



Why Government Meetings Matter

Federal workers place tremendous value on in-person meetings, conferences and events – whether they involve sitting around a table in Washington, D.C., travelling to a national research symposium or actively participating in an education and training session. Nine out of 10 federal workers believe that in-person meetings, conferences and other face-to-face events are important for advancing the mission of their agency.

Federal workers rely on meetings and travel as indispensable tools to do their jobs more effectively. Meetings enable successful information sharing, employee training and development, taxpayer services, and collaboration with other agencies and private-sector partners in a way that cannot be accomplished by other means.

Meetings and travel strengthen the connections between the public and private sectors – furthering the ability of our government to address important policy issues. At a time when many agencies face tighter budgets, more restrictions and added scrutiny, meetings provide a platform for education and training, through conventions and conferences that focus on skill-building and workforce development. Research shows that eight in 10 federal workers find in-person trainings better for fostering teamwork, networking and engagement.

In the realm of science and technology, meetings are an essential part of the innovation process. Scientific and technical conferences are the focal point for the productive exchange of ideas across industry, academia and government – impacting the Food and Drug Administration, the Defense Advanced Research

Projects Agency, the National Science Foundation and many others. To quote Dr. Todd Osman, executive director of the Materials Research Society, “Many exchanges and collaborations between government lab scientists and those from industry and academia are initiated by personal interactions at scientific conferences... Restricting peer-to-peer collaborations at conferences will negatively impact scientific discovery, economic growth and national security.”

Federal employee travel is also an essential component of conducting food safety inspections, aircraft inspections, accident safety inspections, law enforcement inspections, military training and emergency preparedness and response.

Meetings and travel are critical for creating personal connections and driving positive business outcomes. Face-to-face interaction yields high levels of engagement, creates a shared sense of purpose, and develops the type of camaraderie that positions a government agency for success.