

If I Want to Relocate, Can I Expect Reimbursement during the Interview Process?

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Question: I'm currently living in New York City and I'm interested in relocating to Washington, DC to be closer to family. What can I expect from law firms or other employers in terms of reimbursement for travel expenses during the interview process?

Answer: The short answer is - not much. Here's why:

From a big picture perspective, the recession changed the rules. Firms are operating under tighter budgets and competition for jobs is fiercer than ever. Keep in mind that's it's often much less expensive (and easier) for the firm to hire locally and there are probably qualified candidates already in the area.

If you've garnered a firm's interest in your target city, the last thing you want to do is turn them off over a few hundred dollars in travel expenses. Show you are a serious contender by paying for your own travel to/from the interview.

If you've gotten past an initial screening interview, potential employers will often ask if you have any plans to be in the area soon. In a sense this is a test to see just how committed you are to relocating. The expectation is that if you are truly interested in making a move, you will already be making plans on your own to visit the area sometime in the near future.

If you've told the firm you want to relocate to be closer to family, don't expect them to put you up in a hotel if and when you do come to town. You should stay with the family that's driving your decision to make a move.

See [Guidelines on Reciprocity or "Admission On Motion" among the States as per American Bar Association](#) for more information.

Once you receive an offer, everything is negotiable. You can ask for relocation assistance as well as reimbursement for travel resulting from the interviews.

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[The Best Way to Prepare for a Job Search and Interviews](#)

[How to Talk About Other Interviews in Your Interviews](#)

[How to Answer the Tell Me About Yourself Interview Question](#)

[How to Answer the Do You Have Any Questions for Me Interview Question](#)

[Had a Great Interview But Have Got No Response to My Thank-You Emails](#)

[What Does It Mean if I Haven't Heard Anything Back from an Application/Interview in a Couple Weeks?](#)

[What to Wear to a Lunch Interview?](#)

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