

FTC Conference Expenses in FY 2017

January 31, 2018

Pursuant to [OMB Memorandum M-12-12, "Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations,"](#) agencies must report any agency sponsored conference where net expenses for the conference exceed \$100,000. OMB memorandum M-12-12 and the Federal Travel Regulations (FTR) both define a "conference" as "[a] meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium or event that involves attendee travel. The term 'conference' also applies to training activities that are considered to be conferences under 5 CFR 410.404." See 41 CFR 300-3.1.

"Conference expenses" include all direct and indirect costs paid by the Government, whether paid directly by agencies or reimbursed by agencies to travelers or others associated with the conference, but do not include funds paid under Federal grants to grantees. Conference expenses include any associated authorized travel and per diem expenses, hire of rooms for official business, audiovisual use, light refreshments, registration fees, ground transportation, and other expenses as defined by the FTR. While outlays for conference preparation and planning are conference expenses, the time spent by a Federal employee preparing for a conference is not a conference expense. The FTR provides examples of direct and indirect conference costs included within the definition. See 41 CFR 301-74.2. Conference expenses are net of any fees or revenue received by the agency through the conference and do not include costs to ensure the safety of attending governmental officials. conf4* [(s)or of of of ofpe of ofdo not imcl tpoe to-2(i)4 Tc 0.0042p

Examples of conferences hosted by the FTC or attended by its employees in FY 2017 include:

- x International Competition Network (ICN) Annual Conference
- x International Consumer Protection & Enforcement Network (ICPEN) Annual Conference
- x Western Economic Association International Annual Conference
- x International Privacy Conference
- x FTC FinTech Forum
- x USENIX Security Symposium
- x National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) Cybersecurity Summit
- x Western Economic Association International Annual Conference
- x Annual International Industrial Organization Conference

Data Source: The FY 2017 travel data set forth above is extracted from FTC's E2 travel system, consistent with the OMB and FTR definitions of "conference."