

GENERAL RECORDS SCHEDULE 2.4: Employee Compensation and Benefits Records

This schedule covers records Federal agencies create while conducting agency payroll functions (items 010-061) and while managing specific programs that offer employees monetary or other tangible benefits (items 070 to 141). See GRS 2.3 (Employee Relations Records) and GRS 2.7 (Employee Health and Safety Records) for other programs that provide intangible benefits, protections, or assistance to employees.

Most payroll is processed electronically. Agencies create payroll system input records both electronically and on paper (brought into the system by scanning). This schedule covers only versions the agency determines to be official payroll system records. GRS 5.2, item 020 (Intermediary records) covers paper documents for which the agency designates their equivalent electronic versions to be the record copies.

This schedule does not cover Office of Personnel Management files that reflect its own or other agencies' personnel needs and problems. Agencies must offer records they created prior to January 1, 1921, to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) before applying disposition instructions in this schedule.

Item	Records Description	Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority
Payroll			
010	<p>Records used to calculate payroll, arrange paycheck deposit, and change previously issued paychecks.</p> <p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additions to paychecks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ child care subsidies ○ Internal Revenue Service form W-9 (Request for Taxpayer Identification Number) ○ other additions • deductions from paychecks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ insurance ○ retirement accounts (e.g. Thrift Savings Plan, <i>my</i> Retirement Account, etc.) ○ flexible spending accounts, such as medical savings and dependent care assistance ○ union dues ○ Combined Federal Campaign ○ garnishments (IRS form 668A—Notice of Levy—and similar records) ○ Treasury bond purchases ○ other deductions • authorizations for deposits into bank accounts • changes or corrections to previous transactions either at paying agency or payroll processor • Fair Labor Standards Act exemption worksheets 	<p>Temporary. Destroy 3 years after paying agency or payroll processor validates data, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	DAA-GRS-2019-0004-0001

Item	Records Description	Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority
020	<p>Tax withholding and adjustment documents. Employee withholding allowance certificates such as Internal Revenue Service (IRS) W-4 series forms and state equivalents, and records of fringe benefits and expense reimbursements provided to employees.</p> <p>Legal citation: IRS Publication 15 (2015), (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide, section on Recordkeeping.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy 4 years after superseded or obsolete, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0002</p>
030	<p>Time and attendance records. Sign-in/sign-out records, time cards, leave applications and approvals of all types (annual, sick, family medical, military service, jury duty, leave donations, etc.); overtime, compensatory, and credit time requests and approvals; premium pay authorizations; and other records documenting employees' presence at or absence from work.</p> <p>Legal citation: 29 CFR 516.5a</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 3 years old, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2019-0004-0002</p>
035	<p>Phased-retirement employees' overtime documentation. Records documenting ordering or permitting phased-retirement employees to work overtime.</p> <p>Legal citation: 5 CFR 831.1715, section 4</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 6 years old, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2018-0001-0001</p>
040	<p>Agency payroll record for each pay period. Aggregate records documenting payroll disbursed in each pay period: base pay, additions to and deductions from pay, and leave balances of all civilian employees within an agency or employing entity.</p> <p>Legal citation: 5 U.S.C. 8466</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 56 years old.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0004</p>

Item	Records Description		Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority
050	<p>Wage and tax statements. Agency copies of IRS form W-2 (Wage and Tax Statement, IRS form W-3 (Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements), IRS forms in the 1099 series, and state equivalents.</p> <p>Legal citations: Form W-3, Purpose of Form section states, “The IRS recommends retaining copies of these forms for four years.” Agencies attach their copies of form W-2 to form W-3. IRS Publication 15 (2014), (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide, section on Recordkeeping (copies of returns filed and confirmation numbers).</p>		<p>Temporary. Destroy when 4 years old, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0005</p>
060	<p>Payroll program administrative records Records produced in administering and operating payroll functions of a general nature and not linked to an individual employee’s pay.</p>	<p>Administrative correspondence between agency and payroll processor, and system reports used for agency workload and or personnel management purposes.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 2 years old, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0006</p>
061		<p>Payroll system reports providing fiscal information on agency payroll.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 3 years old, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2023-0004-0001</p>
Compensation and Benefits Administrative Program Records				
070	<p>Donated leave program administrative records. Records related to managing the program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • records of leave bank management • records of leave bank governing board award decisions • publicity and program announcements • statistical and narrative reports • similar records not linked to individual employee participation 		<p>Temporary. Destroy when 3 years old, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0008</p>

Item	Records Description	Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority	
071	<p>Donated leave program individual case files. Records documenting leave donation and receipt, including recipient applications; agency approvals or denials; medical or physician certifications; and records of leave donations, supervisor approvals, leave transfers, payroll notifications, and terminations from the program.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy 1 year after the employee receiving leave is no longer participating in the program, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0009	
080	<p>Wage survey files. Periodic surveys of wages paid to non-Government workers in a specified wage area to support and modify the Federal Wage System and records related to conducting these surveys.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy 7 years after survey completion, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	DAA-GRS-2023-0004-0002	
090	<p>Incentive package records. Records of recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives; federal student loan repayment; and supervisory differentials offered under the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy 3 years after date of approval, completion of service agreement, or termination of incentive or differential payment, whichever is later, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0011	
100	<p>Workers' Compensation (personnel injury compensation) records. Federal Employees' Compensation Act case files on injuries federal employees sustain, while performing their duties that result in lost time or death, whether or not the employee filed a workers' compensation claim. Includes:</p>	<p>Records of agencies that forward case file material to DOL for retention in DOL's master OWCP records.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy 3 years after compensation ceases or when deadline for filing a claim has passed.</p>	DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0012

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101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forms, reports, correspondence, claims • medical and investigatory records • administrative determinations or court rulings • payment records <p>Exclusion 1: Copies filed in the Employee Medical Folder.</p> <p>Exclusion 2: Records created and maintained by the Department of Labor’s Office of Workers’ Compensation.</p>	<p>Records of agencies that do not forward case file material to DOL for retention in DOL’s master OWCP records.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy 15 years after compensation ceases or when deadline for filing a claim has passed.</p> <p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0013</p>
110	<p>Requests for health benefits under spouse equity. Applications and related papers. If applications are denied, may include denial letters, appeal letters, and court orders.</p>	<p>Successful applications, including those denied and successfully appealed.</p>	<p>Transfer to appropriate retirement system after enrollment is cancelled or terminated, or annuity payment begins.</p>
111		<p>Denied applications.</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy 1 year after original denial, denial of appeal, or final court order, whichever is appropriate.</p> <p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0014</p>
120	<p>Child care subsidy program administrative records. Records related to managing the program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determining amount of subsidy available to employees • verifying child care centers’ accreditation • tracking funds disbursed to individual child care centers • publicity and program announcements • statistical and narrative reports • similar records not linked to individual employee participation 	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 3 years old, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0015</p>

Item	Records Description	Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority
121	<p>Child care subsidy program individual case files. Case files of individual employee participation in child care subsidy programs, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enrollment documentation • applications and supporting documents • eligibility verification (employment, proof of income) • records of other subsidies the employee received • agreements between agencies and employees • notice of approval or denial of participation in program • child care provider information 	<p>Temporary. Destroy 2 years after employee participation concludes, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0016</p>
130	<p>Transportation subsidy program administrative records. Records related to managing the program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determining subsidy amount available to employees • publicity and program announcements • records of program-wide benefit delivery and receipt • statistical and narrative reports • similar records not linked to individual employee participation 	<p>Temporary. Destroy when 3 years old, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0017</p>
131	<p>Transportation subsidy program individual case files. Case files of individual employee participation in transportation subsidy programs, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applications and supporting documents • eligibility verification • notice of approval or denial of participation in program • participant training documentation • periodic estimates of transit expenses • record of individual benefit delivery and receipt • de-enrollment documents • settlement of outstanding debts by employee or Government when employee leaves program 	<p>Temporary. Destroy 2 years after employee participation concludes, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0018</p>

Item	Records Description	Disposition Instruction	Disposition Authority
140	<p>Family Medical Leave Act program administrative records. Records related to managing the program, including copies of policies and guidance describing employee benefits and employee use of paid and unpaid leave under the FMLA, statistics, reports, and other records not linked to individual employee participation.</p> <p>Legal citation: 29 CFR 825.500</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy 3 years after superseded or obsolete, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0019</p>
141	<p>Family Medical Leave Act program individual case files. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employee eligibility to participate in program • eligibility notice given to employee • notice of employee rights and responsibilities, questions from employees about those rights and responsibilities, and responses to them • medical certifications • employee identification data • records of pay basis, compensation terms, normal hours per pay period, additions to or deductions from wages, total compensation normally paid • leave request, approval/non-approval • leave records • records of premium payments of employee benefits • records of disputes between employers and eligible employees regarding designation of leave as FMLA leave • periodic reports of employee status and intent to return to work <p>Legal citation: 29 CFR 825.500</p>	<p>Temporary. Destroy 3 years after conclusion of leave being taken, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.</p>	<p>DAA-GRS-2016-0015-0020</p>