Direct Residence Purchase Allowance

All USDA relocations using the lump sum program are eligible for a direct residence purchase allowance at the new duty station. The reimbursement amount is three percent of the prior year's median home price at the new duty location. To qualify for the purchase allowance, the employee must purchase a home at the new duty location within 12 months of the report date as stated on the travel authorization. Reimbursement is issued after the purchase occurs and the closing disclosure or property settlement documents are provided to the relocation counselor. In addition, to qualify for the residence purchase allowance the title to the property for which an employee is requesting an allowance must be:

(1) Solely in the employee's name;
(2) Solely in the name of one or more of their immediate family members; or
(3) Jointly in the employee's name and in the name of one or more of their immediate family members.

If the new duty station is in a major city (metro area) click here to find the new duty station city and use the median home price from the prior year. For duty locations not listed on the National Association of Realtors metropolitan areas page, determine the county of the new duty station and use the county median home price which is available here.

The employee should confirm on their travel authorization that they are eligible for a direct residence purchase allowance. It is also the responsibility of the employee to be aware of the time restrictions, service agreement requirements, and the documentation required to support receipt of an allowance for purchasing a home at the new duty station.

For additional information on the median home price list, please contact the OCFO Fiscal Policy Division at SM.OCFO.FPDOCFO@USDA.GOV.