



## **SEIU Local 1021 Member Travel Policy and Procedure**

Members of SEIU Local 1021 incur expenses in the course of carrying out their union duties. In order to properly document and reimburse expenses, clear policies and procedures are required. Prior approval is required for all travel and expenditures.

**Travel:** All travel arrangements shall be made through a designated staff person. The local will not pay the travel expenses of a spouse, partner, or other traveling companion.

**Overnight accommodations:** Where possible, hotel/motel rooms are to be billed directly to the local and will cover the room and taxes only, no incidentals. The local will only pay for the cost of standard hotel rooms. The local will not reimburse personal incidental charges such as in-room movies and liquor. Double occupancy rooms will be booked. Members are encouraged to choose their own roommates; however, if a roommate is not chosen, a roommate will be assigned. Members who choose to not share a room will be responsible for the difference in cost of a double room. Members who fail to notify the union of cancellation and/or simply do not show up will be responsible for the cost of a reserved room. Members may request smoking or non-smoking rooms. Members who violate a hotel's smoking policy will be responsible for any fines imposed by the hotel. Members who must travel one hundred fifty (150) or more miles from home to attend an approved meeting or event that starts at 10:00 a.m. or earlier are eligible for a hotel or motel room (paid by the local) under the conditions above the night before the meeting or event. Members who must travel fifty (50) or more miles from home to attend approved meetings/events lasting two (2) or more days are eligible for a hotel or motel room (paid by the local) under the conditions above.

**Telephone calls while out of town:** All telephone calls will be presumed to be union business-related or personal calls which are necessitated by your absence from your normal place of work and residence and therefore will be reimbursed without documentation as to the specific purpose of each call. Calls that do not fall into these two categories should not be submitted for reimbursement. The original hotel bill showing the calls that were made while staying in the hotel will be sufficient documentation to obtain reimbursement. If the number of calls appears excessive, further explanation may be required. Reasonable cell phone charges incurred while out of town will be reimbursed with proper documentation.

**Ground transportation while out of town:** Authorized members will be reimbursed for the cost of transportation (i.e., shuttles) for round-trip travel between an airport and hotel/motel. Members will be reimbursed for round-trip travel between the hotel/motel and event location only if the event is not located at the hotel/motel at which the member is staying. Travel for other purposes will not be covered unless authorized by the chief elected officer, president, director, industry chair, or committee chair. Members must provide proper documentation of the expense.

**Meals:** Authorized members will receive the following per diem for out-of-town travel meals unless the specified meal is provided by the event or the local: \$10.00 per day for breakfast, \$12.00 per day for lunch, \$25.00 per day for dinner. Alcoholic beverages will not be reimbursed. Members may claim meal per diems only for themselves. Members cannot be reimbursed for meals they purchase for others.

**Receipts and documentation:** Documentation must be submitted on the local's official reimbursement form with all receipts and other necessary documentation attached. Original receipts, not copies or credit card receipts, are required for reimbursement. Copies of cancelled checks are not considered receipts. A bill, in itself, is not a receipt. Bills must be stamped "paid" by the vendor. Adequate documentation must include:

- date the expense was incurred;
- the nature of the expense (e.g., hotel, meal, ground transportation, etc.);
- where the expense was incurred (e.g., name and location of the union office, hotel, etc.);
- the name and title of every person on whose behalf an expense was incurred (e.g., everyone whose meal was paid for).

The chief elected officer, president, treasurer, industry chair, committee chair, or director shall carefully review documentation for accuracy before approving reimbursement. Industry and committee chairs may only authorize and approve industry funds.

**Exceptions:** The president or designee may grant an exception to any of the restrictions within this policy when s/he determines that circumstances warrant an exception. Such exceptions are subject to review by the executive board. Anyone who requests an exception should be aware that the exception may be under IRS and/or DOL rules and result in taxable income that you must report to the IRS and/or DOL. In such cases, your W-2 form at the end of the year will reflect the additional income and the local will report the cost of the expense as "other disbursements" on the local's LM-2 report. Exceptions involving the president must be approved by the executive board.

Reimbursement requests and supporting documentation must be submitted within six (6) months of the expense being incurred. Reimbursement requests submitted with proper documentation and authorization will be processed within two (2) weeks of receipt by the finance department.

**Member conduct:**

- Members at conventions, conferences, and events are representing Local 1021 and are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all times.
- Members are expected to attend and participate in all convention, conference, and event activities and meetings.
- Members are expected to be on time for all activities and meetings.
- Members are expected to refrain from conduct which would not be acceptable in the workplace. Abuse of alcohol and/or controlled substances will not be tolerated. Local 1021 members whose conduct is found to be inappropriate (e.g., public drunkenness, offensive comments or behavior) may be sent home at their own expense.