

## Transit Subsidy Increase April 1

AFGE Council 222

Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 4:19 PM



**National Council of HUD Locals – Council 222**  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-0050  
<http://www.afgecouncil222.com>  
February 21, 2013

### Transit Subsidy Increase April 1

Sisters and Brothers,

Please see the below email chain concerning transit subsidy. Transit subsidy will increase at HUD to up to \$245 on April 1. Admittedly, I had hoped for the increase to begin in March, but per Deputy CFO Sidari's message, there are certain administrative hurdles that will delay implementation.

I am well aware of the importance of transit subsidy to HUD employees. Yesterday, I addressed a meeting of almost 100 HUD employees in Philadelphia. While the focus was on sequestration, I also brought up the transit subsidy increase. Almost everyone in the Philadelphia office benefits from transit subsidy. Many will be helped by the increase.

As to DC, we all know that it will make a difference. Most of those who use transit are spending more than \$120/monthly.

Your Union has been pressing HUD to increase the subsidy for some time. I am relieved we have something to celebrate.

I also know well the stress connected with probable sequestration (March 1), possible Federal government closing (March 27), and craziness as to EPPES (both standards for this year and potential changes in the system).

We are working hard to represent you well.

Peace,

Eddie

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**From:** Sidari, David P  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2013 5:58 PM  
**To:** Eitches, Edward E  
**Cc:** Newton Cole, Karen A; Donovan, Shaun; Jones, Maurice A; Anderson, Michael A; Malgeri, Jack R; Kanovsky, Helen R; Shuback, Susan J  
**Subject:** RE: Transit Subsidy

Thanks for your note. We have discussed with the Deputy Secretary and are pleased to inform you that we will be implementing this increase on a go-forward basis up to \$245/month. It will be effective April 1, to allow time to incorporate into our processes.

Please contact me or Karen Newton Cole if you have any questions.

**David Sidari**  
Deputy Chief Financial Officer

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
202-402-6526

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**From:** Eitches, Edward E  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 13, 2013 1:50 PM  
**To:** Sidari, David P; Shuback, Susan J  
**Cc:** Newton Cole, Karen A; Donovan, Shaun; Jones, Maurice A; Anderson, Michael A; Malgeri, Jack R; Kanovsky, Helen R  
**Subject:** Transit Subsidy

Per our discussions, attached is a proposed agreement re transit subsidy which I hope that we can sign today. It would increase the subsidy to up to \$245/month, starting in March.

It can be 10% of a lower grade employee's salary because it is pre tax money.

DOT, EPA, NSF, State, and DOD have implemented the increase. Please note that DOD is in sequester mode and has announced potential furlough days yet no employee is complaining that DOD increased transit to up to \$245.

Per full disclosure, the following is what I sent to the Core Values Committee re transit subsidy:

I am having real difficulty continuing with this implementation exercise when HUD's actions re transit subsidy are so inconsistent with these values.

Management still has not committed to raise transit subsidy to up to \$245/month by March 1 as required by law and our memoranda of understanding. Management also continues to tell us that we are not under sequestration and has been instructed to act as if sequestration will not take place.

HUD has a proud history of actually leading re transit subsidy when Secretary Cuomo and Deputy Secretary Ramirez signed the first agreement with me re the Washington, DC Metropolitan area, an agreement still valid. Secretary Martinez and I signed a memorandum to extend it to the Field. Secretary Donovan and I continued that tradition early in the administration by raising the subsidy to up to \$245 in a public ceremony.

But when the Recovery Act lapsed, the subsidy, consistent with the law and our memoranda, decreased by one half. Now, however, per the Debt Ceiling legislation, the subsidy increased to up to \$245.

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- This e:news is intended for AFGE bargaining unit employees -