

### Managing Travel and Expense Reimbursement in SFS

OSC Fall Conference 2024

Contents subject to change.

#### Agenda

- Key Terms and Concepts
- Managing Travel and Expense Reimbursement in SFS
  - Managing Expense Reports
  - Managing Travel Card Charges
- Reminders and Resources
- Questions and Answers

**Note:** This session is an overview of tips and reminders for managing travel and expense reimbursement in SFS. Please enter additional questions you may have into the Webex chat during today's session.





#### **Key Terms and Concepts**

**Speaker Name** 

Contents subject to change.

#### **Key Terms and Concepts**

Term	Definition
Expense Report	A travel document that is submitted by a traveler or proxy once a travel-related event is complete. This report captures the actual travel costs and requests reimbursement of expenses.
Traveler	A New York State employee who travels for business-related purposes.
Proxy	User authorized to view, enter, and/or submit expense transactions on behalf of an employee.
Business Purpose	The overall classification of expense documents. This is generally the business reason for travel (e.g., routine travel or conference).
Expense Type	The classification of an incurred expense (e.g., parking, mileage, airfare).
Travel Card (TCard)	A credit card assigned to a traveler for business-related travel expenses.
My Wallet	A tool in SFS that stores credit card transactions and allows the user to reconcile these transactions by applying them to expense reports.
Non-Travel Expense	A job-related expense that is not related to travel. Membership expenses and uniform allowances are examples of non-travel expenses.
Chartfields	The information on the transaction that identifies what budget will be impacted by the transaction. These replace "Cost Centers."





#### **Managing Expense Reports**

Contents subject to change.

#### **Travel and Expense in SFS**





#### **Travel and Expense Entry Homepage**

 The Travel and Expense Entry homepage is used by state employees and proxies to request reimbursement for business expenses incurred while traveling.

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Travel and Expense E	intry ~			< 1	8 of 23	> :
	Create Expense Report	My Expense Reports	Expense History			
		تع في 2.5 * 2.5 200 ق Pending				
		4 Active Expense Reports				

- Create Expense Report tile provides access to expense entry pages where travelers or proxies can begin
  documenting business travel expenses for the purpose of reimbursement.
- My Expense Reports tile provides access to the My Expense Reports page where travelers or proxies can
  inquire upon the status of an expense report.
  - Only shows active expense reports; does not include paid reports.
- **Expense History** tile provides access to the Expense Report History page.
  - Offers complete history of expense report entry, including paid reports.
  - Offers complete history of travel card charges.



#### **Travel and Expense Approval Homepage**

 The Travel and Expense Approval homepage is used by supervisors and approvers to review and take approval action on submitted expense reports.

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Travel a	nd Expense Approval	~		1.1.1					<	19 of 23	>	:
	View Expense Reports		My Expense Report Approvals		My Exp Approv	al Assignments		Travel and Expe	nse Wor	kCenter		
			9 All Approvals Pending		<b>O</b> Assigned Approvals	<b>9</b> Supervisor Approvals			Ş			

- View Expense Reports tile is used to search for a specific expense report pending the approver's approval.
- My Exp Approval Assignments tile shows all expense reports assigned specifically to the approver.
- My Expense Report Approvals tile shows a count of all expense reports pending at one or more of the approver's assigned approval levels.
- Travel and Expense WorkCenter tile is used for quick access/links to travel and administration queries and reports.



#### **Receipts**

- When do I need to attach a receipt to my expense report?
- Travelers must provide receipts with expense reports in accordance with the <u>Office of the State</u> Comptroller's (OSC) policy.
  - Receipts are required for all TCard charges/purchases.
- Receipts need to include the final expense price to be accepted.
  - Receipts that only include a boarding pass, a hotel reservation, an anticipated return time, or an estimated cost for vehicle rentals will not be accepted.
  - For additional information on receipt requirements, please refer to OSC's <u>Travel FAQs</u>.

Expense Type	Documentation Required		
Charge on the State Travel Card	Receipt		
Transportation by Common Carrier (e.g. train, bus, airplane, subway)	Ticket stub if purchase price is printed on the stub; receipt and ticket stub if purchase price is not printed on the stub		
Taxi Receipt			
Rental Car	Receipt showing return time		
Tolls - EZ Pass	EZ pass statement with applicable charges indicated		
Tolls - Cash	Receipt		
Gas	Receipt		
Day Trip Meals - Receipted	Receipt		
Hotels - Receipted	Receipt		
Miscellaneous and incidental expenses	Receipt		

Screenshot from OSC Travel Manual, page 12.



#### **Expense Report Statuses**

Can I modify a report after I've submitted it?

Expense Report Status in SFS	Status Definition	How to Modify the Expense Report
Pending	The report is in a traveler's queue and has either not yet been submitted or has been denied.	Travelers or proxies can make updates to a Pending expense report.
Submitted	The report has been submitted to a traveler's supervisor and is now in the supervisor's queue.	If the supervisor has not yet taken action on the expense report, it can be <b>Withdrawn</b> and placed back in the traveler's queue for editing. The supervisor can <b>Deny</b> the expense report so it will be placed back in the traveler's queue to modify.
In Process	The report is either with the TE Approver or TE Approver 2.	Wait for the approver to <b>Deny</b> the expense report back to the traveler. BSC Customer Agencies: Contact the BSC to have the report denied back, if report is pending at the BSC (TE Approver 2) or OSC level.



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#### Expense Report Statuses – Continued

Can I modify a report after I've submitted it?

Expense Report Status in SFS	Status Definition	How to Modify the Expense Report
Returned/ Denied	The report has been sent back to the traveler's queue by someone in Workflow and will need to be modified or corrected and resubmitted.	Travelers or proxies can make updates to a Denied expense report and resubmit so it will be back in the supervisor's queue.
Rejected	The report cannot be modified or resubmitted.	Modifications cannot be made to a Rejected expense report.
Paid	The report has been approved at all levels, including OSC, and payment has been sent.	Modifications cannot be made to a Paid expense report.



# Find the Reason for Denial on an Expense Report

- If an approver (including agency, BSC, and OSC approvers) needs to deny an expense report, they are required to enter a justification comment.
  - This comment will include the reason for denial. Travelers should review this information in order to make changes and resubmit.
- To find the reason for denial for an expense report, click on the My Expense Reports tile, navigate to the Returned section, and click on the expense report you wish to open.
  - **Note:** The My Expense Reports tile can also be used to view the statuses of other expense reports in workflow under the Awaiting Approval and Pending Payment sections.



My Expense Reports	
JEROME DOE $\odot$ NXXXXXXXXXXX Statewide Financial System	
Drafts and Templates	0
Not Submitted	0
Awaiting Approval	0
Returned	1
Pending Payment	1
View All	2



## Find the Reason for Denial on an Expense Report – Continued



- Navigate to the Expense Summary page on the expense report. The Approval Status section to the right of the page will show you the approval history of the expense report, including the denial reason for the expense report.
- BSC Customer Agencies: For questions about a denied expense report, contact the BSC Travel Team:

BSCfinance@ogs.ny.gov (include "Travel" and the expense report ID in the subject line of your email) or 518-457-4272.

		<u>∩ ♀ : ∅</u>
Expense Summary		
Annual Conference DI JOHN DOE		General Information         View Details         Withdraw           Last Saved         08/13/2024 12:58PM         08/13/2024 12:58PM
Expense Report Summary	Approval	Status
Total (16 Items) 1,612.59 USD	Report ID	0000000000 Submitted for Approval
Prepaid Expenses 1,297.24 USD	Sub	bmitted
Due to Employee 315.35 USD	JOF Em	HN DOE Iployee 07/23/2024 1:06:20PM
Additional Information	⊗ Den	nied
II View Analytics	> JAN	NET DOE Supervisor 07/31/2024 1:22:10PM
Notes	> Spli esti	table update for 1. Thease spirit the out-or-state taxes and fees on the logging receipt and categorize them as Out-or-state kees & Charges for Lodging. For more information on how to split charges use SFS Coach Training, key words Expense it Wizard. 2. Attach an itemized airfare receipt that shows the agent fee and airfare costs for 318.45 and \$22.44. An imated cost cannot be substituted for a receipt. 4. Attach the receipt for \$22.44 for the expenses in the report. If you are
Urew Printable Report	> Mea	able to obtain the receipt(s), provide a justification in the missing receipt section. 5. Change the PerDiem-Recpted Ovrngt als for 6/11 and 6/12 to reflect \$90.00 (dinner portion).
	See Res	submitted           HN DOE           uployee         08/07/2024 1:56:57PM
	S App JAN	proved NET DOE



#### Approving Expense Reports: Budget Check

The Budget Check status of an expense report is available on the **Approve Expense Report** – **Expense Summary** page for approvers to check before taking approval action.

- If an expense report does not pass budget check, it cannot be approved and will stay in the supervisor's worklist until the supervisor takes action to deny the report back to the traveler to update the accounting, or to contact their agency's budget office to increase the budget in the fund or appropriation.
  - Expense reports would fail budget check if the Accounting Details entries (e.g., Budget Reference, Program, Project, Activity Code) are incorrect. If you know what the entries should be, you can correct the issue yourself before approving.

**Note:** In SFS Production, the budget checking process of travel documents runs hourly, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. For example, If an expense report is submitted for approval at 8:57 a.m., it will be budget checked in the 9:00 a.m. process.





#### **Email Notifications**



- Travelers receive email notifications if an expense report is denied or rejected.
  - If a proxy submitted an expense report on behalf of a traveler, they also receive email notification of denied or rejected expense reports.
- Supervisors receive daily email notifications when expense reports are ready for their review.
  - This is a once-daily email that includes a list of new expense reports ready for their review.
  - Supervisors only receive email notification if they have not taken action on an expense report for 24 hours after its submission.
- On a monthly basis, travelers and their SFS travel supervisors receive email reminders for travelers' unreconciled Travel Card charges at least 30 days from the posted date.



#### **Confirming a Valid Email Address**

How can I add my email address in SFS?

- Travelers, proxies, and supervisors should confirm they have a valid email address in SFS to ensure they are receiving emails related to outstanding TCard charges, denied expense reports, or expense reports pending their review as a supervisor.
- Navigation to update emails in SFS: NavBar > Menu > My System Profile
  - Note: Users may need to scroll to the bottom of the page, to view the Email section.

User Self Service	
General Profile Information	
	DOE, JANE
Password	
Change password Change or set up forgotten password help Personalizations	
My preferred language for PIA web pages is:	
You are currently logged in using	English
My preferred language for reports and email is	English
Currency Code	USD Q
Default Mobile Page	Q
Alternate User	
If you will be temporarily unavailable, you can select an alternate user to receive your routings.	
Alternate User ID	Q
From Date	
	(example:12/31/2000)
To Date	
	(example:12/31/2000)
Workflow Attributes	
Email User	Yes
Worklist User	Yes
Miscellaneous User Links	
Email	
Primary Email Account ↑↓	Email Type 14 Email Address 14
Yes	Work
Save	



#### **Reimbursement of Travel**



- Travelers usually receive reimbursement within a few business days of OSC receiving and approving the expense report.
- Travelers receive Travel & Expense reimbursement the same way they receive their paycheck (e.g., a physical check or through direct deposit).
  - Travel reimbursements are not included in a traveler's paycheck, but are rather sent as a separate payment.



#### **Viewing Payment Status**



- From the Expense Report History page, use the Filter icon to view expense reports in **Paid** status and select the expense report you would like to open.
- On the Expense Summary page of the report, select the View Printable Report option under the Additional Information section to view payment information.
  - The **Expense Report Summary** page will open in a new window. You can view payment information, including payment method, creation date, reference, and amount, by expanding the **Payment Information** section.

0 0	Q See	rch in Menu		04	<del>Ď</del>	:	0
Expense Report Summary							:
Report ID 0002174338	Total Expenses 139.96	JOHN DOE	N0000000			DE	C01
Expand All Collapse All Print Personalize							
> Header Information							
> Risks and Exceptions (2)							
> Summary							
> Line Details (3)							
> Mileage (2)							
Related Travel and Expenses							
> Attachments (11)							
> Notes and Comments (1)							
> Approval History							
~ Payment Information							
						1	row
Payment Method 1	Payment Creation Date 11	Payment Reference 1		Paym	ent An	nount	175
1 ACH	02/07/2024	20000000				139	96
							_

- The Payment Method will either say Check for checks or ACH for Direct Deposit.
  - For ACH, a reference number will be listed which can be used by the bank to locate the payment if needed.





### **Managing Travel Card (TCard) Charges**

Contents subject to change.

#### **Travel Card Charges in SFS**

- A NYS Travel Card, or TCard for short, is a credit card assigned to an individual for businessrelated travel expenses.
  - Travelers use the TCard to pay appropriate expenses while traveling on official state business to minimize out-of-pocket costs.
  - Only business expenses are allowed on the TCard (e.g., meals, parking, hotel stays, train/bus/airfare tickets).
    - TCards should not be used for personal expenses.
- If an employee has an assigned TCard, any charges on that card will appear in My Wallet via a
  periodic feed from the credit card company.
  - Charges are loaded into SFS Tuesday through Saturday.
- My Wallet holds all TCard charges that have not been assigned to an expense report.
  - All TCard charges must be reconciled within 30 days of the end of the travel event via SFS expense report submission.



#### **TCard Charge Statuses**

TCard Status in SFS	Definition	Reminders
Unassigned	The TCard charge has not yet been imported into an expense report.	Unassigned TCard charges can be reviewed via the <b>Expense Report History</b> tile, before expense report creation.
Assigned	The TCard charge has been imported into an expense report.	Travelers or proxies can review the <b>Expense</b> <b>Report History</b> tile to confirm that a TCard charge has been imported/assigned to an expense report.
Unreconciled	The TCard charge may be on an expense report, but the expense report has not been paid yet.	TCard charges are not considered fully reconciled until the expense report is paid by OSC.
Reconciled	The expense report the TCard charge is on has been paid.	Travelers or proxies can review the <b>Expense</b> <b>Report History</b> tile to confirm that a TCard charge was imported on an expense report that is in Paid status.



#### **My Wallet**

Where do I add my TCard charges to an expense report?

- TCard charges must be imported into an expense report from My Wallet so the charge is properly identified as a Travel Card expense.
  - When creating an expense report, travelers must have available TCard charges in order for the Add from My Wallet option to appear.
- Wallet Charges cannot be imported within an Expense Report Draft the Draft needs to be built into an expense report before charges can be added.
  - Expense Report Drafts are used to enter data for in-state travel and personal funds only (i.e., no out-of-state travel or credit card charges).

pense Report Ger	neral Information		• • •
Report 0000000001 IOHN DOE ⊘		+ Add Expense	Add from My Wallet (9)
General Information			
*Business Purpose	Conference ~	Attach Receipt	>
*Description	Annual Conference		
Default Location <sup>®</sup> Description	Q		>
22		Contents subject to change.	

#### **My Wallet – Continued**

- TCard charges need to be **assigned** an expense type before they can be **imported** into an expense report.
  - Some charges will appear with an expense type while others will display "New Expense," meaning you will need to assign a type.
  - You can select multiple charges to assign the same expense type by selecting the checkbox in each applicable row.
  - You cannot change the expense type of a charge that is already in an expense report. To modify, you need to delete the expense line of the charge and change the expense type in My Wallet.
- By default, your view of My Wallet will be within the date range of your trip on "My Travel Dates."
  - You can also view "All" which will display all unreconciled charges.
  - You have the ability to filter by specific criteria (e.g., Date, Expense Type).

ncel My	Wallet	
Expense Type	Q (2) Assig	
All	My Travel Dates	
Total (9 Items	s) 1,386.17 USD	
elect All Filter	0 Selected	
Tuesday, February 06, 2024	l (137 days old)	
Vehicle Rental	54.07	
ENTERPRISE RENT-A-C/	AR Card #1234	
	JPMC T Card Visa	
Monday, February 05, 2024	(137 days old)	
New Expense	35.10	
CARPENTER GAS	Card #1234	
	JPMC T Card Visa	
New Expense	E no	

How do I find a charge in My Wallet?



#### **Expense History Preferences**

Do expenses get deleted?

- From the **Actions List** (icon with 3 vertical dots), you can update your Expense History preferences by selecting the **My** Preferences option.
- From this page, you can update the Displayed History (in months) for viewing expense reports and My Wallet charges.
- **Note:** TCard charges and expense reports are never removed from the system - if you're unable to locate a TCard charge or an expense report, you may need to update filters, date ranges, etc.

←   ③ ♡	Q. Search in Menu	Δ	Û	: (	୭
My Preferences					
💐 General Settings	Expense History				
Expenses ^				Save	
Expense History	Expense Report Search Options				
🗊 Procurement 🗸 🗸	History to Display (In Months) 60				
	Report Status Selection				
	Closed Yes				
	Denied Yes				
	Approved Yes				
	Awaiting Approval Yes				
	II Not Submitted Yes				
	✓ My Wallet Search Options History to Display (In Months) 60				
	Wallet Status Selection				
	Deleted Yes				
	Assigned Yes				
	Unassigned Yes				



### **Aging Wallet Charges Emails**



- On a monthly basis, emails are generated from SFS for unreconciled TCard charges at least 30 days from the posted date. These emails are sent to the email address for the SFS user associated with the Employee ID on that charge and the email address of the user's SFS Travel Supervisor.
  - TCard charges are not considered reconciled until the expense report the TCard charge is on has a Paid status.
- Sometimes, you may receive an Aging Wallet Charges Email if you made a purchase for a trip that hasn't occurred yet (i.e., airline tickets or hotel reservations). You do not need to take any action with these expenses until after travel occurs, where you should create an expense report and import these TCard charges as soon as possible.
  - OSC policy states that expense reports must be submitted within 30 days of the travel event.



#### **Troubleshooting Common TCard Scenarios**

What if I accidentally used my TCard for a personal purchase? If you accidentally used your TCard for a non-business-related charge, you must create a new expense report and assign the charge as Non-Reimbursable. After importing the charge into the report from My Wallet, you'll need to provide an explanation of the charge in the Description area on the expense line. You must also provide the receipt for the nonreimbursable expense.

- The amount associated to a Non-Reimbursable Expenses expense type creates a receivable due from the employee to the state. You must offset any amount "Due to State" (DTS) within an expense report by offsetting the DTS amount with reimbursable expenses, or by submitting a check.
- You also have the option to import the charge into an existing expense report, so the charge will subtract from what you are owed on the report.



#### **Troubleshooting Common TCard Scenarios -Continued**



- Charges can take up to a week to appear in the Wallet.
  - Charges are loaded Tuesday through Saturday.
  - If an expected charge is not showing in the Wallet, confirm the charge is on your JP Morgan Chase card statement before contacting the SFS Help Desk for further assistance.



## Troubleshooting Common TCard Scenarios – Continued



- If a charge in the Wallet is different than what you were expecting, travel card holders should first check their statement and then contact the vendor to reconcile the issue.
  - If the issue cannot be resolved by contacting the vendor, travel card holders should contact JP Morgan Chase directly.
     If the issue persists, contact your agency's Finance Office.





#### **Reminders and Resources**

Contents subject to change.

#### **Reminders for Agency Administrators**

- Traveler access and profiles should be kept current in SFS to facilitate timely submittal and approval of expense reports. Individuals assigned Administrator roles in SFS (e.g., Employee Data Administrator or Agency Security Administrator) have the ability to manage traveler roles, profiles, and troubleshoot workflow issues. The best way to ensure this information is accurate and up-to-date is for Administrators to work closely with their Finance Office and Human Resources (HR) department.
- Employee Data Administrators (EDAs) are responsible for maintaining traveler profile information in SFS.
   Having a process in place at your agency where HR notifies the EDA of employee changes will facilitate timely updates in SFS.
- Agency Security Administrators (ASAs) should use the Agency Security WorkCenter to monitor missing email addresses and work with travelers and approvers to make updates.
  - Each individual is responsible for maintaining their own, accurate email address in the system. If no email or an invalid email is in SFS, the traveler will not receive system-generated emails related to outstanding Travel Card charges or denied expense reports.



### **Contact Information for Support**

- For policy related questions, review published travel guidance (agency travel policies, OSC Travel Manual, GFO, etc.).
- For system issues, contact the SFS Help Desk: <u>helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov</u>; 518-457-7737 or 877-737-4185 (toll free); or via the SFS Support tile.
- BSC Customer Agencies:
  - For questions about a denied expense report, contact the BSC Travel Team: <u>BSCfinance@ogs.ny.gov</u> (include "Travel" and the expense report ID in the subject line of your email) or 518-457-4272.
  - For questions regarding Travel Cards, contact the BSC Credit Card Team: <u>BSCfinance@ogs.ny.gov</u> or 518-457-4272.



#### SFS Coach Training

- Training for all SFS functionality is available in SFS Coach Training via the SFS Coach Training tile on My Homepage.
- Additional travel training is available by selecting Travel and Expenses from the Topic dropdown.

Keyword search can be used with or without selecting any other search fields.

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Travel and Expenses

To select a Topic or Training Type, use the drop-down lists.

SFS Coach Training

Search User Training and Materials

Topic

Training Material Select Course Name

#### **Travel and Expense Quick Start Center**

- Available directly within SFS Coach Training, Quick Start Centers (QSCs) organize popular training material in an approachable and intuitive way to help users quickly and easily find materials they need to perform their work in SFS.
- The Travel and Expense QSC includes introductory information about Travel and Expense and links to Featured Trainings such as handbooks, job aids, and videos.
  - Click the **Are you a Traveler or Approver of Travel Reimbursements?** dropdown to open the Travel and Expense QSC and review the featured materials within each tab.





#### **SFS Reference Guides**



The <u>Troubleshooting</u> <u>Tips for SFS Users</u> guide provides a list of basic troubleshooting tips, reminders, and contact information for users who are unable to log in to the system or need assistance with the system.



#### The interactive SFS Agency Support Guide

provides guidance regarding SFS access and updates to SFS user accounts.

Both guides are available in SFS Coach Training by searching **Statewide Financial System** in the Topic search field and **Reference Guide** in the Training Type search field.



#### **BSC and OSC Travel Resources**

- BSC Website: <u>bsc.ogs.ny.gov</u>
- OSC Website: <u>osc.state.ny.us</u>
  - OSC Travel Policy:
    - Guide to Financial Operations
       Section XIII.1 Employee
       Expense Reimbursement
    - Travel Advisories
    - Travel Manual
    - Travel FAQs





#### **Questions and Answers**

