtained.
  - Individual amounts of \$20 or more – Submit an original receipt for each item.
  - Airport parking reimbursement is limited to the long-term parking rate at the airport the traveler is flying out of.
12. **Non-Overnight Trips.** An employee may be authorized to receive meal per diem if the destination is at least 100 miles from "home-base." The allowance is **not** considered an absolute right of the employee. The non-overnight meal allowance is taxable and must be claimed using a FI-48 form.

- Breakfast: Traveler leaves home base at or before 6:00 a.m.  
 Lunch: When the trip meets one of the following conditions:
- Trip warrants entitlement to breakfast and dinner.
  - Traveler leaves "home-base" before 10:00 a.m. and returns after 2:00 p.m.
  - Department director provides *prior written* approval based on unusual circumstances.
- Dinner: Traveler leaves "home-base" and returns at 6:00 p.m. or later.

13. **Personal Phone Calls While Traveling.** Personal telephone calls made while out of town overnight on state business will be reimbursed as follows:

- One night – actual amount up to \$2.50
- Two nights – actual amount up to \$5.00
- Three nights – actual amount up to \$7.50
- Four nights – actual amount up to \$10.00
- Five to eleven nights – actual amount up to \$20.
- Twelve to thirty nights – actual amount up to \$30.
- More than thirty nights. Start over.

The traveler must provide an original lodging receipt or original phone bill showing the phone number called and the dollar amount for **all personal phone calls**. No personal phone calls will be reimbursed unless documented on a lodging receipt or original phone bill.

**B. Travel Rates**

**Effective January 1, 2021**

- Use of private vehicle 38¢ per mile or 56¢ per mile if a state fleet vehicle is not available. Agencies have developed internal procedures to determine how to document whether a state fleet vehicle was available to an employee.
- Private vehicle instead of flying 38¢ per mile or airfare, whichever is less
- Private motorcycle 20¢ per mile
- Private aircraft 56¢ per mile

**C. In-State Travel**

1. **Meals** The basic meal allowance for a 24 hour period of travel is \$45, to be computed as follows:

<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>\$14.00</b>
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>

The meal reimbursement is determined by the time of day the traveler leaves his "home-base" (the location the employee leaves from and/or returns to), the days at the location, and the time of day he returns to his "home-base." Tips and tax on meals are included in the per diem amount. The 24 hour period is divided into four quarters.  
**Alcohol is not reimbursable.**

<b><u>Leave Home-Base:</u></b>	<b><u>Reimb.</u></b>
	<b><u>Instate</u></b>
1st qtr – leave between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.	\$45.00
2nd qtr – leave between 6:01 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.	\$34.00
3rd qtr – leave between 12:01 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	\$20.00
4th qtr – leave between 6:01 p.m. and midnight	\$0.00

<b><u>Return to Home-Base:</u></b>	
1st qtr – return between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.	\$0.00
2nd qtr – return between 6:01 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.	\$11.00
3rd qtr – return between 12:01 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	\$25.00

4th qtr – return between 6:01 p.m. and midnight \$45.00

\* Please Note: For breakfast, if a hot food item is offered, it is considered a complimentary meal, no matter how it is categorized by the hotel/conference facility. The meal is considered a continental breakfast if no hot food items are offered.

2. **Lodging**

- Conference Hotel (traveler may make own reservations): Actual cost plus tax
- Non-Conference Hotel:

**Utah Cities with Differing Rates for FY21**

**If an employee cannot obtain the per diem rate, the employee must call State Travel at 800-367-3230 to secure a reservation and to ensure reimbursement at actual cost plus tax. Travelers may not demand a certain hotel. If they choose to stay at a hotel above per diem when there are hotels available in the area at the per diem rate, the traveler must pay the difference.**

Exceptions will be allowed for unusual circumstances when approved in writing by the executive director or designee **prior to the trip.**

<b>Blanding</b>	\$85.00 plus tax
<b>Bluff</b>	\$100.00 plus tax
Brigham City	\$80.00 plus tax
<b>Bryce Canyon City</b>	\$90.00 plus tax
Cedar City	\$80.00 plus tax
Duchesne	\$90.00 plus tax
Ephraim	\$80.00 plus tax
Fillmore	\$80.00 plus tax
Hanksville	\$85.00 plus tax
Heber	\$85.00 plus tax
Kanab	\$90.00 plus tax
Layton	\$90.00 plus tax
<b>Logan</b>	\$90.00 plus tax
Mexican Hat	\$90.00 plus tax
Moab/ Green River	\$110.00 plus tax
Monticello	\$80.00 plus tax
<b>Ogden</b>	\$95.00 plus tax
Park City / Midway	\$110.00 plus tax
Provo / Orem / Lehi / American Fork / Springville	\$85.00 plus tax
Roosevelt / Ballard	\$90.00 plus tax
<b>Salt Lake City Metropolitan Area (Draper to Farmington), Tooele</b>	\$100.00 plus tax
St George / Washington / Springdale / Hurricane/ La Verkin	\$85.00 plus tax
<b>Torrey</b>	\$95.00 plus tax
Tremonton	\$90.00 plus tax

<b>Tropic</b>	\$95.00 plus tax
Vernal	\$95.00 plus tax
<b>All Other Utah Cities</b>	\$75.00 plus tax

## D. Out-of-State Travel

1. **Meals** The basic meal allowance for a 24 hour period of travel is \$50, to be computed as follows:

<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>\$14.00</b>
<b>Dinner</b>	<b><u>\$23.00</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$50.00</u></b>

### Tier I Premium Locations

The traveler may choose to accept the per diem rate for out-of-state travel or to be reimbursed at the actual meal cost, with original receipts, up to **\$71** per day. The traveler will qualify for premium location rates on the day travel begins and/or the day travel ends only if the trip is of sufficient duration to qualify for all meals on those days. The traveler may choose different reimbursement methods during the trip; however, the same method of reimbursement must be used for an entire day. Reimbursement is for the traveler only. If more than the traveler's meal is charged on a receipt, this must be deducted to reflect the traveler's costs only. Actual meal cost includes tax and tip. **Alcoholic beverages are not reimbursable.**

#### The Tier I Premium Locations are:

- ◆ **Anchorage** – Anchorage City Limits only
- ◆ **Chicago** – Includes Cook and Lake Counties
- ◆ **Hawaii** – Includes the islands of Hilo, Kauai, Maui, Oahu, Lanai, and Molokai
- ◆ **New York City** – Also includes the Bronx, Kings, Queens, and Richmond Cities
- ◆ **San Francisco** – Includes San Francisco County
- ◆ **Seattle** – Includes King County

### Tier II Premium Locations

The traveler may choose to accept the per diem rate for out-of-state travel or to be reimbursed at the actual meal cost, with original receipts, up to **\$61** per day. The traveler will qualify for premium location rates on the day travel begins and/or the day travel ends only if the trip is of sufficient duration to qualify for all meals on those days. The traveler may choose different reimbursement methods during the trip; however, the same method of reimbursement must be used for an entire day. Reimbursement is for the traveler only. If more than the traveler's meal is charged on a receipt, this must be deducted to reflect the traveler's costs only. Actual meal cost includes tax and tip. **Alcoholic beverages are not reimbursable.**

#### The Tier II Premium Locations are:

- ◆ **Atlanta** – Fulton, DeKalb, and Cobb Counties
- ◆ **Baltimore** - Baltimore City only
- ◆ **Boston** – Includes Suffolk County and City of Cambridge
- ◆ **Dallas** – Includes Dallas County
- ◆ **Los Angeles** – Includes Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties (except the City of Santa Monica)
- ◆ **San Diego** – Includes San Diego County

- ♦ **Washington, DC** – Includes the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax, and the counties of Arlington and Fairfax in Virginia; and the counties of Montgomery and Prince George’s in Maryland.

**Tier I Premium Locations**

- If breakfast is provided, deduct \$18, leaving a premium allowance for lunch and dinner of actual up to \$53.
- If lunch is provided, deduct \$19, leaving a premium allowance for breakfast and dinner of actual up to \$52.
- If dinner is provided, deduct \$37, leaving a premium allowance for breakfast and lunch of actual up to \$37.

**Tier II Premium Locations**

- If breakfast is provided, deduct \$16, leaving a premium allowance for lunch and dinner of actual up to \$45.
- If lunch is provided, deduct \$17, leaving a premium allowance for breakfast and dinner of actual up to \$44.
- If dinner is provided, deduct \$28, leaving a premium allowance for breakfast and lunch of actual up to \$33.

For **foreign countries** the traveler may choose to accept the per diem rate for out-of-state travel as shown or to be reimbursed the actual meal cost, with original receipts, not to exceed the United States Department of State Meal and Incidental (M&IE) rate for their location. The traveler may combine reimbursement methods during a trip; however, he/she must use the same method of reimbursement for an entire day. Reimbursement is for the traveler only. If more than the traveler's meal is charged on a receipt, this must be deducted to reflect the traveler's costs only. Actual meal cost includes tax and tip. **Alcoholic beverages are not reimbursable.**

\* Please note: For breakfast, if a hot food item is offered, it is considered a complimentary meal, no matter how it is categorized by the hotel/conference facility. The meal is considered a continental breakfast if no hot food items are offered.

**Out-of-State Travelers Who Come to Utah**

When the State of Utah pays for an out-of-state person to travel to Utah, the traveler may be reimbursed up to the out of state meal per diem rates shown above. Exceptions may be allowed for unusual circumstances when approved in writing by the executive director or designee prior to the trip.

The meal reimbursement is determined by the time of day the traveler leaves his "home-base" (the location the employee leaves from and/or returns to), the days at the location, and the time of day he returns to his "home-base." Tips and tax on meals are included in the per diem amount. The 24 hour period is divided into four quarters.

<u>Leave Home-Base:</u>	<u>Amt Reimb. Out-of-State</u>
1st qtr – leave between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.	\$50.00
2nd qtr – leave between 6:01 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.	\$37.00
3rd qtr – leave between 12:01 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	\$23.00
4th qtr – leave between 6:01 p.m. and midnight	\$0.00
<u>Return to Home-Base:</u>	
1st qtr – return between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.	\$0.00
2nd qtr – return between 6:01 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.	\$13.00
3rd qtr – return between 12:01 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.	\$27.00
4th qtr – return between 6:01 p.m. and midnight	\$50.00

**2. Lodging**

- Non-Conference Hotel – Traveler will be reimbursed up to the federal per diem lodging rates as listed on

[www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov). Arrangements must be made through the State Travel Office. **Travelers may not demand a certain hotel. If they choose to stay at a hotel above per diem when there are hotels available in the area at the per diem rate, the traveler must pay the difference.**

- Conference Hotel – Actual cost plus tax.

Exceptions will be allowed for unusual circumstances when approved in writing by the executive director or designee **prior to the trip.**

## **E. Procedures for Reimbursement**

### **1. Forms**

Submit the appropriate travel reimbursement form. These forms must have the traveler's original signature verifying the expenditures.

*FI 51A State Employee Travel Reimbursement Request For In-State Travel*

*FI 51B State Employee Travel Reimbursement Request For Out-Of-State Travel*

*FI 51C Non-State Employee Travel Reimbursement Request For In-State Travel*

*FI 51D Non-State Employee Travel Reimbursement Request For Out-Of-State Travel*

### **2. Documentation**

Attach appropriate documentation to the reimbursement request. See *State of Utah Accounting Policies and Procedures* section 10-02.02 for required documentation.

When an employee chooses to drive on state business rather than fly, the traveler must attach to the reimbursement form (FI 51A) an air fare printout which shows the lowest prices for flights (15 to 30 day advance purchase fare) to the desired destination. This printout is available only from the State Travel Manager or State Travel Coordinator. The driving vs. flying form can be found on the state travel web page located at [www.statetravel.utah.gov](http://www.statetravel.utah.gov). **Do not contact the travel agents for this documentation.**

## **F. Personal time before/after traveling on official state business:**

The airfare is calculated by pricing what the fare would have been if traveling for business only. Then price out the itinerary with the personal portion added. If the fare is higher by adding the personal portion, the ticket is to be paid using the department's BTA account and the traveler must write a check to the state for the difference at the time the ticket is issued.

Other reimbursable expenses:

- Mileage to/from their home-base to the departing airport.
- Long-term parking for the number of days the traveler would have been traveling on business if not taking personal time before the trip. OR, two round trips from their home-base to the airport if being dropped off and picked up.
- Taxi/Shuttle – calculate what the taxi/shuttle cost would have been from the arrival airport to the hotel the traveler is or would have stayed at for business (up to \$19.99 without receipt).
- Lodging - allowable for the night before/after the official state business (with receipt) if the traveler would have been required to stay overnight if traveling on official state business only.
- Any other incidentals as allowed per policy.

Per diem for meals will begin at the time the traveler would have departed or returned to their home base if traveling for business only.

## **G. Groups: Conference, Training Session, Retreat, and Service Award Gatherings.**

(See FIACCT 04-11.00 for complete policy on Group Gatherings)

1. If the estimated cost of the state sponsored group gathering is more than \$1,000, agencies must complete an FI 58 to document the estimated costs and approvals. The executive director or designee, and the head budget officer of



the department must approve the form FI 58.

2. If the facility providing accommodations accepts state per diem rates for food and lodging, no further bids are required and State Travel Office approval is not required. If needed, the State Travel Office will provide assistance selecting a facility.
3. If the facility selected by the agency does **NOT** accept state per diem rates for food and/or lodging, then the following policy applies:
  - a. If the total cost of the group gathering is estimated to be \$1,000 or less, the agency may select the best source without seeking competitive bids.
  - b. If the total cost of the group gathering is estimated to cost from \$1,000.01 to \$5,000 then the agency must get two, preferably three bids from other comparable facilities and select the facility with the lowest bid. If the agency cannot get more than one bid then the agency must obtain approval from the State Travel Office.
  - c. If the total cost is estimated to be greater than \$5,000 then the State Travel Office can assist in conducting the procurement. The State Travel Office must approve these gatherings.
4. If the estimated cost of the state sponsored group gathering exceeds \$50,000, then public post requirements of the Utah Procurement Code and Administrative Rule Title R33 apply, there are some exceptions. Contact State Travel Office for assistance.