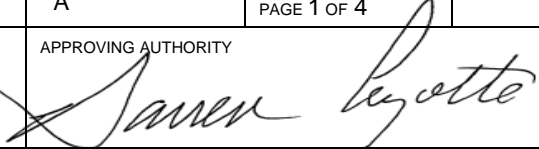
 <b>Department of Corrections and Community Supervision</b>  <b>DIRECTIVE</b>	TITLE <b>Request to Attend/Conduct Training/Conference</b>		NO. 2005
			DATE 11/05/2024
SUPERSEDES DIR #2005 Dtd. 06/22/23	DISTRIBUTION A	PAGES PAGE 1 OF 4	DATE LAST REVISED
REFERENCES (Include but are not limited to) Budget Bulletin B-1184; ACA Expected Practices 5-ACI-1D-09, 5-ACI-1D-22, 2-CO-1D-10, 4-APPFS-3A-21; Directives #2260, #2724; OSC Travel Manual; DOCCS Employee Travel Manual	APPROVING AUTHORITY 		

## I. PURPOSE

- A. This directive provides guidelines for gaining prior approval to travel to and attend non-Departmental training courses, conferences, conventions, and meetings of associations or organizations which shall be directly related to the employee's profession or duties. Attendance will not be authorized for the purpose of general education. See Directive #2724, "Travel Preparation and Expense Report Submission," for Departmental travel.
- B. This directive provides guidelines for gaining prior approval to hold or conduct a training session or conference. See Section VI.
- C. This directive provides guidelines to document the value of conference attendance to attendees and other staff.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Non-Departmental: For the purpose of this directive, "non-Departmental" shall mean any department, agency, or organization other than the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS).
- B. Departmental: Shall mean any location or division of DOCCS.

## III. POLICY

- A. [Form #1042A](#), "Request for Non-Departmental Training/Meeting/Conference Attendance," shall be utilized for request and approval of the types of meetings described above. Individual requests for conference attendance require approval as indicated on [Form #1042A](#). Special consideration may be given to employees who have been asked to be presenters at a conference. Job performance, time/attendance, previous conference participation, officer status with an organization, etc. may also be considered. The Department will only authorize travel and attendance for individuals who have received approval following the procedure outlined in this directive. Failure to comply with these procedures may result in the employee being liable to the State for costs incurred.
- B. Refer to the [Office of the State Comptroller \(OSC\) Travel Manual](#), current DOCCS Employee Travel Manual, and Department directives for additional information.

## IV. REQUEST/APPROVAL PROCEDURES TO ATTEND TRAINING OR CONFERENCE

- A. Attendees
  1. Prior approval is required for employees who wish to attend non-Departmental training courses, conferences, conventions, or meetings of associations or organizations.

Approval must be obtained prior to submitting registration forms, committing to a membership, agreeing to participate as a speaker, or participation as a panel member. Submission of a request to attend a training or a conference does not guarantee approval for travel.

2. To initiate the formal request, each prospective attendee shall complete items one through 15 on [Form #1042A](#), giving special attention to items 13 and 14, which ask for clear descriptions of the purpose of the training/conference and expected benefits. The justification for attendance cannot merely be a description of the conference itself, nor should it indicate the primary reason as networking. It must include reasoning as to why it is necessary to attend. Please state whether or not the trip is mandatory to fulfill a particular purpose. If it is a multi-day conference, briefly explain why it is necessary to attend each day.

If multiple DOCCS employees will be attending the training/conference, please provide justification as to why multiple employees must attend this event. If this training/conference was previously attended, please indicate who in the agency attended the training/conference last. If a different individual or a different job title is attending this training/conference, please indicate why.

3. Travel requests for training must detail State benefits. "Train the Trainer" events will include a listing of who will, in turn, be trained at the Department and when the training will take place, if known.
4. Staff should identify whether or not travel is associated with a grant or federal funds. If the funding source is other than the General Fund, the exact source (name of grant, special revenue source, etc.) must be identified in the justification. When staff/management are aware that there will be a third-party reimbursement or pre-paid funding for travel expenses, approval to accept must be sought from the Department's Ethics Officer (see Directive #2260, "New York State Ethics"). A copy of the approval should accompany this request.
5. A copy of the training/conference agenda and any available literature that will aid in the review process must be submitted with the request.

The employee should be careful to allow sufficient time for processing the request. Upon completion, this form should be delivered to the employee's supervisor.

For out-of-state travel, requests must be received by the Deputy Commissioner for Administrative Services via email or inter-agency mail a minimum of 60 days prior to the first date of travel. Any request that is under 60 days must provide information on the impact to the mission of the Department if the request is not approved. Requests must include information on whether this training is offered in New York State or at a closer location.

B. Attendee's Supervisor:

1. Shall review the request considering any benefits to the unit and availability of funds.
2. If approved, shall sign and date the request in item 16 and forward to the Appropriate Deputy Commissioner, Chairperson for the Board of Parole, or Superintendent for further approval as indicated on [Form #1042A](#).

3. If disapproved, shall return the request to the employee, giving reason for the disapproval in item 16.

NOTE: Community Supervision staff should submit [Form #1042A](#) to their immediate supervisor, who will then, via the chain of command, forward it to the Regional Director for their assigned region who is the signatory.

- C. The Appropriate Deputy Commissioner, Chairperson for the Board of Parole, or Superintendent shall review the request considering any benefits to the Department, check the appropriate box in item 17, sign, and date.
- D. The Deputy Commissioner for Administrative Services must approve all requests to attend conferences for Central Office, Community Supervision, Board of Parole, and all requests that include air fare or out-of-state travel (item 18). Out-of-state travel requests must be received by the Deputy Commissioner for Administrative Services via email or inter-agency mail.
- E. Commissioner and the Office of State Operation approval is required for out-of-state travel. Requests must be received by the Deputy Commissioner for Administrative Services via email or inter-agency mail a minimum of 60 days prior to the first date of travel. Any request that is under 60 days must provide information on the impact to the mission of the department if the request is not approved.
- F. Fiscal Office: The Fiscal Office shall review the request considering fiscal obligations, determine the reasonableness of the amount of funding requested, check the appropriate box(s) in item 20, sign, and date. Return [Form #1042A](#) to the attendee. In accordance with Budget Bulletin B-1184, revised September 11, 2018:
  1. If an "Agency Spending Controls Application-Attachment A" is required, the Central Office Division of Budget and Finance will submit for approval.
  2. If an "Agency Spending Controls Application-Attachment B" is required, the Fiscal Office will submit for approval.

If the request is disapproved, the Fiscal Office shall enter the reason and return to the attendee's supervisor.

All Out-of-State Agency Spending Controls Application (ASCA) requests must be submitted by the Central Office Division of Budget and Finance.

## V. FOLLOW UP PROCEDURES

- A. In accordance with the DOCCS Employee Travel Manual and OSC Travel Guidelines, if entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses and/or the Corporate Card was utilized for expenses, per Directive #2724, OSC [Form #AC 132-S](#), "Employee Report of Travel Expenses and Claim for Payment," should be submitted to the facility Fiscal Office or Central Office Division of Budget and Finance. The original [Form #1042A](#) (or a photocopy) and all required receipts should be attached to the OSC [Form #AC 132-S](#). Expenses not mentioned on [Form #1042A](#), or special functions, such as banquets not vital to attendance, may be denied reimbursements. Per the DOCCS Travel Manual, employees are expected to submit expense reports within 21 days after the completion of the trip, when utilizing the State-issued credit card.

Adhering to this timeframe is important as the Department has only 60 days to dispute any fraudulent charges on an employee's travel card. Expense reports that do not involve a New York State (NYS) travel card should be submitted no later than 30 days after travel has occurred. The processing of an expense report is the sole mechanism by which travel card expenditures can be reconciled. Any use of the travel card requires the submission of an expense report by the employee.

- B. Training Credits: Upon returning from a conference or non-Departmental training course, the attendee should submit a copy of the approved [Form #1042A](#) and a copy of the conference or training agenda, along with a Report of Training Form (RTF) signed by the attendee's supervisor, to the facility time and attendance Lieutenant and Regional Training Office so that attendance may be noted on the attendee's training record and appropriate training credits awarded.
- C. When a registration fee has been charged to a corporate travel card, or if the employee paid out of pocket, the attendee shall submit an [Employee Report of Travel Expenses and Claim for Payment](#), with the original completed [Form #1042A](#) and any attached supporting documentation to Central Office Division of Budget and Finance or facility Fiscal Office for payment.

## VI. REQUEST/APPROVAL PROCEDURE TO HOLD/CONDUCT TRAINING OR CONFERENCE

- A. Unit Head
  - 1. Completes items 1 through 8 of [Form #1042B](#), "Request to Hold/Conduct Training or Conference."
  - 2. Submits [Form #1042B](#) to Division Head for approval.
- B. Division Head
  - 1. Reviews the request considering any benefits to the unit and the availability of funds.
  - 2. If approved, signs and dates the request in item 9 and forwards to the Deputy Commissioner for Administrative Services or higher, or Superintendent, for further approval as indicated on [Form #1042B](#).
  - 3. If disapproved, returns request to Unit Head giving reason for disapproval.
- C. Deputy Commissioner for Administrative Services, or Higher, or Superintendent
  - 1. Reviews the request considering any benefits to the Department, checks appropriate box in item 10, signs, and dates.
  - 2. If approved, submits for funding approval to facility Fiscal Office or Director of Budget and Finance as appropriate.
  - 3. If disapproved, enters reason and returns to Division Head.
- D. Director of Budget and Finance or Facility Fiscal Office: Reviews the request considering fiscal obligations, determines the reasonableness of the amount of funding requested, checks the appropriate box(s) in item 11, signs, and dates. Returns [Form #1042B](#) to Unit Head.