FDVA

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

Fiscal Bureau Travel Training May 8, 2018

We Will Cover

- New Travel Voucher
- Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) Form
- Travel Policy
 - Per Diem
 - Meals
 - Mileage
 - Car Rental
 - Lodging
- Forms and voucher requirements
- Where to find forms
- How to contact Accounts Payable



	STATE OF FLORIDA TRAVELER:					AGENCY: Department of Veterans' Affairs							
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3

Travel Voucher

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VOUCHER FOR REIMBURSEMENT People First Employee ID HEADQUARTERS (WORK LOCATION	N):
OF TRAVEL EXPENSES Check One: Dfficer/Employee Don-Employee/Ind Contractor Revident(City):	

- Social Security Numbers have been replace with People First employee ID.
- If an employee has two People First numbers (i.e. transferring from another state agency) use the original People First employee ID.
- Traveler's name the way it appears in People first.
- Fill in Work Location i.e. Largo, Bay Pines, etc.
- Fill in Resident (city) Place of residence.

Travel Voucher

Date	Travel Performed From Point of Origin To Destination Conference)	Hours of Departure And	Meals for Class A & B	Per Diem or Actual Lodging	Class C	Map Mileage	Vicinity Mileage	Other	Expenses	enses	
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- Provide dates of travel.
- List Point of Origin and Destinations.
- Provide purpose of travel.
- List hours of departure and return.
- Do not override the formulas.

Travel Voucher

- Type of activity code (codes found on August 8th 2017 memorandum which is located on the FDVA Intranet) i.e. 1fi 1=Travel within Florida; f=Supporting executive and administrative functions, but not limited to, conferences, meetings, investigations, and training; i=Participate in external audits, review, inspections and surveys.
- Check box if teleconferencing was considered.
- Signatures of both the traveler and supervisor before sending to Accounts Payable.
- Do not override the formulas

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State of Florida DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Office of the Executive Director The Capitol, Suite 2105, 400 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001 Phone: (850) 487-1533 Fax: (850) 488-4001 www.FloridaVets.org

Glenn Sutphin Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

- DATE: August 8, 2017
- TO: FDVA Employees
- FROM: Glenn Sutphin, Executive Director LT Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)
- RE: Travel Requirements Imposed by Chapter 2017-071, Laws of Florida Effective July 1, 2017

The Florida Legislature enacted Chapter 2017-071, Laws of Florida, revising Section 112.061, Florida Statutes, to add the requirement that agency heads or designees, shall approve, in writing, any travel by state employees to foreign countries, other states, conferences, staff training activities, or other administrative functions that are critical to the agency's mission, and are therefore, "mission-critical," by adding an explanatory code to each travel voucher seeking payment. Such codes are provided below.

This memorandum supports the interpretation of the Department of Financial Services' Agency Addressed Memoranda (No. 03, 2017-2018), and should be read in conjunction with FDVA's Policies and Procedures Fiscal Policy on Employee Travel, Number 5030.200, to the extent necessary to fully comply with this memorandum. A copy of this memorandum will be provided to the Bureau of Auditing.

I have determined that the following types of activities requiring travel are deemed missioncritical for FDVA's functions and should be cited by the following codes¹:

- 1) Travel within Florida associated with the following:
 - a. Employee training of duties and assignments.
 - b. Supporting the operations of Headquarters in Tallahassee and Largo offices.
 - Providing technical and administrative support to employees with offices located across the State of Florida.
 - d. Attending meetings with stakeholders.
 - e. Supporting Governor's Veterans Service Awards presentations.

¹ An example of a correct citation of "code" for travel within Florida to perform an on-site visit to the Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home to conduct an internal audit is "<u>1)g.i.</u>"

"Honoring Those Who Served U.S."

Page 1 of 2

Rick Scott

Governor

Pam Bondi

Attorney General

Jimmy Patronis

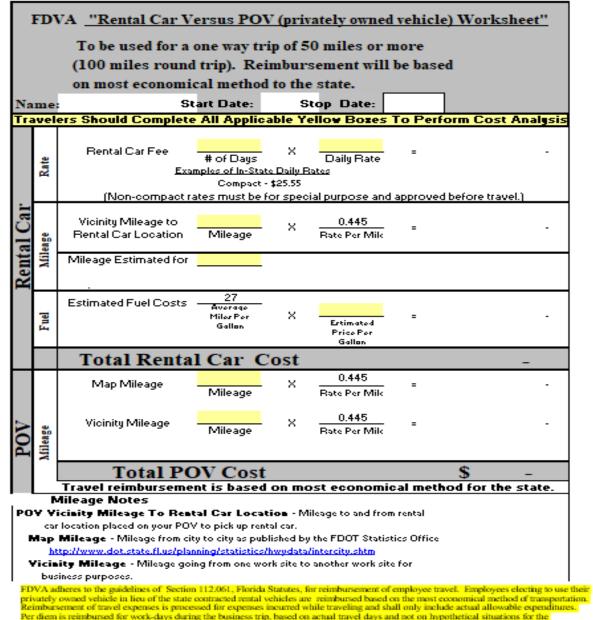
Chief Financial Officer Adam Putnam

Commissioner of Agriculture

- f. Supporting executive and administrative functions, including, but not limited to, conferences, meetings, investigations, and training.
- g. Attending trainings offered by State of Florida agencies and external vendors to enhance the skillset and knowledge of employees in the performance of their dayto-day responsibilities.
- h. Conducting internal audits, reviews and investigations.
- Performing on-site visits to the State Veterans' Homes to:
 - i. Participate in external audits, review, inspections, and surveys,
 - ii. Conduct physical inventories,
 - iii. Provide technical assistance and training to staff,
 - iv. Review and monitor current practices,
 - v. Provide support to their day-to-day operations.
- 2) Travel to other states, territories, or the District of Columbia for:
 - National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) Conferences,
 - b. National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH) Conferences,
 - c. National Association of State Approving Agencies (NASAA) and VA sponsored conferences, meetings and/or training, or non-VA and non-NASAA sponsored events with written permission of Director, Education Services (USDVA), or the designee. (These events are reimbursable with federal funds for SAA employees),
 - d. Meeting with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,
 - e. Presentations, public addresses, and training.
- 3) State Approving Agency (SAA) Federal Contract
 - Performing authority visits at approved educational institutions, on-the-job training and apprenticeship employers, and license and certification organizations authorized to administer VA Education Benefits,
 - b. Attend meetings or while attending and/or presenting during Outreach or Liaison activities,
 - c. Performing staff development and/or Administrative activities.
- Foreign travel may qualify but shall be approved on a case by case basis by the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- Other activities requiring travel deemed mission critical by the Executive Director or his/her designee.

In approving the <u>Voucher for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses</u> for the mission-critical travel request, agency head or designees, shall provide confirmation on the following two statements:

- This travel is deemed to be consistent with FDVA's Executive Director Memorandum dated August 8, 2017, regarding the "Travel Requirements Imposed by Chapter 2017-071, Laws of Florida."
- Teleconferencing and other forms of electronic communication to meet the needs of the proposed activity have been considered as an alternative to the travel.



employee's own convenience.

Rental Car vs POV (privately owned vehicle) Calculation of most economical method of travel to the state. Completion of Form POV is required when employee travels with a privately owned vehicle and the one-way portion trip is 50 miles or more and/or 100 miles round trip.



Privately Owned Vehicle Form

FDVA adheres to the guidelines of Section 112.061, Florida Statutes, for reimbursement of employee travel. Employees electing to use their privately owned vehicle in lieu of the state contracted rental vehicles are reimbursed based on the most economical method of transportation. Reimbursement of travel expenses is processed for expenses incurred while traveling and shall only include actual allowable expenditures. Per Diem is reimbursed for workdays during the business trip, based on actual travel days and not on hypothetical situations for the employee's own convenience.

- Reimbursement is only for actual travel days.
- Dates on the POV form must match days of travel on the travel voucher.

Travel Policy

Per Diem

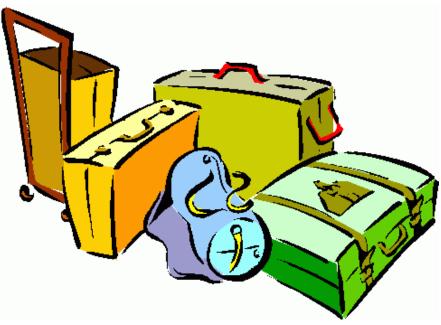
Methods of Travel:

- Class A Travel: Continuous travel of more than 24 hours away from the official headquarters.
- Class B Travel: Continuous travel of less than 24 hours which involves overnight absence from the official headquarters.
- Class C Travel: Short or day trips where the traveler is not away from official headquarters overnight. (Currently, Class C Allowances are not authorized).

Per Diem

Per Diem Allowance shall be paid to any employee not claiming meals and lodging. It is paid strictly by the time away from home/the office, from midnight to the time arrived back at the home or office. The current per diem allowance rate is:

- Midnight to 6 am: \$20
- 6 am to noon: \$20
- Noon to 6 pm: \$20
- 6 pm to midnight: \$20
- Total \$80



Per Diem

A traveler who is on straight per diem and receiving free lodging not charged to the state purchasing card (i.e. staying with a family member) will receive \$80.00 straight per diem and not receive meal allowance each day they are on the road. On the traveler's departure and return days, he or she will receive a per diem allowance based on the time of departure and return to official headquarters.

Meals

Meal/Subsistence Allowance:

- Breakfast: When travel begins before 6:00 am, and extends beyond 8:00 am, \$6.
- Lunch: When travel begins before 12:00 noon and extends beyond 2:00 pm, \$11.
- Dinner: When travel begins before 6:00 pm and extends beyond 8:00 pm, or when travel occurs during night hours due to special assignment, \$19.

Meals

If meals are provided at a conference or meeting, the reimbursement must be reduced by the allowed appropriate amount.





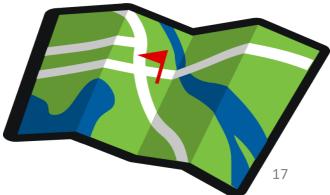
Mileage

- An employee may use his personal automobile for official travel in lieu of publicly owned vehicles or common carriers. When travel is by privately owned vehicle, the traveler shall be entitled to the mileage allowance (.445 per mile) currently authorized by the state or the common carrier fare for such travel, whichever is more economical.
- If it is determined that the most economical method of travel is by automobile on a particular trip, the employee may use a state-owned vehicle, a privately owned vehicle, or a commercial rental car. Mileage is reimbursed only when a personal vehicle is used. Reimbursement shall be limited to the amount computed for the least expensive reasonable available mode of travel.
- If the employee's personal vehicle is being used and the one-way portion of the trip is 50 miles or more (for a total of 100 miles or more round trip), the Rental Car Vs Private Owned Vehicle (POV) Form shall be completed to calculate the amount reimbursable for most economical travel.

Mileage

 Mileage should be recorded from the employee's regular place of employment (not from his/her residence, unless residence is closer) to the point of destination, using the latest Florida Official Road Map by the Department of Transportation. Mileage from home is allowed if departure or return time is one hour or more before or after normal working hours or during the weekend. Necessary vicinity mileage for official business must be shown separately. Google Maps and MapQuest, etc. are acceptable forms of mileage determination.





Mileage

• Travel expenditures incurred by Field Veterans Claims Examiners (VCEs) that may cover more than one outreach office are entitled to mileage reimbursement. In order to reach out and assist as many Florida veterans as possible, VCEs cover several offices, within the assigned region. These offices may be located more than 50 miles apart from each other and from the employees' residence and are not, in many cases the offices assigned to the person upon hire, but manifested as a product of veteran need. The weekly schedule for these VCEs has changed in such a way that they must now travel one or two days per week to different locations to cover the new outreach requirements, going back to their residences every evening. The VCEs main location of work is deemed the location he/she was hired for and the other locations are considered their "outreach" assignments.

Car Rental

- State of Florida has a contract with Enterprise and National for car rentals with more than 450 Florida locations.
- Pricing is \$25.55 compact car daily rate for in-state travel. Compact car is required unless written justification to upgrade is approved by a supervisor. If the upgrade is not approved then the additional expense must be reimbursed by the traveler.
- In the event that Enterprise has no cars available even with a 24-hour advance notice the traveler must use the below portal <u>https://partners.rentalcar.com/stateofflorida/</u>. This portal should override this situation providing there is a 24-hour advance rental window.

- Lodging expenses qualify for reimbursement only if they are incurred at a duly established commercial lodging facility and are substantiated by itemized paid receipts.
- Lodging less than 50 miles from official headquarters is not reimbursable unless it can be justified.
- Each travel voucher or Purchasing Card charge that seeks payment for lodging associated with a meeting, conference or convention organized or sponsored, in whole or in part, by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA), may not exceed the traveler's daily room rate of \$150.00. Daily room rates exceeding \$150.00 need to be justified.
- To minimize the impact to employees, managers who are approving travel need to verify compliance with lodging rate restrictions before authorizing the employee to incur travel expenses.
- An employee shall be required to expend his or her own funds for any daily room rate including associated taxes that exceed the \$150.00 per day restriction.

- Meetings organized or sponsored by our Department include, but are not limited to:
 - Meetings scheduled by the Department requiring other FDVA employees to travel to the meeting,
 - \circ Meetings where FDVA staff are involved in the selection of the location,
 - \circ Meetings and on-site visits to the facilities,
 - FDVA internal training offered in a location where employees are required to travel,
 - Inspector General internal audits, reviews and investigations,
 - Meetings where planning activities are to be conducted,
 - $\,\circ\,$ Meetings where FDVA contributes any money to the event.

- Travel NOT organized or sponsored, in whole or in part, by the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA)
 - Lodging restrictions do not apply to travel activities for travelers conducting business external to the agency including but not limited to audit, investigation, litigation or examination. However, travelers are required to obtain the most economical use of resources at all times, and should be prepared to justify costs that appear excessive.
 - Daily room rate greater than \$150 shall be accompanied by documentation justifying the lodging costs over the threshold.

 Documentations needed to justify lodging greater than \$150 are screen printouts of a minimum of three comparable comps at local hotels near the meeting destination.





Forms and Voucher Requirements

Forms that need to be submitted to Accounts Payable for travel reimbursement:

- Form 15 (DFS-AA-15) Travel voucher both pages. Must have employee and supervisor signatures. On second page in the section "State of Florida Purchasing Card Charges" a list of all expenditures paid by department purchasing card for travel expenses (airline, car rental, hotel, etc.). These charges are outlined on Form 15 in the space provided. All expenditures paid with a P-Card must be signed and dated by the card holder, and have Florida sales tax removed.
- Form 13-Authorization to Incur Travel Expenses, DFS-AA-13.

Forms and Voucher Requirements

- Rental Car vs POV (privately owned vehicle) Form
- Receipts incurred while traveling attached to the Travel Receipts Form listing all charges paid with the purchasing card. All receipts and form must be signed by the traveler.
- Conference program or agenda, when applicable.

Travel voucher (Form15) can be mailed, emailed to the accounts payable mail box, or faxed into the largo office once it is signed by both the traveler and their supervisor. The form and all supporting documentation needs to be a legible readable copy. If sending a scan or fax, retain original voucher for your records. Do not send in original copy after scanning or faxing a copy unless accounts payable requests it.

Where to Find Forms

The following forms can be found on the FDVA Intranet under the tab Administration, Fiscal, Purchasing, Billing. Select fiscal and then select Forms:

- Form 13-Authorization to Incur Travel Expenses, DFS-AA-13
- Form 15-Voucher for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses, DFS-AA-15
- Rental Car vs POV (privately owned vehicle) Form
- Travel Receipts Form

How to Contact Accounts Payable

List of accountants processing travel vouchers with their respective letters of the alphabet based on the travelers last name: Largo Phone Number (727) 518-3202

- Letters A through D Mickie Murphy (Ext. 5607)
- Letters E through Mc Nhora Chan (Ext. 5614)
- Letters Me through SI Sean Frazier (Ext. 5619)
- Letters Sm through Z Billie Jo Grassinger (Ext. 5520)

Any travel related questions please contact the above accountants, Gerard Lacroix at Ext. 5556, or Shelley Wittaniemi at Ext. 5542.

How to Contact Accounts Payable

Scan and email signed travel vouchers and supporting documentations to Accountspayable@FDVA.state.fl.us.



Authority and References

- Chapter 112-061, Florida Statutes, Per diem and travel expenses of public officers, employees, and authorized persons
- Chapter 691-42, Florida Administrative Code, Travel Expenses
- FDVA 5030.200, FDVA Employee Travel Policy