

CSTE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY
2020 CSTE Annual Conference – Seattle, Washington**Purpose**

CSTE appreciates the efforts of those who travel for the organization. Travelers should be comfortable while traveling, understand all travel related policies, and obtain reimbursement quickly. At the same time, it is necessary to keep costs within reasonable limits and to follow consistent reimbursement procedures. Expenses not specifically addressed in these guidelines must be pre-approved by the CSTE National Office prior to incurring the expense. CSTE reserves the right to deny expenses exceeding reasonable or allowable costs as deemed appropriate by CSTE. Travelers that do not attend workshops or other sessions contingent on funding received will not be reimbursed.

The travel policy meets the IRS definition of an “accountable plan;” therefore, travel reimbursements will not be reported as income. A complete expense reimbursement form accompanied by receipts substantiating the amount, time and business purpose of the expenses is required within 30 days of trip completion or expenses may not be reimbursed.

Key Dates

Please read the entire policy for more information on key dates listed below.

- Airline Reservation Deadline – June 4, 2020
- Hotel Reservation Deadline (rooms may sell out before the deadline) – June 5, 2020
- Deadline for Travel Inquiries from the CSTE National Office – June 25, 2020
- CSTE Annual Conference – June 28 through July 2, 2020.
- CSTE Travel Reimbursement Submission Deadline - August 3, 2020

Registration

Travelers sponsored for conference registration to attend the 2020 CSTE Annual Conference will be notified by the CSTE National Office. All sponsored registrations should be made using the personalized web link created for the sponsored traveler. Registration is not transferrable and should not be shared with others. Sponsored travelers should not purchase conference registration on their own using a personal method of payment. If registration purchased on a personal credit card is canceled, a \$25.00 cancellation fee will be assessed and must be paid by the traveler. This \$25.00 fee is non-refundable and cannot be reimbursed by CSTE. Sponsored travelers are encouraged to register early as space for some workshops is limited. If a sponsored traveler is not able to register for a workshop because space becomes unavailable, and funding is contingent upon attendance at this workshop, the sponsored traveler will no longer receive funding support.

Air Travel

Travelers are expected to book the lowest-priced, coach class airfare available of any airline that is within two hours of (prior to or after) desired flight time; to use an alternative airport serving the destination city; and/or to use multiple stop flights that may include layovers. Travelers choosing an airline for its amenities or frequent flyer programs will be responsible for the difference in cost. Although CSTE currently awards the benefits of frequent flyer clubs and hotel programs to its travelers, it reserves the right to change this policy. CSTE will not reimburse travelers for tickets purchased with frequent flyer miles.

Costs associated with non-coach airfare (including business, economy plus, and first class) will not be reimbursed unless the CSTE Executive Director has a letter (from a medical professional if applicable) explaining the medical reasons or extenuating circumstances that require such service in advance of ticket purchase. Documentation of approval is required with the expense reimbursement form.

Airline Reservations

BCD Travel is the official travel agent for CSTE and airline reservations must be made through BCD Travel either online or by phone. Reservations made by following the instructions below will be charged directly to CSTE. To reserve the lowest ticketed price, reservations must be made no later than **June 4, 2020**. Reservations not made by this date are subject to a fare differential that may be the responsibility of the traveler.

1. **ONLINE** – Available Sunday through Thursday at <https://www.concursolutions.com/home.asp>. You will need to create a profile before tickets can be made. If booking online, travelers are encouraged to make their reservation between Sunday and Thursday as reservations made online Friday-Saturday may not be approved and may require rebooking. Please see instructions below for registering and creating your traveler profile if you have not done so before. Please note that airline ticket approvals may take 1-2 business days.

OR

1. **BY PHONE** – Available Monday through Thursday by calling (800) 778-0907 between 8:00am to 6:00pm ET. Reservations made online Friday-Sunday may not be approved and may require rebooking. Please note that airline ticket approvals may take 1-2 business days.

Creating a Traveler Profile

1. Click [here](#) to begin the registration process for your travel profile
2. Upon completion, CSTE's Travel Administrator will approve your access and you will be notified via email upon approval
3. Profile approval may take 1-2 business days
4. Once you have access to Concur, be sure to update your travel profile before attempting to book travel
5. Contact the CSTE Travel Administrator at 770-458-3811 or via email at travel@cste.org if you need assistance

CSTE will not respond to inquiries or changes regarding airline travel after June 25, 2020 at 12pm Eastern. In cases that require immediate attention after June 25, please contact BCD travel directly (800) 778-0907 during their normal business offices. For flight cancellations or delays, please contact the airline directly. For after-hours **emergency** assistance, you may call BCD Travel at (800) 251-9047 and refer to code W-7CD.

Airline Travel Restrictions

Travelers who are booking flights arriving prior to or departing after the approved travel days must also collect documentation on the cost of extending the travel dates. Travel will only be supported for the portion directly related to the CSTE Annual Conference. If there is an *additional* cost to extend travel, such as higher airfares, the traveler must send this additional payment to CSTE within one week of booking the ticket. The traveler must also include documentation on the fare differential. If there is no additional cost to CSTE to extend travel, the traveler is not responsible for any fare differential, but the traveler is required to provide confirmatory documentation with the expense reimbursement. It is the responsibility of the traveler to pay for all costs (within one week of booking the ticket) associated with extended travel and to provide documentation on these costs (if applicable).

Travelers booking flights independent of BCD Travel must be approved by the CSTE National Office before booking by providing a comparative chart of the airfares, such as www.bookingbuddy.com. The traveler is responsible for including documentation of approval and a comparative chart with the expense reimbursement form. Reservations not made through BCD Travel must be paid for by the traveler, and reimbursement for preapproved expenses will not occur until after the CSTE Annual Conference.

Upgrades for Domestic Air Travel

- An upgrade at the expense of CSTE is not permitted.
- A free upgrade or an upgrade at the expense of the traveler must be noted as such on the expense reimbursement form.

Sponsored Domestic Travel

As CSTE sponsored travel is supported by federal funds, travelers must use U.S. carriers at coach rates. Airfare costs more than the lowest available commercial discount airfare or customary standard (coach or equivalent) airfare on a U.S. carrier are not allowed except when such accommodations would:

- Require circuitous routing;
- Require travel during unreasonable hours;
- Excessively prolong travel;
- Result in increased costs that would offset transportation savings; and
- Be inadequate for the medical needs of the traveler.

For the complete federal travel regulations please refer to OMB Circular A-21.

Sponsored project travel should adhere to the guidelines set forth by this policy unless the sponsor imposes greater restrictions.

Cancellations/Changes

CSTE will not pay for airline change fees unless the changes are due to an emergency or approved by the CSTE National Office prior to incurring the expense. The traveler is responsible for including documentation of approval with the expense reimbursement form.

- When a trip is cancelled after the ticket has been issued, the travelers should inquire about using the value of the ticket for future CSTE-approved travel.
- Travelers can reuse airline tickets for future CSTE travel if airfare eligibility requirements are met. These requirements should be verified with the issuing ticketing agency.
- Please note that airline cancellations or changes may be the responsibility of the traveler.

Luggage Fees

CSTE will reimburse for one checked bag each way on travel requiring less than a one week stay. No other luggage expenses, including oversize or overweight luggage fees, will be reimbursed to travelers.

Lodging

Travelers will only be able to reserve a hotel room through **Orchid Events** (CSTE's exclusive housing service) after conference registration has been finalized. Availability is limited and conference hotels will most likely sell out before the room block reservation deadline of **June 5, 2020** so we encourage travelers to register and make lodging reservations as soon as possible. CSTE will not make your lodging reservation on your behalf. After your registration is complete, attendees will have access to a direct link to make hotel accommodations online through Orchid Events. Group block hotel rates are \$289 per night + 15.6% tax + \$2.00 per night city tax fee. Detailed information on making hotel reservations will be available after you have registered for the conference. Once reserved, Orchid Events will send reservation acknowledgements within 24 hours via email if booked online or by phone. You will not receive a written confirmation from the hotel. For additional questions or special requests contact Orchid Events at (844) 443-7240 Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. MST or help@orchid.events. Hotels will assign specific room types upon check-in based on availability and special requests are not guaranteed.

Hotels*	Nightly Rate
Hyatt Regency	\$289 + taxes
Hyatt at Olive 8	\$289 + taxes
Grand Hyatt	\$289 + taxes

*Lodging reservations are available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be available through Orchid Events after conference registration is confirmed. Hotel reservations must be made by June 5, 2020 – reservations after this date are subject to a \$25.00 processing fee at the responsibility of the traveler. All hotels include complimentary in-room Wi-Fi access to attendees in the group block.

Lodging Reimbursement

- The traveler is responsible for paying for lodging at the time of travel. Travelers will be reimbursed up to the negotiated group room rate (+tax) for lodging at CSTE conference hotels through the expense reimbursement process. CSTE will not reimburse room rates higher than the conference rate for stays at the CSTE conference hotels.
- If CSTE conference hotels become unavailable, travelers will be reimbursed up to the per diem rate of \$257 per night (plus tax) for stays at other nearby hotels (non-CSTE conference hotels). The traveler is responsible for identifying other nearby hotels. CSTE will reimburse for standard single occupancy rooms up to the per diem rate for Seattle, Washington.
- Please refer to your travel letter for information on the number of nights that CSTE will reimburse.
- Many hotels have frequent guest programs that reward travelers with free accommodations in exchange for a specified number of paid room nights at a hotel. CSTE will not reimburse travelers for the value of free accommodations used for business travel.
- If a traveler extends their stay beyond the number of nights approved by CSTE, all costs for the additional nights are the responsibility of the traveler. Please note airline flights may be limited and travelers may be required to stay additional nights and these costs are the responsibility of the traveler.
- Suites and concierge-level rooms are not reimbursed. An upgrade at the expense of CSTE is not permitted. A free upgrade must be noted on the expense reimbursement form.
- For safety and security, travelers should always investigate security measures of the hotel room (e.g., door locks, fire exits, and alarm systems).

Cancellations

- It is the traveler's responsibility to notify either the hotel or the agency with which the reservation was made to cancel room reservations.
- Cancellation deadlines are based on the local time at the destination hotel.
- Travelers should request and record the cancellation number in case of billing disputes.
- Travelers will not be reimbursed for "no show" or late cancellation charges.
- Deposit of one night's room and tax will be forfeited entirely if cancellation occurs within 48 hours of arrival date, which will be the responsibility of the traveler.

Hotel Personal Expenses

- Personal expenses incurred while traveling will not be reimbursed.

Meal Expenses

Travelers are given per diem to cover lodging, meals, and incidental expenses in connection with the performance of service to CSTE. Please refer to www.gsa.gov for a complete, up-to-date listing of per diem rates. Travelers are not required to provide documentation of each meal expense to receive meal per diem, but they must demonstrate that the trip occurred with a receipt, such as an airline ticket or hotel folio, that indicates the dates of travel. For audit purposes, this documentation must be attached to the expense report.

The federal per diem for meals will be awarded for the destination of the trip. The per diem for Seattle, Washington is **\$76.00** per day. Meals are not provided during the CSTE Annual Conference. Travelers will be reimbursed a fixed rate of 75% of per diem for travel days to and from the conference. Allowances for per diem are as follows:

- Breakfast (25%) = \$19.00
- Lunch (25%) = \$19.00
- Dinner (50%) = \$38.00
- Travel days (75%) = \$57.00

Example: A traveler receiving three-night sponsorship would receive the following per diem break down:

Day 1 – 75% per diem (less any meals provided) for travel and one-night lodging
Day 2 – 100% per diem (less any meals provided) and one-night lodging
Day 3 – 100% per diem (less any meals provided) and one-night lodging
Day 4 – 75% per diem (less any meals provided)

Per diem allowances may not be issued in lieu of service payments such as consulting fees or honoraria.

Airport Information

Seattle-Tacoma Airport (SEA), also nicknamed Sea-Tac, is located approximately 15 miles from downtown Seattle. Learn more about the airport, servicing airlines, flights and security at <https://www.portseattle.org/sea-tac>.

Destination Ground Transportation – from Seattle-Tacoma Airport

Once you arrive in Seattle, you will need transportation to your hotel.

- CSTE will reimburse travelers up to \$3.25 each way for transportation between the airport and the conference hotel using Link Light Rail. Sound Transit's Link light rail makes trips from Angle Lake Station to the University of Washington through downtown Seattle making 14 stops along the way, including downtown Seattle and Sea-Tac Airport. Trains arrive every 6 to 15 minutes, depending on the time of day, and take about 40 minutes to travel between Sea-Tac International Airport and Westlake Station in downtown Seattle. For travelers arriving outside the light rail's operating hours or those that may need special assistance, please contact travel@cste.org to discuss alternative options.
- Please check the CSTE website for updates for available ground transportation options. CSTE is unable to make ground transportation reservations on travelers' behalf.
- For more information on ground transportation, please visit <https://www.csteconference.org/index.php/attend-custom/>.

Destination Ground Transportation – Hotels and the Conference Venue

Seattle has a variety of transportation options, learn more at <https://visitseattle.org/visitor-information/getting-around/>.

Please note that ground transportation, other than between the airport and the conference hotel, will not be reimbursed. All CSTE conference hotels are within walking distance of the conference venue.

Departing City Ground Transportation

CSTE will reimburse mileage at the prevailing IRS rate to and from the traveler's home or business to the departing airport. As an alternative, CSTE may reimburse ground transportation expenses for the use of a shuttle or taxi up to \$25.00 each way to and from the traveler's home or business to the departing airport. If CSTE reimburses ground transportation for transportation between the traveler's home/business and the traveler's departing airport, CSTE will not reimburse the traveler for airport parking and mileage.

CSTE will reimburse parking for the traveler's personal automobile at the economy lot rate at the home airport up to \$14 per day.

Rental Cars

Rental car expenses are not reimbursable unless the traveler receives prior approval from CSTE. The traveler is responsible for submitting documentation of approval with expense reimbursement form.

Personal Automobile

Mileage will be reimbursed at the prevailing IRS per-mile rate for business use of personal automobile. Other automobile expenses such as gas, oil, tires, etc. are not reimbursable expenses.

Prior approval of use of personal automobiles for 600 miles (roundtrip) or less is not required. Automobile use exceeding 600 miles (roundtrip) must be preapproved by CSTE and reimbursement (including hotel parking) cannot exceed the total cost of the most economical roundtrip airfare. Travelers must provide a comparative chart of the airfares, such as a "Booking Buddy" with the request. Travelers are required to submit documentation of approval and comparative chart with their completed expense reimbursement form. Reimbursement for hotel parking will not exceed \$10 per day.

Telephone Usage and Internet

Travelers will not be reimbursed for phone calls or internet use. All conference hotels provide complimentary in room Wi-Fi access to all attendees in the CSTE group block. Internet will not be reimbursed for travelers staying at non-conference hotels or not within the CSTE group block.

CSTE Annual Conference Evaluations

All recipients of funding from CSTE to attend the CSTE Annual Conference must complete a conference evaluation form. These evaluations forms will be available at the end of the conference or online at www.csteconference.org. A link to complete the evaluation form will be sent to travelers at the end of the conference.

Other Expenses

Travelers requesting reimbursement for expenses not described within this document must obtain approval *before* travel occurs. The traveler is responsible for submitting documentation of approval with the expense reimbursement form.

Expense Reporting

- Travelers should complete the 2020 CSTE Annual Conference Expense Reimbursement Form. To receive this form, please contact the CSTE National Office or pick one up at the CSTE registration desk at the CSTE Annual Conference. Using an incorrect form may delay reimbursement.
- CSTE requires that travelers file an expense report by August 3, 2020. Expense reports filed after this date will not be paid unless approved by the CSTE Executive Director for reasonable cause. A request to the CSTE Executive Director explaining the extraordinary circumstances that prevented submission of the expense report on time must accompany the late expense report.
- The expense report must include a date and the traveler's signature.
- Documentation should include receipts, name of the traveler, location, date, and dollar amount. In addition, the following must be included:
 1. Air/rail ticket receipt
 2. Hotel folio
 3. Receipts for expenses that exceed \$50.99 (meal receipts are not required)



Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

- Submit your expense reimbursements to by email at travel@cste.org; fax at 770-458-8516; or by mail to:

CSTE National Office
2635 Century Parkway NE, Suite 700
Atlanta, GA 30345

Incorrect or Incomplete Expense Reports

Expense reports that are incorrect, on the wrong form, or incomplete will be returned to the traveler for corrective action and will result in delay of reimbursement. The most frequent reasons for returned expense reports include missing traveler's signature and missing receipts.

A correction and/or change to the expense report as a result of an accounting audit of the report will be documented with a correction note. For errors in arithmetic and disallowed items, notes denoting the errors will be sent to the traveler and an appropriate adjustment made to the reimbursement.

Reimbursement

Reimbursement will be mailed within 30 business days of receipt of a complete expense report by the CSTE accounting department. Additional time should be allowed for mail delivery. Checks will be sent to the address provided on the expense reimbursement form.

Please contact the CSTE National Office at 770-458-3811 or travel@cste.org for any questions related to sponsored travel or expense reimbursement. Additional 2020 CSTE Annual Conference Information can be found here: <https://www.csteconference.org/>.