

SMART Members FAQs for Travelers

We have developed a list of frequently asked questions to assist members when exploring their options of traveling for work. Sometimes members are required to travel out of necessity and sometimes they are called upon by their employer. Nevertheless, our goal is to minimize your stress when traveling. Below are answers to common concerns.

Where do I find current work opportunities that require travel?

It is always best practice to inquire about travel opportunities with your local representatives. In addition, the SMART Job Bank would be the next place to look. You can access the SMART Job Bank on the SMART Union app or on SMART's website at <https://smart-union.org>. Here you will find a list of all current opportunities along with each project's "Request for Workers Form." The request for workers form will explain location, wages, benefits, per-diem, duration, etc.

What about my dues?

It is your responsibility to continue paying your dues to your home local, even when traveling. It is best practice to be paid at a minimum of one month in advance and always keep a copy of your current dues receipt on you when traveling.

Are there any special tools or clothing requirements?

In most cases, specific requirements will be listed on the "Request for Workers Form." However, it is good practice to reach out to the destination local you will be traveling to, to discuss any requirements. The destination local can give insight into what is required (welding certifications, OSHA, drug testing, etc.).

What types of forms or identification do I need if any?

You will need to have photo identification, a valid driver license, a copy of your current dues receipt, and reciprocal cards/information for the transfer of your benefits. However, it is always recommended that you ask the destination local if any other forms or identification as needed or required.

How do I get paid?

You can be paid via Direct Deposit or paper check. If you elect to use Direct Deposit, you will want to make sure you have your banking information (personal check, account number, routing number).

Is there any per-diem or travel assistance?

The "Request for Workers Form" will note whether per-diem is available or not. The International may also provide travel assistance on certain projects as well. SASMI provides travel assistance to contributing

members also. Your Business Representative will be able to assist you with making sure you are receiving all that you can to assist with your travel.

Where do I stay?

Traveling members are responsible for securing and paying for their own lodging. However, locals sometimes negotiate lodging rates with nearby hotels or campgrounds to assist members who are traveling in. You will be given the contact information for the Local that you are traveling to and want to contact them prior to traveling.

Where do my benefits go?

Benefits accrued while working in the destination local, will be reciprocated back to your home local's benefit funds. Benefits follow the member. You may be required to sign a reciprocal card which will direct your benefits back to your home local.

What is SASMI and how does that affect me when traveling?

SASMI is "Stabilization Agreement for the Sheet Metal Industry." This is a national supplemental under-employment benefit that some locals participate in.

If you are from a SASMI local, you have the opportunity to apply for an additional benefit through SASMI to assist you with your traveling expenses. You will need to work with your local office to fill out the appropriate paperwork.

If you are a non-SASMI participant, you may, based on hours worked in a SASMI area over your career, be entitled to a HCRA (Health Care Reimbursement Account) Benefit at retirement.

How do I pay my bills while I am gone?

It is recommended that you set up Online bill payment through your banking institution to assist with paying bills when traveling. This is typically easy to set up and easy to use once it is. Having the freedom to access your account and pay your bills from anywhere can help to alleviate unneeded stress and delinquent payment fees. It is always best practice to use a secure Internet connection such as a VPN.

I do not pay state income tax, what happens if the state I am traveling to has state income tax?

If the state you are traveling to has state income tax, It will be withheld, and you will have to file taxes in that state.