

Narrative for COA Proposed Budget FY16

Figures for per diem costs are for the most part based on GSA government figures or UUA figures (the latter especially for Boston costs.)

Figures for airfare and hotel costs outside of Boston and The Mountain are based for the most part on Kiplinger's list of the 10 cheapest cities in America.

Travel costs are minimized by meeting in North Carolina twice, where three of the COA members live and can drive. One member lives in Boston, reducing the cost of the Boston meeting.

Meeting on-site in Columbus, Ohio for the fourth meeting is another way to reduce costs.

The need for three full face-to-face meetings is deemed extremely important, especially given the turnover in the commission membership and the need to stabilize the team to proceed in alignment with its goals and the board's ends.

The fourth meeting, held prior to GA, will necessarily be abbreviated given the GA obligations of the COA members. This serves to reduce costs because of the location and the brevity of the meeting itself.