## Part 1: Application Process

**1.1 Overview and Funding Priorities:**

The purpose of this Housing Trust Fund (HTF) application is to provide subsidies in the form of grants to selected applicants for the acquisition, rehabilitation and/or new construction of supportive housing for persons with extremely low-income (at or below 30% of area median income). Through this program, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) seeks to improve the quality of existing housing stock in Indiana.

This program is designed to allocate HTF funds as gap financing in conjunction with Rental Housing Tax Credits (RHTC) to be used for the rehabilitation and/or new construction of supportive housing among selected applicants having projects that meet the requirements of the program and IHCDA's goals for the program.

1. Demonstrate they are meeting the needs of their specific community;
2. Serve populations that are extremely low-income and experiencing homelessness. The target population served by the development must be the target population that was identified based on community need and relevant data through the Supportive Housing Institute process;
3. Support geographical diversity as to the location of the HTF-funded projects;
4. Proceed with the activity upon receipt of the award and begin construction within 12 months of receipt of the award;
5. Link the project to the revitalization of existing neighborhoods, preferably through a comprehensive approach (i.e. as part of a published and approved community revitalization plan);
6. Propose projects that are energy-efficient and are of the highest quality attainable within a reasonable cost structure; and,
7. Propose the use of state certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE), Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Participation, Veteran-Owned Small Business (VOSB), and/or Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) contractors, employees, and products when applicants are planning and undertaking their housing activities.

**1.2 HTF Application Forms and HTF Policy Discrepancies**

In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the HTF Rental Policy and the HTF Application Form and/or Appendices, the procedures described in the HTF Application Policy will prevail.

**1.3 Permanent Supportive Housing Institute in the QAP**

The HTF will be offered exclusively to developments that are eligible under Housing First set aside or for the integrated supportive housing scoring category under the 2016/2017 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) for the Rental Housing Tax Credit Program (RHTC). To be eligible to submit an HTF supplemental application, a proposed project must meet all threshold requirements of the QAP, including the specific threshold requirements applicable to supportive housing developments. For FY16 HTF funds, IHCDA will not entertain stand-alone applications. All HTF funds will be awarded as gap/supplemental financing for RHTC supportive housing developments.

Per the QAP, 10% of available annual RHTCs will be set aside for supportive housing developments that further the creation of community-based housing that targets the extremely low income (less than 30% AMI) with intensive service programs that have a direct impact on reducing homelessness through the Housing First model. Housing First is an innovative approach to engage and rapidly house individuals who are homeless into supportive housing and to provide intensive and flexible services to stabilize and support housing tenure. Eligible Supportive Housing applicants must properly demonstrate participation in the Indiana Supportive Housing Institute.

Developments that compete under the Housing First set-aside or that compete for integrated supportive housing points in the QAP must demonstrate meaningful and successful participation in the 2015 or 2016 Indiana Supportive Housing Institute. The Indiana Supportive Housing Institute provides training and support to organizations that plan to create supportive housing. Tenant outreach, selection, property management and service plans must be approved as part of the Institute process and prior to submission of a RHTC application. Participation in the Institute is based on a competitive RFP selection process.

Applicants for tax credits and HTF funds must successfully fulfill all requirements of the 2015 or 2016 Institute for the specific development for which they are applying.

Application and the Anticipated Reservation date for the 2017 Annual Rental Housing Tax Credit Round are below:

| Application Deadline | Anticipated Reservation Date |
|---|---|
| November 7, 2016, 5:00 PM ET | February 23, 2017 |

## 1.4 Application Fee

All fees should be made payable to IHCDA. If a check si returned for insufficient funds, the application will be immediately denied.

All applicants must submit a non-refundable Application fee with each Application as a condition of having the Development considered. Application fees for 2016 and 2017 are as follows:

| RHTC Application Fee | IHCDA Supplemental Application Fee (HTF) |
|---|---|
| $2,000 | $500 |

Applicants should refer to the QAP for guidance on all other applicable fees.

## 1.5 Application Review

Each application must address only one development. Reviews of applications follows the steps as outlined in the QAP.

Funded applications will be announced at the published IHCDA Board Meeting date. Confirmation letters and score sheets will be uploaded to the FTP site by the close of business on the day of the Board Meeting. Applications that are not funded will be notified by IHCDA via denial letters and final score sheets being uploaded to the FTP site by the close of business on the day of the Board Meeting. Applications not funded will not be rolled over into the next funding round.

**1.6 IHCDA CDBG & HOME Program Manual**

The IHCDA *CDBG & HOME Program Manual* outlines the requirements for administering IHCDA's CDBG and HOME awards. This manual will be updated in 2016 to include HTF requirements.

A complete copy of the *CDBG & HOME Program Manual* is available on IHCDA's website at this location:
http://www.in.gov/myihcda/files/CDBG_and_HOME_Program_Manual_3rd_Edition.pdf
Program Manual exhibits may be found at http://www.in.gov/myihcda/2490.htm

## Part 2: Eligible Applicants

### 2.1 HTF Program Eligibility

Eligibility will be determined based on:

1. Whether the development demonstrates a need for HTF in order to make a greater number of units affordable to extremely-low and very low households;

2. Whether the development meets State and Federal requirements of all programs that the applicant is applying;

3. Successful completion of the Permanent Supportive Housing Institute;

4. If the development ranking is sufficient for it to be awarded RHTC pursuant to the RHTC process as outlined in the 2016/2017 QAP; and,

5. The availability of HTF funds.

### 2.2 Eligible Applicants

| **National Housing Trust Fund (HTF)** | **Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO)** | **501(c)3 and 501(c)4 Not-For-Profit Organizations and PHAs*** | **Joint Venture Partnerships** | **For Profit Entities Organized Under the State of Indiana**** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rental Housing Rehabilitation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Acquisition and Rental Housing Rehabilitation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Rental Housing New Construction | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

*PHAs are eligible to apply under the conditions set 24 CFR 93.203.

**Applicant may be a non-profit or for-profit developer. The HTF award will be structured as a grant from IHCDA to the entity with the expectation that the entity will thenloans the HTF funds to the Limited Partnership to allow the funds to remain in tax credit eligible basis (in accordance with Section 42 rules regarding the exclusion of federal grants from eligible basis).

### 2.3 Ineligible Applicants

IHCDA reserves the right to disqualify from funding any application that has an applicant, sub-recipient, administrator, preparer, or related party of any of the aforementioned, with a history of disregarding the policies, procedures, or staff directives associated with administering any IHCDA program or program administered by any other State, Federal, or affordable housing entity. This includes, but is not limited to, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development, and the Federal Home Loan Bank.

Additionally, any entity currently on IHCDA's suspension or debarment list is ineligible to submit an application. IHCDA's Suspension and Debarment Policy can be found in the Program Manual Chapter 17.

**2.4 Religious and Faith-Based Organizations**

- *Equal treatment of program participants and program beneficiaries.* (1) *Program participants.* Organizations that are religious or faith-based are eligible, on the same basis as any other organization, to participate in the HTF program. Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government receiving funds under the HTF program shall discriminate against an organization on the basis of the organization's religious character or affiliation. Recipients and subrecipients of program funds shall not, in providing program assistance, discriminate against a program participant or prospective program participant on the basis of religion or religious belief.
- *Beneficiaries.* In providing services supported in whole or in part with federal financial assistance, and in their outreach activities related to such services, program participants shall not discriminate against current or prospective program beneficiaries on the basis of religion, a religious belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice.
- *Separation of explicitly religious activities.* Recipients and subrecipients of HTF program funds that engage in explicitly religious activities, including activities that involve overt religious content such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, must perform such activities and offer such services outside of programs that are supported with federal financial assistance separately, in time or location, from the programs or services funded under this part, and participation in any such explicitly religious activities must be voluntary for the program beneficiaries of the HUD-funded programs or services.
- *Religious identity.* A faith-based organization that is a recipient or subrecipient of HTF program funds is eligible to use such funds as provided under the regulations of this part without impairing its independence, autonomy, expression of religious beliefs, or religious character. Such organization will retain its independence from Federal, State, and local government, and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, development, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs, provided that it does not use direct program funds to support or engage in any explicitly religious activities, including activities that involve overt religious content, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, or any manner prohibited by law. Among other things, faith-based organizations may use space in their facilities to provide program-funded services, without removing or altering religious art, icons, scriptures, or other religious symbols. In addition, a HTF program-funded religious organization retains its authority over its internal governance, and it may retain religious terms in its organization's name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other governing documents.
- *Alternative provider.* If a program participant or prospective program participant of the HTF program supported by HUD objects to the religious character of an organization that provides services under the program, that organization shall, within a reasonably prompt time after the

objection, undertake reasonable efforts to identify and refer the program participant to an alternative provider to which the prospective program participant has no objection. Except for services provided by telephone, the Internet, or similar means, the referral must be to an alternate provider in reasonable geographic proximity to the organization making the referral. In making the referral, the organization shall comply with applicable privacy laws and regulations. Recipients and subrecipients shall document any objections from program participants and prospective program participants and any efforts to refer such participants to alternative providers in accordance with the requirements of §92.508(a)(2)(xiii). Recipients shall ensure that all subrecipient agreements make organizations receiving program funds aware of these requirements.

- *Structures.* Program funds may not be used for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of structures to the extent that those structures are used for explicitly religious activities. Program funds may be used for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of structures only to the extent that those structures are used for conducting eligible activities under this part. When a structure is used for both eligible and explicitly religious activities, program funds may not exceed the cost of those portions of the acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation that are attributable to eligible activities in accordance with the cost accounting requirements applicable to the HTF program. Sanctuaries, chapels, or other rooms that a HTF program-funded religious congregation uses as its principal place of worship, however, are ineligible for HTF program-funded improvements. Disposition of real property after the term of the grant, or any change in the use of the property during the term of the grant, is subject to government wide regulations governing real property disposition (see 24 CFR parts 84 and 85).
- *Supplemental funds.* If a State or local government voluntarily contributes its own funds to supplement federally funded activities, the State or local government has the option to segregate the federal funds or commingle them. However, if the funds are commingled, this section applies to all of the commingled funds.

# Part 3: Eligible Activities & HTF Program Requirements

## 3.1 Eligible Activities

This program is intended to have a long-term impact on the availability and quality of the affordable housing stock in Indiana. The program is intended for the rehabilitation and/or new construction of supportive housing in conjunction with RHTC developments that have completed the Indiana Supportive Housing Institute and are eligible under the Housing First set-aside or the integrated supportive housing scoring category of the QAP.. Acquisition only is not an eligible activity; however acquisition in conjunction with another activity is permitted.

- Rehabilitation, new construction, and acquisition/rehabilitation or acquisition/new construction of rental housing in the form of traditional apartments, single room occupancy units (SROs), or single family housing.
    - SRO housing consists of single room dwelling units that are the primary residence of the occupant(s). Neither kitchen nor bathroom facilities are required to be in each unit. However, if individual units do not contain bathroom facilities, the building must contain bathroom facilities that are shared by tenants. SRO housing does not include facilities for students.
- If HTF funds are used for acquisition of vacant land or demolition in conjunction with another activity, then construction must commence within 9 months of the demolition or acquisition.

## 3.2 Ineligible Activities

**The following are ineligible activities:**

- Preservation of existing affordable housing. HTF must be used to create new affordable housing units;
- Refinancing of existing permanent debt;
- Development of housing for homebuyer programs;
- Performing owner-occupied rehabilitation;
- Group homes;
- Transitional housing;
- Acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction emergency shelters that are designed to provide temporary daytime and/or overnight accommodations for persons experiencing homelessness;
- Creation of secondary housing attached to a primary unit;
- Acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction of nursing homes, convalescent homes, hospitals, residential treatment facilities, correctional facilities, or student dormitories;
- Rehabilitation of mobile homes;
- Acquisition, rehabilitation, refinancing, or new construction if any part of a development or its land is located within the boundaries of a 100-year floodplain. A flood determination must be provided for each parcel associated with the project;
- Any housing activity funded under Title VI of NAHA, prepayment of mortgages insured under the National Housing Act, public housing developments, or acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction of any developments funded under HUD's former Rental Rehabilitation Program;
- Costs for supportive services, homeless prevention activities, operating expenses, or for the use of commercial facilities for transient housing;
- Payment of HTF loan servicing fees or loan origination costs;

- Tenant-based rental assistance;
- Payment of back taxes.

In addition, IHCDA **does not** fund:
- Requests from individuals, political, social, or fraternal organizations;
- Endowments, special events, arts, or international projects;
- Scholarships requested by individuals;
- Institutions that discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or against victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in policy or in practice;
- Projects in furtherance of sectarian religious activities, impermissible lobbying, legislative or political activities;
- Medical research or medical profit-making enterprises.

**3.3 HTF Program Requirements**

The proposed HTF project must follow these minimum requirements, and all other requirements laid forth in the Program Manual, to be eligible for funding. For further details on each requirement, please see IHCDA's Program Manual at http://www.in.gov/myihcda/2490.htm.

- Recipients must comply with all regulatory requirements listed in 24 CFR Parts 91 and 93.

Applicants should familiarize themselves with IHCDA's *CDBG & HOME Program Manual*. As previously noted, the manual will be updated in 2016 to reflect HTF. Requirements include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Lead Based Paint, Chapter 2**:
  - Each recipient of a HTF award is subject to the HUD requirements of addressing lead-based paint hazards pursuant to 24 CFR Part 35. If a risk assessment is required, then all lead-based paint issues must be addressed.
- **Section 504, Chapter 3**:
  - Housing must meet the accessibility requirements of 24 CFR Part 8 which implements Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and covers multifamily dwellings, as defined in 24 CFR Part 100.201. It must also meet the design and construction requirements of 24 CFR 100.205 and implement the Federal Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3601-3619).
- **Uniform Relocation Act, Chapter 4:**
  - Each recipient of a HTF award is subject to the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (URA). See IHCDA's Program Manual Chapter 4 for guidance on the regulatory requirements of the URA, as amended, the Federal regulations at 49 CFR Part 24, and the requirements of Section 104(d) of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

- **Affirmative Marketing Procedures, Chapter 5:**
  - Rental housing with five or more HTF-assisted units must adopt IHCDA's Affirmative Marketing Procedures. See the IHCDA Program Manual Chapter 5 for guidance on Affirmative Marketing Procedures.
- **Section 3, Chapter 7**:

  - Any recipient receiving an aggregate amount of $200,000 or more from one (1) or more of the HUD CPD programs (i.e. CDBG, HOME, NSP, HOPWA, ESG, etc.) in a program year must comply with the Section 3 requirements. Section 3 provides preference to low- and very-low-income residents of the local community (regardless of race or gender) and the businesses that substantially employ these persons, for new employment, training, and contracting opportunities resulting from HUD-funded projects.
- **Income Verification, Chapter 8:**
  - An income verification is valid for a period of six months. If more than six months pass between income verification and contract execution/lease execution/purchase agreement, then a new income verification must be completed.
- **Procurement Procedures, Chapter 10:**
  - Each recipient of a HTF award will be required to provide proof of adequate builder's risk insurance, property insurance, and/or contractor liability insurance during construction and property insurance following construction for the assisted property throughout the affordability period of the award.
  - Each recipient of a HTF award must follow competitive procurement procedures when procuring all materials, supplies, equipment, and construction or professional services related to the HTF award.
- **Environmental Review, Chapter 11:**
  - To help facilitate timely expenditure of HTF funds, all applicants are required to submit the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and Section 106 Review at the time of application. If awarded HTF funds, the HTF recipient must receive an IHCDA Release of Funds before the fully executed award documents are released and any funds are drawn. (IHCDA Program Manual, Environmental Review Chapter 11). For more information, contact the IHCDA Placemaking Manager.
  - Applicants may not purchase any property to be assisted with HTF funds, sign contracts, or begin rehab/construction until the ERR/Release of Funds process has been completed and approved.
- **Construction Standards and Physical Inspections, Chapter 14:**
  - All IHCDA-assisted units must be inspected twice during the award period. The first inspection will occur when 50% of the funds drawn for single site projects, or when half the units are complete for scattered site projects. The second inspection will be conducted upon completion of the construction for the award. Site visits during construction may be conducted to monitor progress of all projects. The IHCDA Inspector will conduct the physical inspections.
- **Registering Vacancies:**
  - Applicants that are proposing to develop rental housing must register vacancies for assisted housing in the IndianaHousingNow.org affordable housing database.
- **Capital Needs Assessment:**
  - Projects performing the rehabilitation activity with a total of 26 or more units (the total of HTF-assisted and non-HTF assisted units) must complete and provide a Capital Needs Assessment (CNA).
- **Federal Programs Ongoing Rental Compliance:**
  - Recipient must ensure that each owner of a HTF-assisted rental project enters tenant events into IHCDA's Indiana Housing Online Management System at https://ihcdaonline.com/ within 30 days of the tenant's event date. Tenant events include move-ins, move-outs, recertification, unit transfers, and rent and income

changes. In addition, Annual Owner Certification Rental Reports must be submitted electronically using the Indiana Housing Online Management System throughout the affordability period in the Annual Rental Report. See IHCDA's Program Manual for further guidance.

- Recipient must ensure that there is a written lease between any tenant and the owner of rental housing assisted with HTF funds. The term of the lease may not be less than one year, unless a shorter period is specified upon mutual agreement between the tenant and the owner. The lease may not contain any of the prohibited provisions set forth in 24 CFR 93.303
- Recipient shall ensure that written tenant selection policies and criteria for the project are adopted and followed that comply with 24 CFR 93.303 and the additional requirements as set forth in IHCDA's Federal Programs Ongoing Rental Compliance Manual, as amended from time to time by IHCDA.
- In accordance with 93.404(d), the recipient must provide IHCDA with the financial documentation and/or reports needed by IHCDA to conduct its examination of the financial condition of the project, if project has ten (10) or more assisted units.
- Rental housing developments must assist households at or below 30% of the Area Median Income for the county, as published by HUD and distributed by IHCDA. Units must be both income and rent restricted at the 30% AMI level. Households must meet the definition of "extremely low income families" families at 24 CFR 93.2.).

- **LEP**:
  - Persons who, as a result of national origin, do not speak English as their primary language and who have limited ability to speak, read, write, or understand English ("limited English proficient" or "LEP") may be entitled to language assistance under Title VI in order to receive a particular service, benefit, or encounter. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations, the recipient must agree to take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to activities funded by federal funds for LEP persons. Any of the following actions could constitute "reasonable steps", depending on the circumstances: acquiring translators to translate vital documents, advertisements, or notices; acquiring interpreters for face to face interviews with LEP persons; placing advertisements and notices in newspapers that serve LEP persons; partnering with other organizations that serve LEP populations to provide interpretation, translation, or dissemination of information regarding the project; hiring bilingual employees or volunteers for outreach and intake activities; contracting with a telephone line interpreter service; etc.
- **Nondiscrimination Requirements:**
  - Recipient must follow the non-discrimination requirements of the Fair Housing Act, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, and the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity rule.
- **SAM and DUNS:**
  - Applicants must register for System Award Management (SAM) and have a valid DUNS in order to apply for HTF.
- **HMIS**:
  - Applicants proposing permanent supportive housing will be required to participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

### 3.4 Property Standards

All HTF funded projects must meet the property standards outlined in 93.301.

- Units must, at a minimum, meet the stricter of the local rehabilitation standards or the Indiana State Building Code.
- The development must meet the accessibility requirements at 24 CFR Part I, which implements Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- Covered multi-family units, as defined at 24 CFR 100.201, must meet the design and construction requirements at 24 CFR 100.205, which implements the Federal Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988.
- Any units utilizing gas appliances must provide carbon monoxide detectors in addition to standard smoke detectors.
- Newly constructed units must meet additional energy efficiency standards for new construction pursuant to section 109 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act.
- Where relevant, the housing must be constructed to mitigate the impacts of potential disaster, in accordance with State and local codes, ordinances, or other State and local requirements, or such other requirements as HUD may establish.

### 3.5 Affordability Requirements

The affordability period for all HTF developments is 30 years.

HTF subsidized activities must be secured throughout the affordability period by a recorded lien and restrictive covenant agreement created by IHCDA. The recipient shall comply with the following requirements of the HTF Program throughout the affordability period: (1) ensuring that the property meets the Property Standards set forth in 24 CFR 93.301; ensuring that the tenants meet the affordability requirements set forth in 24 CFR 93.205 by documenting and verifying the income of tenants as set forth in IHCDA's Federal Programs Ongoing Rental Compliance Manual, as amended from time to time by IHCDA; (3) submitting annual tenant events and annual owner certifications to IHCDA through its online reporting system as set forth in IHCDA's Federal Programs Ongoing Rental Compliance Manual; (4) participating in periodic monitoring and inspections of the Property by IHCDA and/or the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"); (5) complying with the Federal income and rent limits issued by HUD and published annually on IHCDA's website; (6) providing IHCDA with information regarding unit substitution and filling vacancies, if the Project has floating units; and (7) ensuring that each tenant enters into a lease that does not contain HUD prohibited lease language as set forth in IHCDA's Federal Programs Ongoing Rental Compliance Manual. The affordability period begins after the project has been completed and the completion forms have been submitted to and approved by IHCDA. During the affordability period all HOME program rental requirements apply to the property. See IHCDA's *Federal Programs Ongoing Rental Compliance Manual* for a full discussion of affordability period compliance.

### 3.5 Lien and Restrictive Covenant Agreement

Each recipient of a HTF award must ensure that a lien and restrictive covenant is executed and recorded against every property constructed, rehabilitated, or acquired, in whole or in part, with HTF funds. Upon the occurrence of any of the following events during the Affordability Period, the entire sum secured by the lien shall be due and payable by developer and/or owner upon demand. Repayment may be demanded upon: (1) Transfer or conveyance of the real estate by deed, land contract, lease, or otherwise, during the Affordability Period; (2) Commencement of foreclosure proceedings by any mortgagee (or deed in lieu of foreclosure), within the Affordability Period; (3) The real estate no longer meets the property standards set forth in 24 CFR 93.301.; (4) HTF-assisted units are not being used by qualifying tenants as their principal residence; (5) annual tenant events and annual owner certifications are no longer being submitted to IHCDA through its online reporting system as set forth in IHCDA's Federal Programs Ongoing Rental Compliance Manual; (6) non-compliance with the federal income and rent limits issued by HUD; and (7) units are not leased in accordance with the requirements set forth in IHCDA's Federal Programs Ongoing Rental Compliance Manual.

The recipient of the HTF award will be responsible for repaying IHCDA any HTF funds utilized for any housing constructed, rehabilitated, or acquired that does not remain affordable and in compliance in accordance with 24 CFR 93.302 for the entire Affordability Period. Recapture is not prorated; failure to meet the entire affordability period will result in full repayment of the HTF award.

**3.6 Award Term**

The HTF award must be fully expended within a 24 month period. The award generally expires on the last day of the month, 24 months following approval by IHCDA's Board of Directors.

# Part 4: Subsidy Limitations & Eligible Activity Costs

## 4.1 Subsidy & Budget Limitations

The maximum request amount per application is $900,000 for eligible rental projects.

*Subsidy Limitations*

HTF funds used for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction and new construction combined cannot exceed:

| Bedroom Size | Per Unit Subsidy Limit |
|---|---|
| 0 | $60,000 |
| 1 | $68,000 |
| 2 | $83,000 |
| 3 | $106,000 |
| 4+ | $116,000 |

Minimum amount of HTF funds to be used for rehabilitation or new construction is $1,001 per unit.

*Budget Limitations*

- HTF funds cannot be used for reserve accounts for replacement or operating costs, but may be used as a Rent-Up Reserve.
- All subsidies must be secured throughout the affordability period by a written, legally binding, recorded restrictive covenant.

## 4.2 Form of Assistance

HTF funds will be awarded to the recipient in the form of a grant. Award documents must be executed in order to access funds and will include, but are not limited to: award agreement, resolution, and a lien and restrictive covenant agreement.

The applicant may then provide the HTF award as a forgivable, amortized, or deferred loan to as many other entities as it chooses, known as subgrantees. However, subgrantees must be identified in the application and approved by IHCDA.

A title company is required to be used for all loans that occur between the IHCDA recipient and the beneficiary or subgrantee of the program. The IHCDA recipient must execute a promissory note, mortgage, lien and restrictive covenant agreement, security agreement, UCC Financing Statement(s), and other documents as directed by IHCDA in order to secure IHCDA's investment in the assisted property. The recipient is required to deliver these documents to the county recorder's office for recording. These documents will be reviewed during monitoring visits.

## 4.3 Eligible Activity Costs

The bolded items listed below are included in the application budget. If you have a question about which line item an expense goes under, contact your IHCDA Real Estate Production Analyst.

**ACQUISITION** – Limited to the purchase price and related costs associated with the acquisition of real property. Recipients must use a title company when purchasing or selling assisted properties.

**DEMOLITION** – Costs associated with the demolition and clearance of existing structures.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION**
Eligible costs include:
- Hard costs associated with new construction activities;
- Utility connections including off-site connections from the property line to the adjacent street;
- Site work related to driveways, sidewalks, landscaping, etc.
- Related infrastructure costs - improvements to the development site that are in keeping with improvements of surrounding, standard developments. Site improvements may include on-site roads and water and sewer lines necessary to the development
- Stoves, refrigerators, built-in dishwashers, garbage disposals, and permanently installed individual unit air conditioners

**REHABILITATION**
Eligible costs include:
- Hard costs associated with rehabilitation activities
- Lead-based paint interim controls and abatement costs.
- Mold remediation
- Site work related to driveways, sidewalks, landscaping, etc.
- Stoves, refrigerators, built-in dishwashers, garbage disposals, and permanently installed individual unit air conditioners
- Utility connections and related infrastructure costs - off-site connections from the property line to the adjacent street are eligible when it is deemed a threat to health and safety. Improvements to infrastructure when there will be no rehabilitation work done on the actual house to be served.

**RETAINAGE POLICY** - IHCDA will hold the final $5,000 of an award until, closeout documentation, and completion reports are received and approved. Closeout documentation will not be approved until the final monitoring and inspection is completed and all associated findings and/or concerns are resolved.

## 4.4 Ineligible Activity Costs
- Annual contributions for operation of public housing
- Commercial development costs **-** All costs associated with the construction or rehabilitation of space within a development that will be used for non-residential purposes such as offices or other commercial uses. This does not include the common area used by tenants of rental property or the leasing office of the apartment manager. HOME awards cannot be used to underwrite any portion of commercial development costs. The expenses incurred and income to be generated from commercial space must be reported in a separate "Annual Expense Information" sheet and 15-year proforma.
- Costs associated with any financial audit of the recipient.
- Costs associated with preparing an application for funding through IHCDA
- Cost of supportive services
- General operating expenses or operating subsidies
- Loan guarantees

- Mortgage default/delinquency correction or avoidance
- Providing tenant based rental assistance
- Purchase or installation of equipment, furnishings, tools, or other personal property that is not an integral structural feature, such as window air conditioner units or washers and dryers.
- Purchase or installation of luxury items, such as swimming pools or hot tubs
- Any additional prohibited activities and fees as listed in 93.204.

## 4.5 Allocating Costs in Mixed-Income Developments

HTF may only pay actual costs related to HTF-assisted units. If the units in a development are comparable (in terms of size, features and number of bedrooms), then the actual costs can be determined by pro-rating total development costs. HTF funds could pay the pro-rated share of the HTF-assisted units. When units are not comparable, the applicant must allocate the HTF costs on a unit-by-unit basis, charging only actual costs to the HTF program. Because units in rental developments with-the "floating" HTF designation must be comparable, an applicant should always pro-rate costs in these developments. When units are generally comparable but vary slightly in size or amenities, a combination of the two approaches may be used.

**Unit Size** - Comparability in size is defined by the bedroom count and square footage of individual units. Not all units with the same number of bedrooms are comparable in size. If there is a substantial difference in the square footage of two units with the same number of bedrooms, the units are not considered comparable.

**Amenities** - Comparability in amenities means similar fixtures, appliances and other features. In many mixed-income developments, to receive varying rents, the quality and types of amenities may vary among units. For instance, a development might charge a higher rent for a unit with wall-to-wall carpeting, garbage disposal, dishwasher, and finer fixtures than for a unit without these amenities. This type of development does not typically have comparability of units, unless there is an equal distribution of assisted and non-assisted units that have these amenities.

**Common Costs** - Common costs are costs incurred for acquisition of improved or unimproved real property that benefits all residents of units in a development, rehabilitation or construction of shared systems (heating, plumbing, roofing) or shared facilities (community rooms, laundry facilities located in residential buildings); and on-site improvements. Costs associated with a development's on-site management office or the apartment of a resident manager may be counted as common costs. The manner in which the costs for common elements of a development may be charged is dictated by the method chosen for allocating costs.

## Part 5: Rental Housing Requirements

### 5.1 Eligible Projects

HTF projects can propose rental activities with this policy and corresponding application forms.

### 5.2 Eligible Rental Activities

Eligible activities include new construction, rehabilitation only, or acquisition/rehabilitation. Acquisition is allowed only in conjunction with the rehabilitation activity and is ineligible as a stand-alone activity. Permanent rental housing units may not be used for temporary or emergency housing at any time. Eligible rental activities also include the rehabilitation or acquisition/rehabilitation of assisted-living facilities as long as they meet IHCDA's definition. IHCDA defines an assisted living facility as living arrangements in which some optional services are available to residents (meals, laundry, medication reminders), but residents still live independently within the assisted-living complex. Residents of such facilities pay a regular monthly rent, and then pay additional fees for the services that they desire.

All households occupying HTF-assisted rental units must be income-qualified based at or below 30% of area median income and all units must be rent restricted at the 30% rent limit. See the *Federal Programs Ongoing Rental Compliance Manual* for more information on household qualification. The manual will be updated in 2016 to referenced HTF.

### 5.3 Rent Restrictions

HTF-assisted rental units will be rent-restricted at the 30% rent restriction throughout the affordability period to ensure that the units are affordable to extremely low-income households. Please refer to the most recent HOME rent limits, which can be found on IHCDA's website under RED Notices. The following restrictions apply:

- Published rent limits include the cost of any tenant-paid utilities. For all utilities that the tenant will be responsible for you must subtract any IHCDA or HUD approved utility allowance from the published rent limit. For example, if the rent limit in a given county is $300 with a utility allowance for gas heat of $28, $20 for other electric, and $13 for water, the maximum allowable rent would be $239 for a unit where the tenant pays all the above utilities ($300 - $28 - $20 - $13 = $239).
- All units must be leased for initial occupancy within 18 months.
- If a SRO-unit has both food preparation and sanitary facilities, then use the zero bedroom (efficiency) unit rent or 30% of the household's adjusted income, whichever is most restrictive.
- If a SRO-unit has neither food preparation nor sanitary facilities, or only one of either, then the rent may not exceed 75% of the fair market rent (FMR) for a zero bedroom unit. For example, if the FMR for a zero bedroom unit in a given county is $300, then the 30% rent limit in that county for a SRO unit that only has a bathroom and not a kitchen would be $225 ($300 x .75 = $225).
- Gross rent must be at or below the published rent limit. Gross rent = tenant-paid rent + tenant-based rental assistance + utility allowance + non-optional charges.
- If the applicant proposes to receive all or a portion of the rent payment via a tenant-based voucher (rental subsidy), the gross rent (including the rental assistance amount) cannot exceed the published rent limits for the applicable income level. For example, a tenant residing in a unit set-aside for households at or below ~~40~~30% of the area median income has a voucher that pays $100 of his/her rent, and the published utility allowance for tenant paid utilities for the unit is

$50. If the published 30% rent limit is $300, the tenant paid portion of rent cannot exceed $150 ($300 rent limit - $100 Section 8 Voucher - $50 utility allowance = $150 maximum tenant paid portion).

- If the development receives a federal or state project-based rent subsidy and the unit is designated as 30% or below and the household is at or below 30% AMI and the household pays no more than 30% of his/her adjusted income for rent, then the maximum rent may be the rent allowable under the project-based rental subsidy program as set forth in 24 CFR 93.302(b)(2).
- If the development charges non-optional fees for food or the costs of supportive services, then these costs must be included in the gross rent calculation
- All tenants who occupy HOME-assisted rental housing units must be income recertified on an annual basis. The Section 8 definition of household income applies.

## 5.4 Affordability Periods

All rental projects are subject to a 30-year affordability period as defined in Part 3.4 of this document.

The recipient is subject to recapture provisions through a recorded lien and restrictive covenant agreement as described in Parts 3.5 of this document.

## 5.5 Underwriting Guidelines for Rental Projects

The following underwriting guidelines must be followed for any rental development as per 93.300 (b). The numbers submitted should accurately reflect the true nature and cost of the proposed activity. IHCDA will consider underwriting outside of these guidelines, if supporting documentation is provided.

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES** – All developments must be able to underwrite with a minimum operating expense of $2,500 per unit per year (net of taxes and reserves).

**MANAGEMENT FEE** – The maximum management fee allowed is described in the table below, based on the number units within the project. The percentage is based on the “effective gross income” (i.e. gross income for all units, less vacancy rate).

| Number of Units | Maximum Management Fee Percentage |
|---|---|
| 1 – 50 | 7% |
| 51 - 100 | 6% |
| 101 or more | 5% |

**VACANCY RATE** – All developments must be able to underwrite with a vacancy rate between 6% and 8%.

**RENTAL INCOME GROWTH** – All developments must be able to underwrite with a rental income growth between 0% and 2% per year.

**OPERATING RESERVES** – All developments must be able to underwrite with operating reserves, using the greater of four-to-six months of expenses (i.e. operating expenses, plus debt service) OR $1,500 per unit.

**RENT-UP RESERVE** – HOME funds may be used to fund a rent-up reserve for new construction and rehabilitation rental housing developments. This reserve can be used to meet shortfalls in development income during the rent-up period and may only be drawn down after all construction is completed at the development. The following terms apply:

- The term of the rent-up reserve account may not exceed six months after all construction is completed, after which time any unused reserves left in the account will be de-obligated by IHCDA.
- These funds can be used only for development operating expenses, scheduled payments to replacement reserves, and/or debt service payments.
- The recipient must receive IHCDA's approval prior to accessing its rent-up reserve funding.
- The amount of HOME funds that can be utilized for a rent-up reserve is limited to three months development operating expenses plus three months of development debt service.

**REPLACEMENT RESERVES** – All developments are required to have replacement reserves. Replacement reserves must be included in the operating budget but are not included as part of the operating reserves. Contributions must be made to the reserve account starting at or before the conversion date of the construction loan to permanent loan and must be funded for the term of the loan. Replacement reserve funds must only be used for capital improvements (substantial improvements to the real estate such as re-roofing, structural repairs, or major projects to replace or upgrade existing furnishings, but not including replacement of individual appliances or minor repairs) and must **not** be used for general maintenance expenses. Less restrictive provisions required by lenders must be approved by IHCDA.

Replacement reserves must escalate at a rate of 3% per year.

IHCDA will, at its discretion, adjust the replacement reserve to reflect reasonable and customary capital and replacement expenditures. The following minimum contributions must be used.

| Development Type | Minimum Contribution per unit per year |
|---|---|
| Rehabilitation* | $350 |
| New Construction | $250 |

* For rehabilitation developments, the Capital Needs Assessment will be reviewed to determine whether sufficient reserves have been established.

**SERVICE RESERVES-** All developments receiving an allocation of HTF funds must establish a service reserve to help ensure that supportive services can be provided to the tenants throughout the affordability period. The service reserve cannot, however, be funded from HTF funds. The developer must account for the source of the service reserves and take this into effect when considering uses for tax credit equity and other sources. ***NOTE: IHCDA is working to establish a minimum amount required for the service reserve, based on project size and design. We welcome public input in this area.***

**OPERATING EXPENSE GROWTH** – All developments must be able to underwrite with operating expense growth between 1% and 3% per year.

IHCDA requires operating expense growth to be at least 1% higher than rental income growth.

**STABILIZED DEBT COVERAGE RATIO** – All developments must be able to underwrite with a stabilized debt coverage ratio (DCR) within the following standards:

| Development Location | Minimum Acceptable Debt Coverage Ratio |
|---|---|
| Large or Small City | 1.15 – 1.40 |
| Rural | 1.15 – 1.50 |

- Stabilization usually occurs in year two; however, the debt coverage ratio for a development must not go below 1.10 during the affordability period to be considered financially feasible.
- IHCDA does recognize that rural deals may have higher debt coverage at the beginning of the affordability period in order to remain feasible. Documentation to support these higher debt coverage ratios must be provided.
- Developments without hard debt are permissible, but will be subject to additional scrutiny from IHCDA. Developments with no debt will not have a debt coverage ratio, but will be required to have cash flow without an undue profit. This will be determined by a ratio of Effective Gross Income to Total Annual Expenses (including Replacement Reserves). A ratio of 1.10 shall be the minimum required to be considered feasible by IHCDA, throughout the affordability period.
- Tax abatement may cause the DCR to be higher than these guidelines.

The following documentation is required for Stabilized Debt Coverage Ratio:

- Documentation of estimated property taxes and insurance for the proposed development (i.e. a statement of how the applicant determined the estimated taxes and insurance for the development); AND

- If the underwriting is outside these guidelines, the applicant must provide a written detailed explanation with third party documentation supporting the explanation (approval of underwriting from other financing institutions/funding sources will not constitute acceptable supporting documentation).

## 5.6 Market Assessment Guidelines for Rental Projects

The following market assessment guidelines must be followed for any rental development. The numbers submitted should accurately reflect the market feasibility of the proposed activity.

**MARKET AREA** – Describe the market area from which the majority of the development's tenants are likely to come and provide a map with a scale. Describe how the market area was determined to be appropriate for the development.

**SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILE AND TRENDS** – Describe the trends in population and households by age and income and estimate the number of eligible tenants for the development.

**HOUSING STOCK** – Describe the existing housing stock within the market area including the number of housing units, type (single family or multifamily), percent vacant, percent owner-occupied and renter-occupied, etc. In addition, provide a list of all other rent restricted properties in the market area and indicate whether they are age restricted.

**CAPTURE RATE AND ABSORPTION PERIOD** – Provide an estimate of the capture rate for the development (project's units divided by the number of eligible tenants from the market area), and estimate the absorption period to ensure lease-up within 18 months of project completion.

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT** – Describe how the development addresses the community's housing needs, given the market area's socioeconomic profile, trends, and housing stock.

**DEVELOPMENT SITE DESCRIPTION** – Explain how the site is adequate in size, exposure, and contour to accommodate the number and type of units proposed. In addition, describe whether there are adequate utilities (water, sewer, gas, and electricity) to accommodate the development.

## 5.7 Site and Neighborhood Standards

IHCDA administers the HTF program in a manner that promotes housing opportunities and provides housing that is suitable from the standpoint of facilitating and furthering full compliance with the applicable provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, E.O. 11063, and HUD regulations issued pursuant thereto. For new construction of HTF -assisted rental units, the applicant must demonstrate that the proposed development meets the site and neighborhood standards as given at 24 CFR 983.6(b) and 93.150 by completing the appropriate form in the HTF Section.

- The site must not be located in an area of minority concentration, except as permitted under paragraph (e)(3) of this section, and must not be located in a racially mixed area if the project will cause a significant increase in the proportion of minority to non-minority residents in the area.
- A project may be located in an area of minority concentration only if:
  - Sufficient, comparable opportunities exist for housing for minority families in the income range to be served by the proposed project outside areas of minority concentration or
  - The project is necessary to meet overriding housing needs that cannot be met in that housing market area
  - "Sufficient" does not require that in every locality there be an equal number of assisted units within and outside of areas of minority concentration. Rather, application of this standard should produce a reasonable distribution of assisted units each year, that, over a period of several years, will approach an appropriate balance of housing choices within and outside areas of minority concentration. An appropriate balance in any jurisdiction must be determined in light of local conditions affecting the range of housing choices available for low income minority families and in relation to the racial mix of the locality's population.
  - Units may be considered "comparable opportunities," if they have the same household type (elderly, disabled, family, large family) and tenure type (owner/renter); require approximately the same tenant contribution towards rent; serve the same income group; are located in the same housing market; and are in standard condition.

- Application of this sufficient, comparable opportunities standard involves assessing the overall impact of HUD-assisted housing on the availability of housing choices for low-income minority families in and outside areas of minority concentration, and must take into account the extent to which the following factors are present, along with other factors relevant to housing choice:
    - A significant number of assisted housing units are available outside areas of minority concentration.
    - There is significant integration of assisted housing projects constructed or rehabilitated in the past 10 years, relative to the racial mix of the eligible population.
    - There are racially integrated neighborhoods in the locality.
    - Programs are operated by the locality to assist minority families that wish to find housing outside areas of minority concentration.
    - Minority families have benefited from local activities (*e.g.*, acquisition and write-down of sites, tax relief programs for homeowners, acquisitions of units for use as assisted housing units) undertaken to expand choice for minority families outside of areas of minority concentration.
    - A significant proportion of minority households has been successful in finding units in non-minority areas under the tenant-based assistance programs.
    - Comparable housing opportunities have been made available outside areas of minority concentration through other programs.
- Application of the “overriding housing needs” criterion, for example, permits approval of sites that are an integral part of an overall local strategy for the preservation or restoration of the immediate neighborhood and of sites in a neighborhood experiencing significant private investment that is demonstrably improving the economic character of the area (a “revitalizing area”). An “overriding housing need,” however, may not serve as the basis for determining that a site is acceptable, if the only reason the need cannot otherwise be feasibly met is that discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, or disability renders sites outside areas of minority concentration unavailable or if the use of this standard in recent years has had the effect of circumventing the obligation to provide housing choice.

## Part 6: Completeness & Threshold Requirements

Each proposed project must satisfy the Federal requirements of the HTF program listed in 24 CFR Part 93 and any additional requirements established by IHCDA. To be considered for funding, an applicant must meet all of the completeness and threshold requirements listed below.

### 6.1 Completeness Requirements

- Timeliness – All documentation must be turned in by the application due date.
    - On or before the application deadline, the applicant must provide all documentation as instructed in this application policy as well as required documentation listed in the HOME Application Forms.
    - If IHCDA requests additional information from the applicant, all requests are due on or before the date provided by IHCDA staff.
    - Any forms that are late will be denied review and will be sent back to the applicant.
- Responsiveness – All questions must be answered and all supporting documentation must be provided.
    - The applicant must provide all documentation as instructed in this application policy as well as required documentation listed in the HTF Application Forms.
    - The applicant must provide all documentation as requested (i.e. uploaded or hard copies, labeled correctly, etc.)
    - Required signatures must be originally signed.

## Part 7: Glossary of Terms

Below are definitions for commonly used terminology found throughout the IHCDA HOME application policy and forms and applicable to the IHCDA HOME program.

*Beneficiary:* The household or unit that received homeowner repair work as a result of the HOME award.

*Development:* The HTF activity proposed in the application.

*Disabled*: The Fair Housing Act defines disability as a person who has/is:

- A physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person's major life activities; or
- A record of having such an impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such an impairment, but such term does not include current, illegal use of or addiction to a controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act).

*IHCDA:* Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

*Income Limits:* Maximum incomes as published by HUD for projects giving the maximum income limits per unit for program units. For HTF, the maximum income limit is 30% of area median income.

*Median Income:* A determination made through statistical methods establishing a middle point for determining income limits. Median is the amount that divides the distribution into two equal groups, one group having income above the median and one group having income below the median.

*MOU:* A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a document describing a bilateral or multilateral agreement between two or more parties.

*Narrative:* A written description by the applicant that describes the application question and generally supports the need of the project.

*Referral Agreement:* An agreement in which the recipient and a qualified organization enter into an agreement in which the recipient agrees to (a) set aside a number of units at the project for a special needs population and (b) notify the qualified organization when vacancies occur, and in which the qualified organization agrees to (a) refer qualified households to the project and (b) notify clients of vacancies at the project.

*Rent Limits:* The HUD published maximum rent amount, including a utility allowance and any non-optional fees. Rent limits are published by bedroom size and by AMI level. For HTF, the maximum rent limit is the 30% AMI rent limit.