

# Chandra Fellows: Housing

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# Motivation

In the last Fellowship selection cycle, we had an inquiry from a prospective Fellow about a housing allowance. We have had a few such inquiries in the past which were handled on a case-by-case basis. This time the issues became a bit more complicated, and we feel a formal policy would be useful.

# Precepts

- Fellows may not accept other stipends for teaching, etc.
- There are allowances for moving and research expenses
- For some things (e.g. health insurance) the Fellow follows the policies for the host institution
- We try to try to keep the policies and funding comparable to those for Hubble and Spitzer Fellows.

# Considerations

- Housing costs vary with location
- Some places housing is relatively inexpensive but a car is needed
- We do not want a “bidding war” among host institutions

- We polled both Hubble and Spitzer and also a group of host institutions to get a sample of their policies.

# Hubble and Spitzer (Informal) Policies

- Spitzer: If institutions provide a housing allowance for their post-docs or staff, then I think this would be okay. I think it really depends on whether it applies to all staff in a particular category, or if they are just trying to provide additional income for a single individual.
- Hubble: The only allowable “additional” support would be whatever the host institution provides as a matter of course to all post-docs. This is clear for the group medical plans, and could apply to housing and/or transportation if the host institution offered such support to ALL post-docs.

# Host Institutions

- We emailed 16 institutions which had hosted a Chandra Fellow in the last 5 years asking whether they provided a housing allowance or similar support.
- 8 responded
- 5 provided no assistance
- 3 provided access to university housing, (below market rate) typically with grad students given preference. (Occasional exceptions were mentioned.)

# Draft Policy

- Chandra Fellows shall not be offered a housing subsidy or allowance beyond what is routinely offered to astronomy and physics post-docs or fellows connected with that institution.