



May 22, 2013

MANAGERS, HUMAN RESOURCES (AREA)

SUBJECT: City Carrier Assistants—Annual Uniform Allowance

In accordance with Article 26, Section 3 of the 2011 National Agreement between the U.S. Postal Service and National Association of Letter Carriers, city carrier assistants (CCAs) are provided with an annual uniform allowance. To qualify for a uniform allowance CCAs must either complete 90 work days or be employed for 120 calendar days, whichever comes first. CCAs who have previously satisfied the 90/120 day requirement as a transitional employee (with an appointment made after September 29, 2007) become eligible for a uniform allowance at the beginning of their first CCA appointment.

CCA uniform allotments will be disbursed annually in a lump sum. The specific allotment amounts are as follows:

Effective Nov. 21, 2012 = \$390
Effective Nov. 21, 2013 = \$399
Effective Nov. 21, 2014 = \$409
Effective Nov. 21, 2015 = \$420

Generally, the calendar date that a CCA initially becomes eligible for a uniform allowance is the annual anniversary date. Any uniform allowance amount remaining at the beginning of the next anniversary date is forfeited.

To provide the uniform allowance, local managers must furnish each CCA with a Letter of Authorization that includes an original signature. In order to purchase uniform items, the CCA must provide the original Letter of Authorization to an authorized postal uniform vendor and display his/her postal identification for verification of identity. Advance payment to a uniform vendor is not required; however, **local managers must ensure that prompt payment is made to the vendor for approved CCA uniform item purchases after receiving the itemized invoice and the original Letter of Authorization.**

Detailed instructions regarding the purchase and payment of CCA uniform items and the Letter of Authorization template are attached. This information is also available on the Blue Page under the Uniform Program Website.

CCAs who are separated and not reappointed must return all uniform items to the local manager.

If you have any questions, please email uniformprogram@usps.gov or call the Uniform Program hotline at 202-268-8391.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan S. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "M".

Alan S. Moore
Manager
Labor Relations Policy and Programs

Attachments

cc: Managers, Labor Relations (Area)
Managers, Finance (Area)

Providing Uniforms to City Carrier Assistants (CCA)

Article 26, Section 3, of the 2011 National Agreement between the United States Postal Service and National Association of Letter Carriers, AFL-CIO, states:

When the CCA has completed ninety (90) work days, or has been employed for 120 calendar days, whichever comes first, the CCA will be provided with an annual uniform allowance equal to the amount provided to career employees in Section 2.A. Time served as a Transitional Employee will count toward the 90/120 day requirement. The uniform purchases are reimbursed by the Postal Service directly to the vendor. Uniforms will be returned by CCAs separated and not reappointed.

Article 26, Section 2.A of the Agreement provides the specific allowance amounts as follows:

Effective Nov. 21, 2012 = \$390

Effective Nov. 21, 2013 = \$399

Effective Nov. 21, 2014 = \$409

Effective Nov. 21, 2015 = \$420

Procedures

1. Determining Eligibility for Uniform Allowance

The local manager determines the eligibility based on the number of days in service:

- The eligibility date is the date in which the CCA has completed ninety (90) work days, or has been employed for 120 calendar days, whichever comes first.
- The CCA is eligible on the 91st or 121st day to receive annual uniform allowance in a lump sum amount.
- CCAs who have previously satisfied the 90/120 day requirement as a transitional employee (with an appointment made after September 29, 2007) become eligible for a uniform allowance at the beginning of their first CCA appointment.

Note: The CCA Eligibility Report is posted on the Blue Page under the Uniform Program Website, select CCA Uniform Procedures. This report provides a list of all CCAs, as well as their entered-on-duty (EOD) dates and eligibility dates. There will be two reports located on the website: 1) CCAs with prior TE service and 2) new hire CCAs. Updated reports will be added to the website periodically.

2. Authorizing the Expenditure in eBuy

The local manager must prepare a separate eBuy for each eligible CCA assigned to the unit for the lump sum annual allowance.

The following information must be included in the eBuy:

- CCA full name
- CCA entered-on-duty date (EOD)
- Eligibility date
- Total annual allowance amount.

Note: The annual allowance amount must not exceed the contractual agreement.

3. Completing the Letter of Authorization

The local manager completes the Letter of Authorization for each CCA. The letter can be found on the *Blue Page* under the *Uniform Program Website*. **The Letter of Authorization must be printed on official USPS office letterhead.**

The Letter of Authorization must be completed in full, including the complete installation address and the local manager's original signature and date.

4. Making the Purchase

The CCA presents the original completed Letter of Authorization to an authorized USPS uniform vendor and official Postal identification at the time of purchase.

A listing of all authorized vendors can be found on both the Blue Page and LiteBlue. Instructions are attached.

The CCA purchases cannot exceed the annual allowance amount.

The vendor retains the original Letter of Authorization.

The vendor creates an itemized invoice of the sale and provides a copy to the employee. The vendor mails the invoice for payment, along with the original Letter of Authorization to the facility address of the local manager.

Note: The vendor will not accept a Letter of Authorization that does not contain an original signature and date, and will not process the purchase unless Postal identification is presented.

5. Paying the Invoice

Upon receipt of the invoice, the local manager verifies the amount of the purchase and ensures that it is equal to or less than the current balance of the CCA's allowance. The total amount of invoices paid to a uniform vendor for CCA uniform item purchases cannot exceed the amount of the approved eBuy.

The local manager certifies the invoice and pays using his/her office SmartPay Purchase card.

Note: Effective October 1, 2013, the PS Form 8230, *Authorization for Payment*, method will become obsolete and will no longer be accepted for the local purchase of goods and services. To find out how to obtain a purchase card, please go to the following Blue Page site: http://blue.usps.gov/purchase/operations/ops_impachome.htm or contact the Purchasing Shared Services Center (PSSC) at 877-293-2410.

6. Required Documentation for Purchase Reconciliation

Reconciliation of the CCA's uniform allowance expenditure includes the approved eBuy, Letter of Authorization, copies of each certified invoice, and the uniform allowance log. As with all SmartPay Purchase card transactions, this documentation must be kept on file for two years (Handbook AS-709, Section 314).

Local managers must maintain a uniform allowance log that documents the following information for each CCA:

- Entered-on-duty (EOD) date
- The eligibility date
- The amount of allowance spent
- The amount of allowance balance
- Total amount spent year-to-date

The sum must not exceed the total amount of the annual allowance.

An instruction to create your office log is attached.

7. Collecting Uniform Items at the End of Appointment

CCAs separated and not reappointed must return all purchased uniform items to local managers upon separation.

(PLEASE PRINT ON OFFICIAL POSTAL LETTERHEAD)

Date _____

AUTHORIZED UNIFORM VENDOR

SUBJECT: Authorization for City Carrier Assistant (CCA) Uniform Annual Allowance

This letter authorizes the City Carrier Assistant (CCA) identified below to purchase Type 1 uniform items according to the annual allowance. Uniform eligibility is determined by local management.

The CCA employee must show Postal Service identification and submit this letter with the manager's original signature and date signed. The uniform vendor is required to keep the original as authorization for the purchase.

For payment, the uniform vendor must submit an itemized invoice containing each item purchased and the cost to the CCA employee's manager at the address listed below. **Advance payment is not authorized.** Purchases must be for items from the Type 1 uniform category only. The purchase amount must not exceed the amount noted on the letter.

Employee's Full Name: _____

Employee's Eligibility Date: _____

Uniform Allowance Amount: \$ _____

Note: Purchases may not exceed the amount above.

Authorized Uniform Vendor: Please send itemized invoice to:

Note: Please print legibly.

Manager's Name and Title: _____

Facility Name: _____

Facility Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Manager's Signature: _____ Date: _____

VENDOR: [1] This official letter must be submitted for reimbursement within 14 days upon receipt.

[2] Do not accept if not presented on original letterhead stationary.

[3] Do not accept if not presented with the manager's original signature.

Instructions to USPS Authorized Vendors Listing

FROM THE BLUE PAGE:

- Select tab **INSIDE USPS**
- Select *Labor Relations* under Human Resources
- Select *Uniform Program* under Links of Interest
- Select *Licensed Uniform Vendors* under Featured Content
- Select *Uniform Allowance Vendor Listing*

FROM LITEBLUE

- Employee Log In
- Select tab *My HR*
- Select *Uniform Program*
- Select *Licensed Uniform Vendors*
- Select *Uniform Allowance Vendor Listing*

Featured Content

- Uniform Program Contacts
- Policies
- FAQ
- Uniform Postal Bulletins
- **Licensed Uniform Vendors**
- Uniform Types
- The USPS Uniform Allowance Program Guidelines, Resources, and Facts
- Uniform Allowances Increases
- Transitional Employee Uniform Procedures



Uniform Program

Licensed Uniform Vendors

Headquarters Labor Relations Systems is the only organization that may license, suspend, or terminated postal uniform vendors. The licensing process is currently closed; if the process reopens, it will be advertised in the appropriate trade journals to allow best value to the Postal Service.

- **Uniform Allowance Vendor Listing**
- Business Mail Entry Unit Uniform Program Vendors
- Nurses Uniforms Program Vendors

Instructions to Create Uniform Allowance Office Log

1. Go to Uniform Program website on the Blue Page.
2. Locate and open the CCA Eligibility Report
3. Go to Edit Tab on Toolbar
4. Select Find
5. Type your office Finance Number into the dialog box
6. Click "find all". All records associated with your finance number will appear.
7. "Close" the search.
8. Highlight the headings and the rows pertaining to your finance number on the Eligibility Report.
9. Right click in the highlighted area and select copy.
10. Click on blank worksheet tab at bottom of page
11. Click in first cell of worksheet (A1)
12. Right click on Paste Special. Click "Ok" in dialog box
13. The finance number you selected will appear in the worksheet.
14. Click File – Save As, and save your log to your desktop or documents.

Note: After creating and saving your office log locally, exit out of the report.