

**Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services  
(CCDCFS)  
Policy Statement**

**Policy Chapter:** Fiscal  
**Policy Number:** 11.02.04  
**Policy Name:** Employee Travel Reimbursement

**Original Effective Date:** 09/01/2012  
**Revision Date(s):** 01/01/2023, 06/01/2019, 05/01/2015  
**Current Revision Date(s):** 09/16/2024  
**Approved By:** Jacqueline M. Fletcher, Director

**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for reimbursement to Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) employees for business-related travel.

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to all DCFS employees required to travel in the course of their duties.

**POLICY**

- I. The Fiscal Office reimburses employees on non-County Executive approved and County Executive approved travel.
- II. Employees shall be reimbursed for the travel expenses that are reasonable. Travel expenses are all expenses incurred by the traveler to get to, return from their destination, and those necessary and appropriate during the travel period. This includes, but is not limited to, airfare, lodging, registration fees, ground transportation, mileage, communication, parking, tolls, meals, etc.
- III. "Employees covered by collective bargaining agreements or State/Federal regulations/Union employees" are required to follow the policies, procedures and guidelines as outlined in their union contracts/agreements. Any area NOT specifically identified in the union agreement/contract will default to this agency and/or County travel policy for requirements and procedures.
- IV. Travel authorization is required for all out-of-state travel and must be received at least 30 days prior to the date of the trip. Travelers must complete the request and submit it to the Procurement department for processing at least 3 weeks prior to departure. If an employee is unable to receive advance authorization due to an emergency, then the employee shall complete and obtain authorization immediately following the trip. The employee shall include the reason for the emergency in the travel authorization.
- V. All travel reimbursement and expenses must be submitted and approved before 5:00 pm on the 4th business day in the month following the month of travel. Travel reimbursements submitted after the deadline will be processed

the following month. Expense reports shall be submitted within 30 days after completion of travel. All travel reimbursements submitted after 60 days of travel completion may be denied.

## PROCEDURES

- I. All DCFS staff who travel are required to download and utilize the Triplog application on their agency cell phone (regardless of reimbursement submission). This includes the utilization of GPS, with MagicTrip running during work hours.

### A. Mileage

- 1.) All bargaining and non-bargaining employees are reimbursed at the [current federal IRS mileage reimbursement rate](#) per mile traveled. DCFS mileage is calculated by the Triplog application utilizing Google Maps. If the Triplog application is not running, staff will be reimbursed for the shortest distance. Employees must use the route that takes the least amount of time and/or the distance to get to their destination.
- 2.) Employees are reimbursed for accrued mileage that is reasonable.
  - a.) Reasonable is defined as the number of miles using the quickest route of travel from one location to another. Employees must enter the family case number or provider identification number in the "Notes" section of the trip.
  - b.) DCFS utilizes Google maps to provide driving directions.
- 3.) Employees working a hybrid schedule and/or starting from home are reimbursed only for mileage in excess of what would have been incurred during their normal commute. (*see Attachment A*).
  - a) Triplog will track the actual departure and destination locations in the application.
  - b) Employees are required to deduct the miles from their normal commute (from home to work or work to home) when traveling to and from a duty-related location at the start or end of a workday.
  - c) Employees must use the "Commute Adjustment" tag in Triplog to update the travel.

### B. Parking

- 1.) All employees who park in unattended lots with drop boxes and/or at parking meters
  - a.) Are not reimbursed for any parking costs.
  - b.) Shall seek secured parking nearby where a receipt can be provided.
  - c) Exception: When the **court** parking machine is not operable and does not print a receipt, employees must use one of the following two options:

- I. Take a picture of ticket, prior to putting it in the machine to exit.
- II. Contact the Huntington Garage at (216) 443-7007 and request a handwritten receipt for the date and time you were at court. *(see Attachment B).*

C. Meals

- 1.) Employees shall be reimbursed for meals purchased outside of Cuyahoga County for each full day of approved travel;

**Non-Bargaining** Employees receive a maximum of \$50 per day in regular-price locations and \$60 per day in premium-price locations *(see Attachment C).*

Meal Type	Non-Bargaining Non-premium location	Non-Bargaining Premium location	Time of meal
Breakfast	\$9.00	\$12.00	12:01 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Lunch	\$13.00	\$16.00	8:01 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
Dinner	\$28.00	\$32.00	6:01 p.m.- 12:00 a.m.

**Bargaining** staff receive a maximum reimbursement for a full day of out of county (**in state**) travel of \$30. The \$30 breakout is (Breakfast \$6/Lunch \$7/Dinner \$17). When a bargaining employee travels **out of state** they are entitled to the same meal rate as for non-bargaining staff.

Meal Type		Bargaining Staff –In state/ Out of county	Bargaining Staff- Out of state- Non-premium location	Bargaining Staff- Out of state – premium location	Time of meal
Breakfast		\$6.00	\$9.00	\$12.00	12:01 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.
Lunch		\$7.00	\$13.00	\$16.00	8:01 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.
Dinner		\$17.00	\$ 28.00	\$32.00	6:01 p.m.- 12:00 a.m.

- a.) Employees must provide an image of the receipt as an attachment in the expense being claimed. In addition, the family or provider number are documented in the “Notes” section of the reimbursement claim. Summary credit card receipts are not accepted as they are not always itemized. Gratuities are included in the maximum daily meal allowances and/or individual meal maximums. If an employee opts to use room service while traveling, the cost of room service will be included in the daily meal allowance.

#### D. Lodging

- 1.) Duty Related lodging for overnight stays shall be paid by DCFS when necessary and approved.
  - a.) Bargaining employees shall contact the DCFS Procurement Department before submitting a travel authorization. DCFS Procurement staff process all hotel arrangements and payments prior to travel. Employee hotel selection is contingent upon Management and Procurement approval.
  - b.) Non-Bargaining employees are reimbursed for approved lodging.
  - c.) Employees shall seek hotel accommodations that are safe, offer a good value not exceeding the lowest available room rate, and meet business needs.
  - d.) Employees requesting lodging for the night before a visit or duty-related activity must provide an explanation as to why the lodging is necessary and secure approval from a Senior Manager or higher prior to completing a travel authorization.
  - e.) Employees are responsible for any additional hotel services expenses.

#### II. Employee Completes the Employee Travel Expense Report Monthly

- A. Employees submit their monthly travel to their supervisor through Triplog. All submitted travel and expenses must include the family case number or provider identification number in the “Notes” section. In addition, the expense must have an attached uploaded photograph of the receipt and be categorized as one of the following:
  - 1.) Tolls
  - 2.) Parking
  - 3.) Meals
  - 4.) Non-Travel reimbursement items
- B. Supervisors review staff travel reported in Triplog and focus on the following:
  1. Ensure mileage calculations on report are accurate and net of commute when traveling to or from home to alternate worksites with the utilization of the “Commute Adjustment” tag.

2. Review and recalculate unusual, out of state travel, or large entries, and compare to the employee's schedule.
  3. Ensure meal reimbursements (based on employee locations and time) and other travel expense claims are in accordance with the County and DCFS travel policy.
  4. Authorize and approve all travel timely.
  5. Ensure all receipts and attachments are accounted for.
  6. Indicate review by approval or rejection of the travel or expense submitted in Triplog.
- C. Once approved by the supervisor, the employee travel and expenses will be uploaded for Fiscal processing.
- III. Upon Director approval, all other duty-related travel expenses, such as airfare and registration fees require initial contact at least 30 days prior to the trip with the Procurement Department to secure and schedule all travel services with contracted vendors. Registration fee payment method is determined by the Procurement Department and Division Management. Travelers shall use this information to complete a travel authorization request.
- IV. Payment Processing shall confirm supervisor approval of reports and reconcile receipts to entries. Payment Processing submits all processed Employee Travel Reports to the County Fiscal Office.
- A. The County Fiscal Office mails employee travel reimbursement checks to the employee's last known home address. Employees receive the checks no later than 21 business days from the submission deadline date.

**SEE ALSO:**

Attachments A, B, C

**TRAVEL POLICY CLARIFICATION**

**Costs associated with coming to work**

**Example 1**

1. The employee lives at 123 Easy St. The distance between 123 Easy St. and their work site (JEH, in our example), using the most direct route, is **10** miles.
2. The employee leaves their home and goes immediately to a client's home. The client lives at 5816 Park Avenue. The distance between 123 Easy St. and the client's home (5816 Park Avenue, in our example), using the most direct route, is **6** miles.
3. The employee is not entitled to a reimbursement for this trip.  
- **06** miles (actual trip) is shorter than the **10** miles (mileage associated with coming to/from work) so no reimbursement would be given.

**Example 2**

1. The employee lives at 123 Easy St. The distance between 123 Easy St. and their work site (JEH, in our example), using the most direct route, is **10** miles.
2. The employee leaves their home and goes immediately to a client's home. The client lives at 4976 High Life Road. The distance between 123 Easy St. and the client's home (4976 High Life Road, in our example), using the most direct route, is **17** miles.
3. The employee is entitled to a reimbursement of **7** miles for this trip.  
- **17** miles (actual trip) minus 10 miles (mileage associated with coming to/from work)

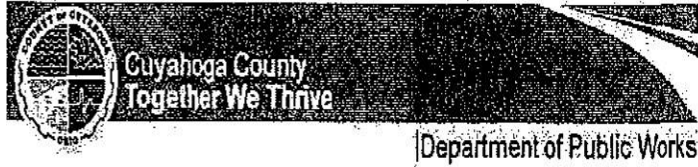
**Costs associated with going home from work**

**Example 1**

1. The employee lives at 123 Easy St. The distance between 123 Easy St. and their work site (JEH, in our example), using the most direct route, is **10** miles.
2. The employee leaves their last client's house of the day at 516 High St. and goes home to 123 Easy St. The distance from 516 High St. to 123 Easy St., using the most direct route, is **15** miles.
3. The employee is entitled to a reimbursement of **5** miles  
- **15** miles (actual trip) minus **10** miles (mileage associated with coming to/from work)

**Example 2**

1. The employee lives at 123 Easy St. The distance between 123 Easy St. and their work site (JEH, in our example), using the most direct route, is **10** miles.
2. The employees leaves their last client's house of the day at 516 High St. and goes home to 123 Easy St. The distance from 516 High St. to 123 Easy St., using the most direct route, is **8** miles.
3. The employee is not entitled to a reimbursement for this trip.  
- **08** miles (actual trip) is shorter than the **10** miles (mileage associated with coming to/from work) so no reimbursement would be given.



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**JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER  
PAID PARKING**

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Amount: \$ 2.00  
Date: April 2, 2019  
Name: Audrey Deasley  
Cashier: M. Hayden

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Thank you  
Please Come Again. •19Q0

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Chicago, IL

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