

**RELOCATION ASSISTANCE
TO DISPLACED BUSINESSES,
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
AND FARMS**

**U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development**
Office of Community Planning
and Development

Introduction

This booklet describes the relocation assistance and payments provided to displaced businesses, nonprofit organizations and farms under the **Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended** (URA). This includes any such occupant that moves from real property, or moves personal property from real property, as a direct result of acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition for a Federal project or a project in which Federal funds are used.

If you are notified that you will be displaced, it is important that you **do not move** before you learn what you must do to receive the relocation payments and other assistance to which you are entitled.

Pursuant to Public Law 105-117, aliens not lawfully present in the United States are not eligible for relocation assistance, unless such ineligibility would result in exceptional hardship to a qualifying spouse, parent, or child. All persons seeking relocation assistance will be required to certify that they are a United States citizen or national, or an alien lawfully present in the United States.

This booklet may not answer all of your questions. If you have more questions about your relocation, contact the Agency responsible for the project. (Check the back of this booklet for the name of the person to contact at the Agency.) Ask your questions before you move. Afterwards, it may be too late.

Summary of Relocation Assistance

As an eligible displaced person, you will be offered the following advisory and financial assistance:

- **Advisory Services** includes referrals to suitable replacement locations, help in preparing claim forms for relocation payments and other assistance to minimize the impact of the move.
- **Payment for Moving and Reestablishment Expenses** falls into two general categories:
 - * **Payment for Actual, Reasonable Moving and Related Expenses.** If you choose this payment, you may also be eligible for a **Payment for Reestablishment Expenses**, up to \$10,000.
 - * **Fixed Payment** ("In Lieu Of" Payment). As an alternative to receiving payment for your actual, reasonable and related moving and reestablishment expenses, certain persons are eligible to choose a **Fixed Payment** in the amount of \$1,000 - \$20,000.

General Questions

How Will I Know I Am Eligible For Relocation Assistance?

You should receive a written notice explaining your eligibility for relocation assistance. You should not move before receiving that notice. If you do, you may not be eligible for relocation assistance.

How Will The Agency Know How Much Help I Need?

You will be contacted at an early date and personally interviewed by a representative of the Agency to determine your relocation needs and preferences.

How Soon Will I Have To Move?

Every reasonable effort will be made to provide you with sufficient time to find and reestablish your business in a suitable replacement location. If possible, a mutually agreeable date for the move will be worked out. You will be given enough time to make plans for moving. Unless there is a health or safety emergency, you will not be required to move without at least 90 days advance written notice.

How Will I Find A Replacement Location?

The Agency will provide you with current information on available replacement locations that meet your needs. The Agency may also provide you with the names of real estate agents and brokers who can assist you in finding the type of replacement location you need.

While the Agency will assist you in obtaining a suitable replacement location, you should take an active role in finding and relocating to a location of your choice; no one knows your needs better than you. When searching for a replacement location for your business, you should ensure that there are no zoning or other requirements which will unduly restrict your planned operations.

What Other Assistance Will Be Available To Help Me?

In addition to help in finding a suitable replacement location, other assistance, as necessary, will be provided by the Agency. This includes providing information on Federal, State, and local programs that may be of help in reestablishing a business. For example, the Small Business Administration (SBA) provides managerial and technical assistance to some businesses.

You should ask the Agency representative to tell you about the specific services that may be available to help you.

I Have A Replacement Location And Want To Move. What Should I Do?

Before you make any arrangements to move, notify the Agency as soon as possible. The Agency will discuss the move with you and advise you of the relocation payment(s) for which you may be eligible, the requirements to be met, and how to obtain a payment.

I Plan To Discontinue My Business Rather Than Move. What Should I Do?

If you have decided to discontinue your business rather than reestablish, you may still be eligible to receive a payment. Contact the Agency and discuss your decision to discontinue your business. You will be informed of the payment, if any, for which you may be eligible and the requirements that must be met to obtain the payment.

I Own This Property. Will I Be Paid For It Before I Have To Move?

If you reach a negotiated agreement to sell your property to a public agency, you will not be required to move before you receive the agreed purchase price. If the property is acquired through an eminent domain proceeding, you cannot be required to move before the estimated fair market value of the property has been deposited with the court. (You should be able to withdraw this amount immediately, less any amounts necessary to pay off any mortgage or other liens on the property and to resolve any special ownership problems. Withdrawal of your share of the money will not affect your right to seek additional compensation for your property.)

Ask the Agency to provide you a copy of the HUD information brochure, **When a Public Agency Acquires Your Property (HUD-1041-CPD)**. If you have any questions about the acquisition of your property, please contact the Agency.

What Moving Expenses Are Eligible For Payment?

If you choose a Payment For Actual, Reasonable Moving and Related Expenses, you may include in your claim the reasonable and necessary cost of:

- Transportation of the displaced person and personal property. Transportation costs beyond 50 miles are ineligible, unless the Agency determines that relocation beyond 50 miles is justified.
- Packing, crating, unpacking, and uncrating personal property.
- Disconnecting, dismantling, removing, reassembling, and reinstalling relocated personal property including machinery, equipment, substitute personal property, and connections to utilities available within the building; it also includes modifications to the personal property, including those mandated by Federal, State or local law, code or ordinance, necessary to adapt it to the replacement structure, the replacement site, or the utilities at the replacement site, and modifications necessary to adapt the utilities at the replacement site to the personal property.

- Storage of the personal property for a period not to exceed 12 months, unless the Agency determines that a longer period is necessary.
- Insurance for the replacement value of the property in connection with the move and necessary storage.
- The replacement value of property lost, stolen, or damaged in the process of moving where insurance covering such loss, theft, or damage is not reasonably available.
- Any license, permit, fees or certification required at the replacement location. However, the payment may be based on the remaining useful life of the existing license, permit, fees or certification.
Professional services as the Agency determines to be actual, reasonable and necessary for: Planning the move of the personal property; Moving the personal property; and installing the relocated personal property at the replacement location.
- Relettering signs and replacing stationery on hand at the time of displacement that are made obsolete as a result of the move.
- Actual direct loss of tangible personal property incurred as a result of moving or discontinuing the business or farm operation. The payment shall consist of the lesser of:
 - (1) The fair market value in place of the item, as is for continued use, less the proceeds from its sale; or
 - (2) The estimated cost of moving the item as is, but not including any allowance for storage or for reconnecting a piece of equipment, if the equipment is in storage or not being used at the acquired site. If the business or farm operation is discontinued, the estimated cost of moving the item shall be based on a moving distance of 50 miles.
- The reasonable cost incurred in attempting to sell an item that is not to be relocated.
- Purchase of substitute personal property. If an item of personal property, (which is used as part of a business or farm operation) is not moved but is promptly replaced with a substitute item that performs a comparable function at the replacement site, the displaced person is entitled to payment of the lesser of: (1) The cost of the substitute item, including installation costs at the replacement site, minus any proceeds from the sale or trade-in of the replaced item; or (2) The estimated cost of moving and reinstalling the replaced item but with no allowance for storage.
- Searching for a replacement location. A business or farm operation is entitled to reimbursement for actual, reasonable expenses, not to exceed \$2,500, which are incurred in searching for a replacement location, including: Transportation; meals and lodging away from home; time spent searching, obtaining permits, attending zoning hearings and negotiating the purchase or lease of a replacement site (based on reasonable salary or earnings); fees paid to a real estate agent or broker to locate a replacement site (exclusive of any fees or commissions related to the purchase of such sites).
- Low value/high bulk. When the personal property to be moved is of low value and high bulk, and the cost of moving the property would be disproportionate to its value in the judgment of the displacing Agency, the allowable moving cost

payment shall not exceed the lesser of: (1) the amount which would be received if the property were sold at the site or (2) the replacement cost of a comparable quantity delivered to the new business location. Examples include, but are not limited to, stockpiled sand, gravel, minerals, metals and other similar items of personal property as determined by the Agency.

In addition to the eligible expenses for moving personal property listed above, the following items are also eligible moving expenses if the Agency determines they are actual, reasonable and necessary:

- Connection to available nearby utilities from the right-of-way to improvements at the replacement site.
- Professional services (based on a reasonable Agency pre-approved hourly rate) performed prior to the purchase or lease of a replacement site to determine its suitability for the displaced person's business operation including but not limited to, soil testing, feasibility and marketing studies (excluding any fees or commissions directly related to the purchase or lease of such site).
- Impact fees or one time assessments for anticipated heavy utility usage.

The Agency will explain all eligible moving and related costs, as well as those which are not eligible. You must be able to account for all costs that you incur; so keep all your receipts. The Agency will inform you of the documentation needed to support your claim.

You may elect to pay your moving costs yourself and be repaid by the Agency or, if you prefer, you may have the Agency pay the mover. In either case, select your mover with care. The Agency can help you select a reliable and reputable mover.

Also, keep the Agency informed about your moving plans. You must provide the Agency reasonable advance written notice of the approximate date of the start of your move or disposition of your personal property and an inventory of the items to be moved. The Agency may agree to waive this requirement. You must permit the Agency to make reasonable and timely inspections of the personal property at the old and new locations and to monitor the move.

What Is A Payment For Reestablishment Expenses?

If you choose to receive a payment for your actual moving and related expenses, you may also be eligible to receive a payment for reestablishment expenses, not to exceed \$10,000. Such expenses must be reasonable and necessary, as determined by the Agency. They include, but are not limited to the following:

- Repairs or improvements to the replacement real property as required by Federal, State or local law, code or ordinance.
- Modifications to the replacement property to accommodate the business operation or make replacement structures suitable for conducting the business.
- Construction and installation costs for exterior signing to advertise the business.

- Redecoration or replacement of soiled or worn surfaces at the replacement site, such as paint, paneling, or carpeting.
- Advertisement of replacement location.
- Estimated increased costs of operation during the first 2 years at the replacement site for such items as: Lease or rental charges; Personal or real property taxes; Insurance premiums; and Utility charges, excluding impact fees.
- Other items that the Agency considers essential to the reestablishment of the business.

What Is A Fixed Moving Payment (“In Lieu Of” Payment)?

Certain businesses, nonprofit organizations and farms are eligible to obtain a Fixed Moving Payment, “in lieu of” receiving a payment for Actual, Reasonable Moving and Related Expenses and a Payment for Reestablishment Expenses. The Fixed Payment for a business or farm operation is based on the average annual net earnings of the business or farm operation; the Fixed Payment for a nonprofit organization is based on average annual gross revenues less administrative expenses. A Fixed Payment will not be less than \$1,000, nor more than \$20,000. Check with the Agency to see if you are eligible for this payment option.

The Agency will inform you as to your eligibility for this payment and the documentation you must submit to support your claim.

Remember, when you elect to take this payment you are not entitled to reimbursement for any other moving or reestablishment expenses.

Must I File A Claim For A Relocation Payment?

Yes. You must file a claim for a relocation payment. The Agency will, however, provide you with the required claim form, help you to complete it, and explain the type of documentation that you must submit in order to receive the payment.

All claims for relocation payments must be filed no later than 18 months after: For tenants, the date of your move. For owners, the later of (1) the date of your move; or (2) the date of final payment for the acquisition of your property.

However, it is to your advantage to file as soon as possible after you move. The sooner you submit your claim, the sooner it can be processed and paid. If you are unable to file your claim within 18 months, ask the Agency to consider extending this period.

You will be paid promptly after you file an acceptable claim. If there is any question regarding your right to a relocation payment or the amount of the payment, you will be notified of the problem in writing and the action you must take to resolve the matter.

If you must pay any relocation expenses before you move, discuss your needs with the Agency. You should be able to obtain an advance payment. An advance payment may be placed in "escrow" to ensure that the move will be completed on a timely basis.

Will I Have To Pay Rent To The Agency Before I Move?

If the Agency acquires your property, you may be required to pay a fair rent to the Agency for the period between the acquisition of the property and the date that you move. Such rent will not exceed the market rent for comparable properties in the area.

Do I Have To Pay Federal Income Taxes On My Relocation Payments?

No. Section 216 of the URA states that you need not report relocation payments as part of your gross income for Federal tax purposes. For information on State or local income taxes, you should check with the State or local income tax office in your area or with your personal tax advisor.

If I Don't Receive The Required Assistance, Can I Appeal?

Yes. If you disagree with the Agency's decision as to your right to relocation assistance or the amount of a payment, you may appeal the decision to the Agency. The Agency will inform you of its appeal procedures. At a minimum, you will have 60 days to file your appeal with the Agency after you receive written notification of the Agency's determination on your claim. Your appeal must be in writing. However, if you need help, the Agency will assist you in preparing your appeal.

If you are not satisfied with the Agency's final decision on your appeal, you may seek review of the matter by the courts.

I Have More Questions. Who Will Answer Them?

If you have further questions after reading this booklet, contact the Agency and discuss your concerns with the Agency representative.

Agency:

Address:

Office Hours:

Telephone Number:

Person to Contact: