



TRAVEL AND LOCAL PURCHASE POLICY

OVERVIEW

Bureau staff members may be required to travel and entertain in order to service the Bureau's current customer base and to cultivate new business. In addition, professional and technical conferences are important aspects in the training and professional development of employees, and travel to such conferences may be required.

All staff members are expected to practice high standards of business, personal ethics and integrity while traveling on Bureau business. Bureau funds will not be used to defray personal expenses, for illegal activity or for unapproved Bureau business. Staff members are prohibited from patronizing sexually-oriented businesses while on official Bureau business and use of Bureau funds for sexually-oriented entertainment or business is expressly prohibited.

The Bureau will reimburse staff members for reasonable business-related travel and entertainment expenses incurred for the benefit of the Bureau. Staff members are expected to exercise prudent business judgment regarding travel and entertainment expenses. To ensure compliance with ethical standards and efficient use of resources, all staff members are expected to adhere to the following while traveling on CVB business.

- **Prompt and Accurate Expense Reporting:** All employees must submit accurate and timely expense reports, accompanied by the required documentation, within designated deadlines.
- **Verification of Expenses:** Before paying, accepting, or submitting any invoice, receipt, or document for reimbursement, employees must verify its accuracy.
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Staff must be judicious, responsible and able to justify their spending, particularly in the event of an open records request. Business travel expenses must be ordinary and necessary and shall not be lavish, extravagant nor for personal purposes.

Staff members who submit expenses not in compliance with this policy risk a forfeiture of reimbursement and may be required to reimburse the Bureau. This policy does not prohibit limited, responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Although the primary responsibility for control of expenses lies with each individual, it is the obligation of the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Directors to review and maintain proper control of expense accounts.

Occasionally, Bureau Board members may be requested to travel on behalf of the Bureau. Bureau Board members must comply with this policy's provisions as well; failure to do so by an individual will be addressed by the Board Chair or Vice Chair, or the Board & Business Development Committee Chair if either the Board Chair or Vice Chair is not in compliance.

The use of hotel occupancy tax funds for travel and entertainment expenses must meet the legal requirements for the use of hotel/motel tax in Texas.

<https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/development/sales-tax/hotel.php>

All expenses shall be charged on a Bureau credit card whenever possible. All receipts shall be submitted for approval via the online expense reporting system.

POLICY

1. Meals at Local Seminars or Meetings

- a. An employee may be reimbursed or charge on the Bureau's credit card for a meal expense incurred within the employees designated place of business if it is mandatory and connected with training, a seminar or conference, per Texas Government Code, Section 660.113. Reimbursement amount must be reasonable.

2. Cash Advances

- a. Advances up to \$100 per person are permitted for in-town promotions such as fam tours, press tours, sporting events, etc. to cover gratuities and incidental expenses. *Submit a Purchase Request Form located on the ICVB SharePoint site for cash advance.*
- b. Advances of up to \$50 per day, including travel days, are permitted when traveling out of town.
- c. Additional amounts must be approved by an Assistant Executive Director or Executive Director.
- d. Cash advances will not be issued until any prior advance(s) and correlating expense report(s) are reconciled with the Bureau Accountant. If back-to-back events/trips are scheduled, both advances may be requested at the same time.

3. Tips and Gratuities

- a. Tips to a hotel bellman, doorman, concierge, etc. for package deliveries, luggage, etc. as well as housekeeping tips are reimbursable expenses. When traveling out of town, tips shall be reasonable and in accordance with local custom and included on the trip's expense report. For hotel housekeeping tips, a minimum of \$3/day should be given unless service was unacceptable or refused. At restaurants, a minimum 15% tip should be given unless service is unacceptable. Reimbursement for gratuities over \$75.00 paid to bus drivers, suite attendants, etc. require a receipt signed by the driver/attendant and will be reimbursed via the expense reporting system. If a signed receipt is not submitted, the maximum reimbursable amount is \$75.00. All receipts must include the name of the person who received the gratuity.

4. Entertainment

- a. Entertainment of business clients is acceptable when business is the primary purpose, and the Bureau goals are enhanced by the expense. Business clients include hotel community, industry peers, employees of other city departments who are Bureau partners, industry suppliers who provide mutual business development opportunities, members of the media (including social media/digital influencers), elected/appointed officials and other community constituents. Documentation including the client's name, date, company name, location, and the business discussed shall be included on the receipt. Sexually-oriented entertainment is not allowed under any circumstances.
- b. Client name(s), company, date and location of entertainment, and the nature of the business

discussion or activity shall be detailed within the expense reporting system.

- c. Expenses for entertainment at a staff member's private residence will not be reimbursed.
- d. Entertainment involves staff members and client(s). If the client brings a guest, staff may also do so. If the client does not have a guest, staff shall obtain supervisor approval to bring a guest. If the client was expected to bring a guest, and the guest is a late cancellation, the staff member may still bring a guest, but the cancellation should be noted on the receipt. If no clients are available to attend, rather than leaving seats empty, additional CVB staff and/or guests may be invited to fill the seats.

5. Client Amenities

- a. Purchases of items for clients such as cookies, pastries, flowers, gift baskets or gift cards of reasonable value are allowable expenses. Documentation shall include the name of the client(s) and purpose for giving the item to the client(s). Purchases require supervisory approval.
- b. Purchase of amenities, gifts for clients for personal occasions (birthday, wedding, birth of child, retirement, memorials for condolences, etc.) requires prior written approval by an Assistant Executive Director or the Executive Director.

6. Budgeted and Unbudgeted Travel

- a. Budgeted travel includes those trade shows, conferences and events that are specified in the annual budget and approved by the Board of Directors and City Council. Upon adoption of the budget, staff members are authorized to proceed with arrangements to attend the show or event.
- b. Unbudgeted travel includes additional travel opportunities that arise during the budget year and are not specified in the annual budget. An individual travel budget worksheet shall be completed by the traveler and approved by supervisory personnel for unbudgeted travel. The worksheet shall include all expenses such as registration, booth fees and expenses, and travel costs and shall be saved in the individual's budget folder. After the worksheet is approved, an account will be set up in Certify. It is the responsibility of the submitting department's Assistant Executive Director to identify the funding source for the unbudgeted travel from that department's budget.
- c. Travel by the Board of Directors shall be included in the annual budget which is subject to approval by the Board of Directors and City Council.–

Transportation

7. Air Travel

- a. Travelers are expected to purchase tickets at the lowest coach fare available. Travelers should research all fare types (main, main plus, main select on AA; equivalent on other airlines) in order to secure the lowest fare that includes seat assignments and baggage fees. If the total flight duration exceeds 5 hours, travelers may purchase tickets at the lowest business class fare available.
- b. If a substantially reduced airfare is available with a Saturday night stayover, the Bureau will cover additional hotel and meal expenses provided the total of these expenses do not exceed the airfare savings. To support the additional day's expenses, the traveler must attach a copy of both airfare quotes to the expense report. Prior written approval by an Assistant Executive Director or Executive Director is required.
- c. If the cost of the airline ticket is \$1,000 (excludes any fees), or over, written approval from the Executive Director must be obtained prior to purchasing the ticket.

- d. Changes to tickets that result in an increase in net cost for the trip require written justification and supervisor approval. Documentation should be attached to the changed ticket. Changes for non-emergency personal reasons are the responsibility of the traveler.
- e. The cost for additional flight insurance is not an allowable expense.
- f. The cost for in-flight entertainment (i.e., headsets, movies, etc.) is not an allowable expense.
- g. The cost for internet usage (within reason) while in-flight is an allowable expense.
- h. The cost for preferred seating, including main cabin extra, is an allowable expense. This does not include first class nor business class seating, other than when the latter is an allowable expense due to the flight's duration.
- i. The cost for additional suitcases/baggage (within reason) is an allowable expense ; this includes the surchargers airlines have implemented for checked luggage, including a second checked bag.
- j. Travelers are encouraged to pre-check a bag online which is at a reduced cost.
- k. In most cases, renting golf clubs is preferred to shipping or checking due to cost. If an employee ships golf clubs, Assistant Executive Director written approval is required.
- l. Enrollment in an FAA/Customs Registered Traveler Program, or other such programs that may be established, is an allowable expense. Only one program per traveling employee is allowed. This includes the costs of renewals for these as well.
- m. If choosing to personally upgrade to a first-class seat, documentation for the same flight at coach cost must be included, and you must reimburse the Bureau for the difference, less \$30 each way for preferred seat selection and \$40 each for the first piece of round trip luggage and \$45 for the second piece of round trip luggage (unless you only carried on), which the Bureau would have paid for regardless.

8. Ground Transportation

- a. A maximum of \$120.00, excluding gratuities, for ground transportation (includes mileage, parking, tolls, taxi/Uber) to/from DFW Airport or Love Field is allowed per trip.
- b. Mileage and tolls to/from DFW Airport or Love Field shall be included on the expense report. Mileage is calculated to/from the traveler's base.
- c. The costs for ground transportation at the destination are reimbursable for meals and those required for business purposes. Receipts shall include the date, the originating location and the destination. If a receipt is not available, the same information shall be included on the expense report.
- d. Travelers are encouraged to use the Convention Center vehicle, when available, for travel within driving distance. If approved by an Assistant Executive Director or Executive Director in advance, the traveler may use a personal vehicle for a trip. Reasonable incidentals, such as tolls and parking at the destination, should be considered and are reimbursable. Mileage shall be included on the expense report. The traveler is responsible for gas, cleaning, repairs and insurance costs for his/her personal vehicle.
- e. Car rentals shall be at the mid-size level if the traveler is alone; upgrades are allowed if traveling with other passengers/clients or large quantities of business materials. Rental insurance shall not be purchased; the City of Irving's insurance coverage is applicable. The traveler is expected to fill up the car with gas prior to returning to the rental agency; purchasing the pre-paid gas option is discouraged. If receiving free upgrades to a higher-level vehicle, documentation must be included.
- f. Traffic fines and violations are not reimbursable expenses.
- g. If an emergency situation arises (i.e., medical, need for medicine) the Bureau will cover the cost

of transportation to obtain medical attention or medicine.

9. Local Transportation

- a. Mileage for business-related travel will be reimbursed at the current IRS allowable rate, as well as tolls incurred. Expense reports shall be submitted requesting reimbursement monthly. Mileage and tolls submitted after the closing of the books for the prior budget year will not be reimbursed. Refer to the City of Irving Mileage Policy for additional information.
- b. When working from home or from another remote location on a regularly scheduled workday, round-trip office commuting mileage must be deducted from any business mileage claimed. If business mileage is less than the regular commute, no reimbursement is to be requested. Likewise, if making business stops on your way into or home from the office on a regularly scheduled workday, one-way office commuting mileage must be deducted from any business mileage claimed.
- c. Staff members who drive personal vehicles for Bureau business will be responsible for maintaining a valid driver's license, maintaining proper insurance coverage, and keeping the vehicle in road-worthy condition. In the event of an accident, staff should contact their own insurance company for processing. Staff will be required to provide a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to the Bureau upon request. In limited circumstances (i.e., company vehicle is not available), a standard cleaning at a local car wash may be authorized by an Assistant Executive Director or the Executive Director for a personal vehicle to be used for Bureau business.
- d. Convention Center vehicles are for business purposes only. Staff members may not use company vehicles for personal business. Bureau activities may occasionally require the staff member to keep the vehicle overnight. Vehicle users are expected to return vehicles with at least ½ tank of gas and in good condition inside (clean, no trash, food papers, etc.) and out. Vehicles shall be filled with mid-grade gas using a Bureau credit card or cash.
- e. Traffic fines and violations are not reimbursable expenses, unless the violation is a result of the Bureau or ICC's negligence (i.e., expired inspection sticker, etc.).
- f. Staff members who attend Bureau work-related events and social functions with extended hours past the workday have the discretion to use a ride-hailing service (i.e., Uber, Lyft, taxi, etc.) for transportation.

10. Lodging

- a. Lodging shall be secured at the most reasonable rate available. Travelers are encouraged to use the designated hotel room block when applicable.
- b. If the base room rate exceeds \$375 for any day, (prior to taxes, TPID assessments or other fees), prior approval must be obtained from the Executive Director. Written documentation shall be included with the expense report noting why that specific hotel property was chosen and booked at the room rate.
- c. Lodging shall be charged on a Bureau credit card at check-out. The traveler is responsible for verifying the accuracy of the statement and resolving any discrepancies with the charges.

11. Meals (Personal/Non-entertaining)

- a. Actual expenses for personal food and beverage when traveling out of town are allowed up to a total amount of \$150 per day. Unexpended amount does not carry over to the next day.
- b. A receipt from the eating establishment shall be included with the expense report. If paying with cash and a receipt is not available, the name and location of the eating establishment, the date,

and cost shall be detailed on the expense report.

- c. Staff are encouraged to request split checks when dining together without clients, as the individual total amount per day rate applies.

12. Internet

- a. Reasonable internet connection charges are allowable expenses.

Miscellaneous

13. Local

- a. When paying for the purchase of office supplies, meeting refreshments, etc., the employee is responsible for providing the vendor with a tax-exempt certificate so that tax is not added to the purchase. Every effort should be made by the employee submitting the receipt to have the tax removed if the tax is over \$5.00. Written documentation (email) must be provided with the receipt showing where the tax was requested to be removed.
- b. The tax-exemption certificate is only to be used for business purchases. Under no circumstance should a tax-exemption certificate be used to purchase personal items.
- c. To support staff efficiency and well-being, and subject to budget availability, employees may stay at the conference/headquarters hotel when serving as a member of the host committee or participating in local conferences or events. Advance approval from their Assistant Executive Director is required. Food and beverage maximums will apply as if the conference was being held out of town.

14. When Traveling

- a. Personal expenses (other than meals) will not be reimbursed. These include, but are not limited to: health club fees, airline club memberships, pay television, personal entertainment expenses, books, magazines, newspapers, toiletry items, spouse/companion travel expenses, passports.
- b. Supplemental convention/tradeshaw activities (which may occur prior to or immediately following the core event, as well as during the core event) can provide additional networking or client development opportunities; these expenditures must be approved in advance by an Assistant Executive Director or Executive Director.
- c. Business trips that are preceded by or extended into personal trips require prior approval by a supervisor. A copy of the airline fare that would have been purchased if the trip did not include a personal side trip shall be submitted with the actual airline ticket purchased along with reimbursement due to the Bureau for any increase in the cost of airfare. The traveler will be responsible for all expenses up to the final meal on the day prior to the first day of business and/or the first meal on the day after the conclusion of business.
- d. For business trips that are 5+ days in length, reasonable dry-cleaning charges will be reimbursed.
- e. In the event that an emergency situation arises for the traveler while out of town on Bureau business, the Bureau will cover the cost to return the traveler to Irving. The Executive Director has the authority to define an emergency situation. In the event of FAA, airline, weather or other such non-traveler-induced flight delays or cancellations, the traveler may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses as approved by the Executive Director.

15. General

- a. When attendance at a black-tie event is required, staff may be reimbursed for the rental of black-

tie/formal attire if required for the event. If a staff member owns his/her own formal attire, the Bureau will reimburse for reasonable dry-cleaning charges before or after the event (but not both) upon submission of a receipt from the dry cleaner; dry cleaning can also be charged to the hotel if traveling.

- b. The Bureau will pay for raffle tickets purchased at industry events where the tickets are used to support the association, or for mulligans purchased for clients and staff when playing golf in a Bureau-hosted event. If a prize of significant value (\$25 or more) is won by a staff member and the Bureau has paid for the raffle ticket or mulligan, the prize will become the property of the Bureau. It is the responsibility of the employee to report any personal gains to the Internal Revenue Service, and to report any company gains to the Bureau.
- c. The Bureau will pay for COVID test(s) and any other tests required for entry into the country, conference, or event. If the employee tests positive while traveling and is delayed from returning to Irving, the Bureau will pay for the cost of lodging and food, while the employee must quarantine away from home.
- d. If the location of a conference requires/recommends any other vaccinations or preventive medical treatment prior to or after travel, those expenses will be reimbursed.

16. Delayed and Lost Luggage

- a. Employees are encouraged to pack essential items in their carry-on luggage to minimize the impact of delays or losses.
- b. Responsibility for retrieving and compensating for lost or delayed baggage rests with the airline, including the requirement to file a claim directly with the carrier. If an employee's luggage is delayed at the destination for more than twelve (12) hours, they may purchase necessary items such as clothing and toiletries. The ICVB will reimburse up to \$125.00 per day for these essential expenses, including transportation to purchase items, with a maximum reimbursement limit of \$500.00. Original receipts must be submitted with the employee's travel expense report. In the event of delayed or lost luggage, the employee must promptly notify their supervisor.
- c. If the airline reimburses the traveler for lost luggage, the CVB will not reimburse the employee.
- d. Employees should file a claim with the airline immediately following the incident. Retain all relevant documentation, including boarding passes, baggage claim checks, and receipts for any purchases made due to the delayed or lost luggage. Follow the airline's specific procedures for filing a claim.

17. Expense Reporting

- a. Expenses (other than transportation) incurred prior to arriving at the local airport before a trip and after leaving the local airport upon returning from a trip are not reimbursable.
- b. All expenses relating to the trip shall be included in the expense report, including but not limited to: registration, airfare, hotel, meals, local mileage to/from airport, entertainment, gratuities, car rental, transportation and parking at the destination, and allowable incidentals.
- c. All cash and charge items entered into the expense reporting system shall include the vendor's name, date, amount and purpose for the expense. If a receipt is unavailable, a missing receipt form shall be attached to the expense report. A receipt for any single reimbursable expense over \$75 is required. Staff members are encouraged to obtain a bona fide receipt, completed by the vendor, when using cash. Excessive cash receipts will be examined closely.
- d. Reimbursement of unexpended funds from cash advances and any reimbursement for non-allowable expenditures are due within 3 days after verification & approval by accountant.
- e. All credit card charges showing in the Expense Reporting System must be added to an expense

report and assigned an account number by the 8th of every month, even if the expense report is not completed.

- f. If using a personal credit card for expenses, a receipt with the same type of documentation must be submitted. Deadlines remain the same for submitting expense reports regardless of the type of card used. Receipts from personal cards submitted after the closing of the books for the prior budget year will not be reimbursed.
- g. Out-of-town expense reports shall be submitted to your supervisor within 10 business days following the return to the Bureau. In the event of back-to-back trips, reports are due to the employee's supervisor within 10 business days following the return to the Bureau after the second trip. Failure to submit a report within the 10 business days may result in cancellation or revocation of the Bureau credit card at the direction of the Executive Director. The card may not be returned to the employee until all delinquent reports have been submitted to supervisor.
- h. Local expense reports shall be submitted monthly for non-out-of-town travel and other credit card and cash expenditures. Local reports shall include mileage and cell phone reimbursements. For clarification, cell phone expenses incurred date means the "Due Date" of the monthly cell phone bill.
- i. Per IRS regulations, reimbursement of all expenses submitted after 60 days of occurrence may be included on the employee's W-2 as taxable income.
- j. Supervisors have 5 business days to review, and accept/reject submitted expense reports.
- k. At fiscal year-end (September 30), ALL expense reports must be submitted by October 8th or other date as directed by the Accounting and Budget Director.
- l. Expenses will not be reimbursed if reports are submitted later than the due date, as set by the Director of Accounting and Budget each month.
- m. The Director of Accounting and Budget has autonomy when auditing expense reports and reports will be audited in a timely basis. Reimbursement of expenses may not be processed until the verification of accuracy and compliance with the travel policy is completed, all receipts are received, and all outstanding questions on the report are answered. The Executive Director's reports will be reviewed and approved by the Chair of the Board or the Vice Chair in his/her absence.
- n. Expense reports are the responsibility of the employee, not the support staff nor the Accounting Department. Falsification of receipts or other expenses will subject the employee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Any exceptions for staff members to these guidelines shall be submitted in writing and approved by the Executive Director.

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