

**4042. WORKSHEET H-1 - COST ALLOCATION - HHA GENERAL SERVICE COST**

Worksheet H-1, Part I, provides for the allocation of the expenses of each HHA general service cost center to those cost centers which receive the services. The cost centers serviced by the general service cost centers include all cost centers within the HHA, i.e., other general service cost centers, reimbursable cost centers, and nonreimbursable cost centers. Obtain the total direct expenses from Worksheet H, column 10. To facilitate transferring amounts from Worksheet H to Worksheet H-1, Part I, the same cost centers with corresponding line numbers (lines 1 through 24) are listed on both worksheets.

Worksheet H-1, Part II, provides for the proration of the statistical data needed to equitably allocate the expenses of the HHA general service cost centers on Worksheet H-1, Part I. If there is a difference between the total accumulated costs reported on the Part II statistics and the total accumulated costs calculated on Part I, use the reconciliation column on Part II for reporting any adjustments. See §4020 for the appropriate usage of the reconciliation columns. For componentized A&G cost centers, the accumulated cost center line number must match the reconciliation column number.

To facilitate the allocation process, the general format of Parts I and II are identical. The column and line numbers for each general service cost center are identical on both parts. In addition, the line numbers for each general, reimbursable, and nonreimbursable cost centers are identical on the two parts of the worksheet. The cost centers and line numbers are also consistent with Worksheet H.

The statistical bases shown at the top of each column on Worksheet H-1, Part II, are the recommended bases of allocation of the cost centers indicated. If a different basis of allocation is used, the provider must indicate the basis of allocation actually used at the top of the column.

Most cost centers are allocated on different statistical bases. However, for those cost centers where the basis is the same (e.g., square feet), the total statistical base over which the costs are to be allocated will differ because of the prior elimination of cost centers that have been closed.

When closing the general service cost center, first close those cost centers that render the most services to and receive the least services from other cost centers. The cost centers are listed in this sequence from left to right on the worksheet. However, the circumstances of an agency may be such that a more accurate result is obtained by allocating to certain cost centers in a sequence different from that followed on these worksheets.

**NOTE:** The HHA can elect to change the order of allocation and/or allocation statistics, as appropriate, for the current cost reporting period if a request is received by the contractor, in writing, 90 days prior to the end of that reporting period. The contractor has 60 days to make a decision and notify the provider of that decision or the change is automatically accepted. The change must be shown to more accurately allocate the overhead or demonstrate simplification in maintaining the changed statistics. If a change in statistics is requested, the provider must maintain both sets of statistics until an approval is made. If both sets are not maintained and the request is denied, the provider reverts back to the previously approved methodology. The provider must include with the request all supporting documentation and a thorough explanation of why the alternative approach should be used. (See CMS Pub. 15-1, chapter 23, §2313.)

**EXCEPTION:** A small freestanding HHA, as defined in 42 CFR 413.24(d), does not have to request written permission to use the procedures outlined for small HHAs below.

On Worksheet H-1, Part II, enter on the first line in the column of the cost center being allocated the total statistical base over which the expenses are allocated (e.g., in column 1, capital-related - buildings and fixtures, enter on line 1 the total square feet of the building on which depreciation was taken). For all cost centers to which the capital-related cost is allocated, enter that portion of the total statistical base applicable to each. The sum of the statistical base applied to each cost center receiving the services must equal the total base entered on the first line. Use accumulated cost for allocating A&G expenses.

Do not include any statistics related to services furnished under arrangements unless:

- Both Medicare and non-Medicare costs of arranged for services are recorded in your records; or
- Your contractor determines that you are able to (and do) gross up the costs and charges for services to non-Medicare patients so that both cost and charges are recorded as if you had furnished such services directly to all patients. (See CMS Pub. 15-1, chapter 23, §2314.)

Enter on Worksheet H-1, Part II, line 25, the total expenses of the cost center to be allocated. Obtain this amount from Worksheet H-1, Part I, from the same column and line number used to enter the statistical base on Worksheet H-1, Part II. In the case of capital-related costs - buildings and fixtures, this amount is on Worksheet H-1, Part I, column 1, line 1.

**NOTE:** On Worksheet H-1, Parts I and II, the first line of each column must equal line 24 of the column. Therefore, when totaling a column exclude from line 24 the amount on the first line of that column.

Divide the amount entered on Worksheet H-1, Part II, line 25 by the total statistical base entered in the same column on the first line. Enter the resulting unit cost multiplier on line 26. Round the unit cost multiplier to six decimal places.

Multiply the unit cost multiplier by that portion of the total statistical base applicable to each cost center receiving the services rendered. Enter the result of each computation on Worksheet H-1, Part I, in the corresponding column and line.

After the unit cost multiplier has been applied to all the cost centers receiving costs, the total expenses (line 24) of all of the cost centers receiving the allocation on Worksheet H-1, Part I, must equal the amount entered on the first line of the cost center being allocated.

The preceding procedures must be performed for each general service cost center. Each cost center must be completed on both Part I and Part II before proceeding to the next cost center.

After all the costs of the general service cost centers have been allocated on Worksheet H-1, Part I, enter in column 6, line 24 the sum of the expenses on lines 6 through 23. The total expenses entered in column 6, line 24, equals the total expenses entered in column 0, line 24.

### Column Descriptions

Column 1--Depreciation on buildings and fixtures and expenses pertaining to buildings and fixtures such as insurance, interest, rent, and real estate taxes are combined in this cost center to facilitate cost allocation. Allocate all expenses to the cost centers on the basis of square footage of the occupied area. The square footage may be weighted if the person who occupies a certain area of space spends their time in more than one function. For example, if a person spends 10 percent of time in one function, 20 percent in another function, and 70 percent in still another function, the square footage may be weighted according to the percentages of 10 percent, 20 percent, and 70 percent to the applicable functions.

Column 2--Allocate all expenses (e.g., interest, personal property tax) for movable equipment to the appropriate cost centers on the basis of dollar value.

Column 3--Allocate all expenses for plant operation and maintenance based on square feet.

Column 4--The cost of vehicles owned or rented by the agency and all other transportation costs which were not directly assigned to another cost center on Worksheet H, column 3, is included in this cost center. Allocate this expense to the cost centers to which it applies on the basis of miles applicable to each cost center.

This basis of allocation is not mandatory and a provider may use weighted trips rather than actual miles as a basis of allocation for transportation costs which are not directly assigned. However, an HHA must request the use of the alternative method in accordance with CMS Pub. 15-1, chapter 23, §2313. The HHA must maintain adequate records to substantiate the use of this allocation.

Column 5--The A&G expenses are allocated on the basis of accumulated costs after reclassifications and adjustments. Therefore, obtain the amounts to be entered on Worksheet H-1, Part II, column 5, from Worksheet H-1, Part I, columns 0 through 4.

A negative cost center balance in the statistics for allocating A&G expenses causes an improper distribution of this overhead cost center. Negative balances are excluded from the allocation statistics when A&G expenses are allocated on the basis of accumulated cost.

A&G costs applicable to contracted services may be excluded from the total cost (Worksheet H-1, Part I, column 0) for purposes of determining the basis of allocation (Worksheet H-1, Part II, column 5) of the A&G costs. This procedure may be followed when the HHA contracts for services to be performed for the HHA and the contract identifies the A&G costs applicable to the purchased services. The contracted A&G costs must be added back to the applicable cost center after allocation of the HHA A&G cost before the reimbursable costs are transferred to Worksheet H-2. A separate worksheet must be included to display the breakout of the contracted A&G costs from the applicable cost centers before allocation and the adding back of these costs after allocation. Contractor approval does not have to be secured in order to use the above described method of cost finding for A&G.

Column 6--For lines 6 through 23, add the amounts on each line in columns 4A and 5, and enter the result for each line in this column.

Transfer the amounts in column 6 to Worksheet H-2, Part I, column 0, as follows:

<u>From Worksheet H-1, Part I, Column 6</u>	<u>To Worksheet H-2, Part I, Column 0</u>
Line 6	Line 2
7	3

From Worksheet H-1,  
Part I, Column 6

To Worksheet H-2,  
Part I, Column 0

8	4
9	5
10	6
11	7
12	8
13	9
14	10
15	11
16	12
17	13
18	14
19	15
20	16
21	17
22	18
23	19