



2022-2023 Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan

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MINNESOTA HOUSING – 2022-2023 HOUSING TAX CREDIT QUALIFIED ALLOCATION PLAN



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Chapter 1 – Introduction and Preparation of the Qualified Allocation Plan

The Federal Tax Reform Act of 1986 created the Housing Tax Credit (HTC) Program (see Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code) for qualified residential rental properties. The HTC offers a reduction in tax liability to owners and investors in eligible low-income rental housing projects involving new construction, rehabilitation or acquisition with rehabilitation.

The Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (Minnesota Housing) was designated by the Minnesota Legislature as the primary HTC Allocating Agency for the State of Minnesota, with certain other cities and counties also designated as suballocators of HTC¹.

Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) requires that housing credit allocating agencies develop and adopt a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) for the distribution of the HTCs within the jurisdiction of the allocating agency (IRS Treasury Regulation 1.42-17 Qualified Allocation Plan).

Minnesota Housing's QAP is developed in accordance with federal law and all applicable federal requirements are hereby incorporated by reference². The QAP sets forth selection criteria that are appropriate to local conditions and priorities for allocating HTCs to housing projects. The selection criteria include project location, housing needs characteristics, project characteristics, including whether the project includes the use of existing housing as part of a community revitalization plan, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special housing needs, public housing waiting lists, tenant populations of individuals with children, projects intended for eventual tenant ownership, the energy efficiency of the project, and the historic nature of the project.

The QAP gives preference as required by federal law to:

- a. Projects serving the lowest income tenants;
- b. Projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods;
- c. Projects in Qualified Census Tracts that are part of a concerted community revitalization plan.

This document, and all forms and attachments, along with the Self-Scoring Worksheet, are a part of Minnesota Housing's QAP. The QAP is subject to modification or amendment to ensure the provisions conform to the requirements of Section 42 and applicable state statutes.

Minnesota Housing has no jurisdiction to interpret or administer Section 42, except in those instances where it has specific delegation.

Minnesota Housing is also required to monitor HTC projects during the compliance period as well as notify the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of any noncompliance with the requirements of Section 42 of which it becomes aware. All applicants should review the IRS Treasury Regulation 1.42-5 Monitoring Compliance. In addition, Minnesota Housing will monitor the projects during the remaining term of the Declaration of Land Use Restrictive Covenants (LURA) following the conclusion of the compliance period.

¹ Minn. Stat §§ 462A.221 to 462A.225

² Section 42(m)

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Minnesota Housing is under no obligation to undertake an investigation of the accuracy of the information submitted in an application. Minnesota Housing's review of a proposed housing project does not constitute a warranty of the accuracy of the information, nor of the quality, suitability, feasibility or marketability of the housing to be constructed or rehabilitated. If any information submitted to Minnesota Housing by the applicant is later found to have been incorrect or there has been a subsequent change in any material respect, it is the responsibility of the applicant to inform Minnesota Housing and to request a reexamination of the application.

This QAP is provided solely for use in applying for HTC's from Minnesota Housing and may not be relied upon in structuring or investing in specific transactions, compliance with the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations or any other laws or regulations governing HTC's. Interested parties should consult with a knowledgeable tax professional prior to entering into any commitment concerning the use and claim of HTC's.

Minnesota Housing maintains the right not to award or allocate HTC's for any project if it determines, in its sole discretion, that an award or allocation for such project does not further the purpose and goals as set forth above.

Chapter 2 – Policies and Procedures

A. Definitions

Metropolitan Area: As set out in Minn. Stat. 473.121, subd. 2, Metropolitan Area means the area over which the Metropolitan Council has jurisdiction, including the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota (excluding the cities of Northfield and Cannon Falls), Hennepin (excluding the cities of Hanover and Rockford), Ramsey, Scott (excluding the city of New Prague) and Washington.

Substantial Rehabilitation: Rehabilitation of at least \$5,000 per unit, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 462A.221, Subdivision 5 that also meets the qualifying rehabilitation requirements as defined in IRC Section 42(e).

Federally Assisted Building: The term “Federally Assisted Building” as defined by Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code means any building which is substantially assisted, financed or operated under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, Section 221(d)(3), 221(d)(4), or 236 of the National Housing Act, Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949, or any other housing program administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or by the Rural Housing Service of the Department of Agriculture.

Internal Revenue Code (IRC): Title 26 of the United States Code.

Section 42 (Internal Revenue Code Section 42): Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (26 USC § 42) as amended.

Housing Tax Credit Agency (Allocating Agency): Any entity authorized by the state of Minnesota and Section 42 to allocate HTC's in Minnesota.

Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP): As defined in Section 42 (m)(1)(B) and including the Self-Scoring Worksheet and this document.

B. Geographic Distribution

The state of Minnesota is divided into two general geographic pools: (1) the Metropolitan Pool, as defined in Chapter 2.A.; and (2) the Greater Minnesota Pool, which consists of the balance of the state. Distribution of HTC's between the two general pools is based on the share of the state's public assistance recipients residing in each area, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 462A.222, subdivision 1a.

Under Minnesota Statutes § 462A.222, certain cities and counties have been designated as suballocators to allocate and monitor HTC's to eligible projects in their cities or counties. Some suballocators have entered into a Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota Housing under which Minnesota Housing will perform the HTC allocation and compliance monitoring. These suballocators currently are the cities of Duluth, St. Cloud and Rochester. Minnesota Housing will post any update in suballocator information in early 2021 and 2022 on Minnesota Housing's website.

The HTC distribution plans for Greater Minnesota and the Metropolitan Area will be formulated in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 462A.222, subdivision 4. The Greater Minnesota distribution will be as follows: (1) RD/Small project set-aside (see Chapter 2.D.); (2) the three suballocators eligible to administer HTC's within their respective city limits: Duluth, Rochester, and St. Cloud; and (3) the balance

of Greater Minnesota Area and the nonprofit set aside (see Chapter 2.C.) is administered by Minnesota Housing.

The Metropolitan Area distribution will be as follows: (1) The four suballocators eligible to administer HTC's within their respective city/county limits: Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Dakota County, and Washington County; and (2) the balance of the Metropolitan Area and the nonprofit set aside (see Chapter 2.C.) is administered by Minnesota Housing.

As of January 2020, the distribution between the two pools is 39 percent in the Greater Minnesota Pool and 61 percent in the Metropolitan Pool. Minnesota Housing will update the distribution for the 2022-2023 QAP based upon updated demographic data in early 2021 and 2022, and the applicable distribution will be posted on Minnesota Housing's website.

C. Nonprofit Set-Aside

Federal law requires that 10 percent of the total annual HTC's allocated from the states' HTC volume cap be reserved each year exclusively for projects involving ownership by qualified nonprofit organizations which have a 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) status and satisfy the requirements of Section 42(h)(5). On an annual basis, Minnesota Housing and suballocators may reserve an additional 5 percent for a total annual nonprofit set-aside of 15 percent. Applicants to the nonprofit set-aside can also compete in Round 2 if there are nonprofit set-aside funds still available. If the nonprofit set-aside is not exhausted in Round 1, the nonprofit set-aside will be available in Round 2. If a project is necessary to meet the federal requirement in Round 2, at Minnesota Housing discretion, the project will have priority over other applicants in Round 2.

The nonprofit must be organized and incorporated in the state of Minnesota and have significant experience in Minnesota as a sponsor, owner or manager of low-income housing. The nonprofit must have the fostering of low-income housing as one of its exempt purposes and must own an interest in the project and materially participate in the ownership, development and operation of the low-income project through the term of the LURA.

The intent of Section 42 is to ensure that a for-profit entity or individual does not set up a sham nonprofit organization in order to tap into the nonprofit set-aside. This could include establishing a nonprofit organization for the specific project, without any history, experience, local community involvement or financial strength.

The nonprofit organization must demonstrate that the nonprofit is acting independently and free from influence of control by the for-profit project team members. Minnesota Housing reserves the right to contact the officers and directors of the nonprofit organization to determine their independence.

Minnesota Housing requires that all nonprofits applying for the nonprofit set-aside disclose all identity of interest between the nonprofit and any member of the for-profit project team. An identity of interest would include any officer, director, partner, stockholder, relative, seller or owner of land or building involved, processing agent, real estate salesperson or broker, employee, or anyone acting to represent any for-profit member of the project team who controls or influences the decisions of the nonprofit.

If there is an identity of interest, affiliation or conflict, as determined by Minnesota Housing, Minnesota Housing may disqualify the nonprofit from receiving HTC's from the nonprofit set-aside. In making this determination, Minnesota Housing will consider the following:

1. The nonprofit’s history, funding sources and composition of its board
2. Past experience and anticipated future activities of the nonprofit, including involvement in the local community
3. Sources and manner of funding of the nonprofit
4. The nonprofit’s degree of financial strength for completion and operation of the project during the term of the LURA
5. The relationship of the principals involved in the formation of the nonprofit organization with for-profit individuals concerning the HTC application. A nonprofit cannot be affiliated with or controlled by a for-profit entity by:
 - a. Having more than a 25 percent share of common board members; or
 - b. Having more than 25 percent of its funding, directly or indirectly, from the parent entity; or
 - c. Having any other type of association that is not considered an arms-length affiliation
6. The extent to which the nonprofit materially participates within the meaning of Section 469(h) of the IRC in the development and operation of the project throughout the term of the LURA. Minnesota Housing will also look at the nonprofit’s involvement in the project-related construction, management, ownership interest, sharing of fees and funding provisions.

If the nonprofit set-aside is exhausted during a round, the nonprofit applicant with proposed projects in Minnesota Housing’s jurisdiction may be eligible for HTCs from the general pool and selected based upon its point ranking. However, any proposal that receives HTCs from the nonprofit set-aside must comply with the nonprofit requirements of IRC Section 42(h)(5)(C) and (D), including material participation for the term of the LURA. This requirement will be recorded as a covenant on the land that will apply to all subsequent owners.

D. Rural Development/Small Project Set-Aside

Minnesota Housing designates a portion of the state’s HTC volume cap to Rural Development (RD) financed projects. The amount of HTCs reserved to the RD set-aside for 2022 and 2023 is \$375,000. Eligible projects must have either:

1. A Rural Development (RD) financing commitment or,
2. A site located in an RD service area and consisting of 12 or fewer units.

First priority will go to projects with applications for financing or a commitment from RD. A developer may have a maximum award of two projects within this set-aside each allocation year. Applicants to the set-aside first compete in the general pool, and if not competitive, then move to the RD/Small Project set-aside for consideration. Applicants to the set-aside can also compete in Round 2 if there are RD set-aside funds still available. The HTCs may not be allocated to a new RD project until after financing commitment has been executed.

E. Application Rounds

Minnesota Housing has two annual HTC application rounds, Round 1 and Round 2, to allocate the state’s HTC volume cap. Applications for HTCs in association with tax exempt volume limited bonds are accepted year-round on a pipeline basis.

Round 1

Round 1 uses a forward selection process, with selections taking place in the fall of the year proceeding the allocation year of the HTC. Projects that have previously received a partial allocation of HTCs from Minnesota Housing may have priority over other applicants in Round 1. During Round 1, for-profit applicants must apply directly to the suballocator for an HTC allocation if the project falls within a suballocator's jurisdiction. Except for the nonprofit set-aside, Minnesota Housing will not accept applications for developments located within the jurisdiction of suballocators in Round 1 unless the suballocator has entered into a Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota Housing or has returned all of their HTCs to Minnesota Housing. Minnesota Housing will administer the HTCs for all areas outside the jurisdiction of suballocators. Nonprofit applicants may apply to the Minnesota Housing nonprofit set-aside or the suballocator individually or concurrently. Any unused HTCs are returned to Minnesota Housing prior to Round 2.

In Round 1, the nonprofit set-aside is divided proportionally between the two geographic pools. On an annual basis, the nonprofit set-aside may be increased by five percentage points if all suballocators and Minnesota Housing agree to set aside this amount from their respective allocations to the respective geographic pool. Nonprofit developers with projects located within the jurisdiction of a suballocator may apply for HTCs from Minnesota Housing, but only in the nonprofit set-aside. Nonprofit developers with projects located in the allocating jurisdiction of a suballocator may apply simultaneously to the suballocator and to the Minnesota Housing nonprofit set-aside. Nonprofit developments not located in the allocating jurisdiction of a suballocator will compete for HTCs in the respective general geographic pool once the nonprofit set-aside has been exhausted.

In Round 1, Minnesota Housing will establish a preservation allocation ceiling of 2/3 for each geographic pool, Metropolitan and Greater Minnesota, but not including the RD/small project set-aside or the nonprofit set-aside. Minnesota Housing reserves the right to exceed the 2/3 ceiling if qualifying new construction proposals are not available or do not rank competitively.

Round 2

Round 2 makes available for allocation any HTCs remaining or returned since Round 1. All remaining or returned HTCs will be combined into one unified pool for allocation by Minnesota Housing on a statewide basis, without regard to geographic distribution and with no set-asides³. Additionally, Round 2 establishes a waiting list for HTCs that may be returned. In Round 2, all projects located in suballocator jurisdictions may apply directly to Minnesota Housing. Projects that have previously received HTCs from Minnesota Housing or a Suballocator and have an annual HTC shortfall of at least five percent, but not more than 33.33 percent of the total qualified annual HTC amount, subject to Minnesota Housing approval, will have priority over other applicants in Round 2 and under the Waiting List. If more than one project qualifies under the supplemental priority, the Agency will evaluate and rank eligible requests according to points awarded.

Minnesota Housing may, at its discretion, establish a waiting list following Round 2 if sufficient HTCs are not available. See Chapter 2.T. for additional details.

³ In the event that the Minnesota RD office has not received a funding allocation in time for RD projects to be included in Round 1, the RD/Small Projects set-aside will be carried forward until the end of Round 2, or until it is determined that there are no eligible applications for the set-aside. In the event that Minnesota Housing has not met the 10% IRS requirement in Round 1, the Non-profit set-aside will also be carried forward until the end of Round 2.

F. Suballocator Procedures

A city or county is eligible to receive a reserved portion of the state ceiling under this subdivision if it submitted a written request to Minnesota Housing within 45 days after June 2, 1987, to act as a designated Housing Credit Agency as provided in Section 42. A city or county may designate its housing and redevelopment authority as a suballocating agent to allocate HTC's on behalf of the city or county. The city of Minneapolis or the city of Saint Paul may designate the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Housing Finance Board to allocate HTC's on behalf of each city. Minnesota Housing will administer the HTC's for areas outside the jurisdiction of the suballocators.

Minnesota Housing, in consultation with the suballocators, will determine application competition deadlines as required by statute. Minnesota Housing will make an effort to align the application deadline for the suballocating agencies in Round 1 with Minnesota Housing's deadline. No Allocating Agency may award HTC's prior to the application closing date for Round 1.

Before the application deadline for Round 2, the suballocators must return all uncommitted and unallocated HTC's to Minnesota Housing, along with copies of the HTC application and commitment agreements for all selected projects.

If a suballocator determines at any time before Round 2 that a project is no longer eligible for all or a portion of the HTC's committed or allocated to the project, the HTC's must be transferred to Minnesota Housing to be reallocated. If the HTC's for which the project is no longer eligible are from the current year's annual ceiling and the suballocator maintains a waiting list, the suballocator may continue to commit or allocate the HTC's until no later than the date of application for the Round 2. At that time, any uncommitted HTC's must be transferred to Minnesota Housing.

So that all of a project's HTC's are allocated by a single Allocating Agency, Minnesota Housing may apportion additional HTC's to a suballocator for a project that has already received a commitment or allocation of HTC's from the suballocating agency, if all of the suballocator's HTC's have been committed or allocated. These supplemental HTC's must be used only for the selected project and must be allocated to the project by a carryover allocation or IRS Form 8609 before December 31 of the year in which the selection was made. If at any time after the apportionment of the HTC's a suballocator determines the project cannot use or is no longer eligible for all or a portion of the HTC's apportioned to the project, the HTC's must be returned to Minnesota Housing within 10 business days for reallocation.

Suballocators are responsible for the issuance of the IRS Form 8609 for all projects for which they have allocated HTC's. In instances where both a suballocator and Minnesota Housing have allocated HTC's to a project, the Allocating Agency that first allocated HTC's to the project will prepare the IRS Form 8609.

As the primary and lead HTC agency for the state of Minnesota, Minnesota Housing is responsible for collecting and filing the required form with the IRS each year. Minnesota Housing will prepare a comprehensive IRS Form 8610, incorporating all carryover and 8609 allocations made in the state of Minnesota for filing with the IRS. The local suballocators shall submit the following information to Minnesota Housing no later than January 31 for all HTC activity that has occurred in the preceding year:

1. A copy of all Reservation/Binding Agreements, an original of the Carryover Agreement, and copies of all IRS Form 8609s, completed and issued to all (including tax exempt) projects selected since February 28 of the preceding calendar year

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2. A completed HTC application form (Multifamily Workbook) for each development receiving an allocation or award through a reservation, carryover, or issuance of 8609 for HTCs issued from volume cap and in connection with tax exempt volume limited bonds
3. A completed IRS Form 8610 Schedule A for each development receiving a carryover allocation
4. A Suballocator Compliance Activity Report containing the results of inspection activity conducted during each monitoring year with copies of any forms 8823 filed with the IRS
5. Any other information requested by Minnesota Housing necessary to meet federal and state reporting purposes

Suballocators are responsible for monitoring HTC projects for the term of the LURA, including requirements imposed if Minnesota Housing apportions additional HTCs to a suballocator, in accordance with 42(m)(1)(B)(iii) (see Chapter 2.W.) to ensure compliance with applicable federal, state and local requirements. Compliance records must be available upon request to Minnesota Housing from the suballocator or its monitoring agent. Projects that receive HTCs from Minnesota Housing that are apportioned to a suballocating agency must incorporate Minnesota Housing restrictions that are a condition of the HTC award (e.g., nonprofit set-aside, homeless households).

Before January 31, suballocators will submit to Minnesota Housing compliance staff a comprehensive updated report listing all HTC projects allocated or awarded HTCs by the suballocator. Include the following items in the report:

1. Project name
2. Address
3. Building identification numbers
4. Ownership entity and tax identification number
5. Total number of residential units
6. Number of HTC units
7. Year of allocation or award
8. Amount of HTCs allocated or awarded
9. Other information as needed

In addition, suballocators will submit a list of the projects that have been in noncompliance, the year of noncompliance, inspection date and type of noncompliance, along with copies of the IRS Form 8823 and the report of noncompliance findings sent to the owner. Suballocators will also submit a copy of their monitoring requirements, procedural manual and forms, and, if applicable, a copy of the monitoring contract with an outside vendor.

A suballocator may elect to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota Housing. Under a Joint Powers Agreement, Minnesota Housing will perform certain functions related to the HTC allocation or award and compliance monitoring. As a condition of the Joint Powers Agreement, the participating suballocator will transfer its entire annual HTC distribution to Minnesota Housing.

Suballocators are responsible for entering into an agreement with HUD to perform Subsidy Layering Reviews.

G. Multiple Buildings

Projects may include multiple buildings having similarly constructed housing units, provided the buildings are located on the same tract of land, have the same owner for federal income tax purposes and are financed pursuant to a common plan of financing. Scattered site buildings on different tracts of land will also qualify if the project meets all of the other requirements described above and all units in the project are low-income units. The Scoring Guide provides additional information on how thresholds and selection criteria will apply to scattered site projects.

H. Developer and Development Limits

For applicants statewide applying for a portion of the state’s HTC volume cap, the per-developer or general partner HTC limit is the greater of: the amount representing 10 percent of the state’s per capita volume limit in HTCs or the amount needed to support two developments in the case that two developments selected are being developed by the same developer or general partner. Such projects are subject to a development limit of no more than \$1,350,000 in 2022 and 2023 in cumulative HTCs allocated to any one development.

At the sole discretion of Minnesota Housing, these limits may be waived. Minnesota Housing’s goal is to optimize the use of all available sources of funding for multifamily developments, including private investor equity, amortizing loans and deferred loans, to produce the maximum number of affordable rental units that meet the priorities adopted by Minnesota Housing and represent developments that are sustainable, cost effective and geographically diverse. Consistent with this goal, the following criteria will be used to determine if, and when, Minnesota Housing may provide a waiver and the applicant must provide justification for exceeding the applicable limit to Minnesota Housing.

1. Developer Limit

- a. Developer/Sponsor capacity - The ability and capacity of the development team to proceed expeditiously to complete multiple developments.
- b. Financial Feasibility - The applicant must demonstrate that the HTCs are necessary for the financial feasibility of the proposed development and that a significant funding gap will remain if the waiver is not granted.
- c. Minnesota Housing may also waive these limits during Round 2 if there are excess HTCs at year-end.

2. Development Limit

- a. Financial Feasibility - The applicant must demonstrate that the HTCs are necessary for the financial feasibility of the proposed development and that a significant funding gap will remain if the waiver is not granted.
- b. Minnesota Housing may also waive these limits during Round 2 if there are excess HTCs at year-end.

Applicants should not assume that this waiver will be automatically provided or rely on this statement when determining the scope of the proposed project.

I. Transfer of Ownership

Any transfer of title of a selected project or transfer of more than a 50 percent interest in a general partner or member, or change in a nonprofit partner, will be considered a material change in the project and will be subject to Minnesota Housing’s approval.

Owners wishing to change or transfer ownership must submit a completed Request for Action Form (RFA), Transfer Agreement, a transfer of ownership (see Chapter 8) and/or RFA processing fee (see Servicing Fee on Minnesota Housing’s website), and any other documentation that Minnesota Housing deems necessary.

J. Unacceptable Practices

Transfer of Ownership

1. Unapproved Transfer - Any unapproved change or transfer of ownership from the time of selection or preliminary determination letter throughout the term of the LURA will have an effect on all individuals/entities with an ownership interest on each side of the transfer that submit applications in future HTC rounds.
2. Failure to notify - Existing HTC projects that did not have a transfer approval requirement are required to notify the agency of a transfer of ownership throughout the term of the LURA. Failure to notify the agency will have an effect on all individuals/entities with an ownership interest on each side of the transfer that submit applications in future HTC rounds.

These entities may be penalized for an Unapproved Transfer or Failure to Notify as follows:

For four funding rounds (generally two calendar years) from the date Minnesota Housing discovers an unapproved change or transfer of ownership:

- a. First transfer (negative 20 points on each application submittal)
- b. Two or more transfers (negative 35 points on each application submittal)

In addition, if Minnesota Housing becomes aware of a transfer of ownership by an individual or entity without proper notification and approval by Minnesota Housing, Minnesota Housing reserves the right to determine that all parties involved in the transfer will not be eligible for participation in Minnesota’s HTC program for a period of up to 10 years.

Displacement of Section 8 Tenants Minnesota Housing will not accept applications that have displaced or will displace Section 8 tenants in a housing project because rents will be increased above the Section 8 Payment Standard Rent limit. Rehabilitation projects that have existing Section 8 tenants may not increase those rents (in Section 8 units only) above HUD’s Payment Standard Rents after completion of rehabilitation.

1. Minnesota Housing has agreed to partner with the local HUD area office to determine if tenants of rehabilitation projects:
 - a. Were displaced prior to application
 - b. Are displaced after rehabilitation has been completed
2. If Minnesota Housing and the local HUD area office agree that intentional displacement of Section 8 tenants has occurred, with exception given to lease violations by the tenant, Minnesota Housing may:
 - a. Reduce or rescind the reservation/allocation or award of the HTCs to the project prior to issuance of 8609

- b. Assess a -25 point penalty to all parties involved in ownership/management of the project for four funding rounds following notification of the assessment of the negative points by Minnesota Housing. This also applies to HTC projects financed by tax exempt volume limited bonds, owners and managers

Changes to Project

The allocation of HTCs is based upon information provided in the application and the preliminary plans submitted with the application. Until the property is placed in service, any material changes to the project or building design (i.e., changes in unit mix or unit size that affect applicable Design Standards or design features required for preference points) as submitted in the application require written notification to and approval from Minnesota Housing. Any changes require approval by Minnesota Housing and could result in a proportional loss of HTCs up to the full amount of the allocation as well as the assessment of penalty points to the owner/developer of up to -35 points.

Late 8609 Application Submissions Resulting in the Loss of HTC Authority to the State

When Minnesota Housing becomes aware that a late submission of a complete and acceptable 8609 application package by a development's owner/agent results in the loss of any volume of HTC authority to the state of Minnesota, Minnesota Housing reserves the right to determine that all parties involved will not be eligible for future participation in Minnesota's HTC Program for a period of up to 10 years.

Filing of Non-Agency Approved 8609 with the IRS

When Minnesota Housing becomes aware that a development's owner/agent has filed an 8609 with the IRS in advance of the owner/agent's receipt of the Minnesota Housing signed version of the approved 8609, or if the owner/agent electronically files an 8609 with the IRS that does not accurately reflect the information contained on the Minnesota Housing signed version of the approved 8609 or the carryover or reservation agreement, Minnesota Housing will file an 8823 Notice of Non-Compliance with the IRS and reserves the right to determine that all parties involved will not be eligible for future participation in Minnesota's HTC Program for a period of up to 10 years. This applies to HTCs issued by Minnesota Housing, suballocators and in conjunction with tax-exempt volume limited bonds.

Non-Compliance with Minnesota Housing's Fair Housing Policies or Tenant Selection Plan Guidelines, Procedures, and/or Requirements

At the discretion of Minnesota Housing, any failure to comply with Minnesota Housing's Fair Housing policies or Tenant Selection Plan Guidelines, procedures, or requirements may be penalized according to Minnesota Housing's Fair Housing policy, up to and including disqualification of the application. In addition, under the HTC program, Minnesota Housing may impose up to a -35 point penalty on future HTC developments to all parties involved in ownership and/or management on the development(s) that are found in non-compliance. The penalty points will be in effect for four funding rounds (generally two calendar years) following notification of the assessment of the negative points by Minnesota Housing. This also applies to HTC projects financed by tax exempt volume limited bonds, owners, and managers.

Non-Compliance with Minnesota Housing's Compliance Policies, Procedures, and/or Requirements

Failure to comply with Minnesota Housing's compliance policies, procedures, or requirements after repeated notices may be considered an unacceptable practice and result in negative points or ineligibility.

1. On the date of submission of an application for an award or allocation of HTCs, if the applicant

or any party with an identity of interest with the applicant who will have an ownership interest in the proposed development has been issued a notice of failure to comply involving any of the following violations but has not submitted an acceptable plan and timeline to correct by the response due date, Minnesota Housing may impose a penalty up to -35 points under Unacceptable Practices.

- a. Failed minimum set-aside
 - b. Any Exigent Health and Safety violation under Uniform Physical Conditions Standards
 - c. Owner is charging rent on any HTC unit that exceeds the allowable rent limit or has violated Minnesota Housing’s policy limiting rent increases to once annually (as stated in Section 5.01 of the Housing Tax Credit Compliance Guide).
 - d. HTC unit rented to an ineligible household (i.e., household not properly certified, over income at initial occupancy, or ineligible full-time student)
 - e. Project not available to the general public
 - f. Owner failed to respond to agency request for inspection
 - g. Other Compliance violations as determined by Minnesota Housing
2. On the date of submission of an application for an award or allocation of HTCs, if the applicant or development, 1) has been reported to IRS by Minnesota Housing or a suballocator as no longer in compliance, nor participating in section 42 program on line 11p of IRS form 8823 and has not taken steps to bring the property back into compliance to the satisfaction of Minnesota Housing or the suballocator, or 2) is on Minnesota Housing’s or a suballocator’s list of Properties Not in Good Standing in the Extended Use Period and has not taken steps to bring the property back into compliance to the satisfaction of Minnesota Housing or the suballocator, the applicant may receive a penalty up to -35 points or be deemed ineligible to receive an allocation of HTCs.

K. Minimum Underwriting Standards

A development selected for a reservation or preliminary determination of HTCs is selected based upon underwriting standards, including but not limited to, acquisition costs, maintenance and operating expenses and permanent financing as approved by Minnesota Housing (see Chapter 5), the Minnesota Housing Multifamily Underwriting Standards. These factors will be monitored throughout the HTC process until Minnesota Housing’s issuance of the approved IRS Form 8609. **Minnesota Housing will not allow any significant adjustments to these standards without prior approval.** Not complying with these standards could lead to the revocation of the HTC allocation.

L. Identity of Interest and Related Parties

The applicant must disclose any and all relationships (generally based on financial interests or family ties) with others involved in the project. A written disclosure to Minnesota Housing detailing the nature of all identity of interest relationships is required for all parties. An entity will be deemed, at the discretion of Minnesota Housing, to have an identity of interest with, or to be a related party to, an

applicant if there is a financial or familial relationship between the entities, including parent and subsidiary entities.

M. Disclosure and Eligibility of Development Team

The applicant must disclose on the Multifamily Workbook the names and addresses, including corporate officials where applicable, of all parties that have a significant role in the project (significant parties). These significant parties include, but are not limited to, general partners, accountants, architects, engineers, financial consultants, any other consultants, processing agents, management agents and the general contractor. (Each team member may be required to complete a Qualification Form.) Minnesota Housing must be satisfied that those who will own and operate the project are familiar with and prepared to comply with the requirements of the program.

The following significant parties are not eligible to participate in the HTC Program:

1. Significant parties who have been convicted of, enter an agreement for immunity from prosecution from, or plead guilty, including a plea of *nolo contendere*, to a crime of dishonesty, moral turpitude, fraud, bribery, payment of illegal gratuities, perjury, false statement, racketeering, blackmail, extortion, falsification or destruction of records
2. Significant parties who are currently debarred from any Minnesota program, other states' program(s), or any federal program(s)
3. At the sole discretion of Minnesota Housing, significant parties who have serious and persistent compliance monitoring violations may not be eligible
4. At the sole discretion of Minnesota Housing, significant parties having an identity of interest with persons or entities falling into any of the above categories may not be eligible.

N. Determination of HTC Amount

Federal law mandates that, although a proposed project may be eligible for up to 70 percent or up to 30 percent present value HTC amount, Minnesota Housing may not allocate more HTCs than is necessary for the financial feasibility of the project and its viability as a qualified affordable housing project throughout the compliance period.

After a project meets the development selection criteria, including marketability, Minnesota Housing will evaluate each proposed project, taking into consideration in accordance with Section 42:

1. Development costs, including acquisition costs, developer fees, and builder profits, contractor overhead and general conditions
2. All sources and uses of funds
3. Projected income and expenses
4. Proceeds expected to be generated from the sale of HTCs, including historic tax credits
5. The difference between total project costs and total available financing resources, which is referred to as the gap. A calculation is made to determine the amount of HTCs needed by the project to fund the gap over a 10-year period, based on the estimated market value of the HTCs.

Based on this evaluation, Minnesota Housing will estimate the amount of HTCs to be allocated for each application. This determination is made solely at Minnesota Housing's discretion and is not a

representation as to the feasibility of the project. Rather, it will serve as the basis for making an allocation of HTCs. The amount of the HTC can change during the process due to variations in cost, mortgage amount, HTC percentage, syndication proceeds, etc. Minnesota Housing reserves the right not to allocate any HTCs.

This analysis to determine the maximum amount of HTCs must be performed by both Minnesota Housing and the owner/developer at the time of application, at the time of allocation, and at the time the project is placed in service, providing all project costs are finalized and certified. For each analysis, the applicant must submit the most recent financial information on the project. Misrepresentations of information will result in failure to award Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 8609, debarment from participation in the HTC Program and possible criminal penalties.

If there are changes in resources and/or uses of funds or other material changes, Minnesota Housing will adjust the HTC amount to reflect the changes, and the HTC amount may be reduced. HTC amounts will not automatically be increased above the initial reservation request or allocation amount. Requests for additional HTCs for the project must follow the procedures in Chapter 2.O. and will depend upon the availability of HTCs.

O. Requests for Additional HTC Amounts

Projects that have had a justifiable increase in eligible basis or previously received a partial allocation may be eligible to apply for supplemental HTC amounts. Under extenuating circumstances, such as significant changes in the market, Minnesota Housing may allow additional requests. The determination and approval are at the sole discretion of the agency.

For 9 percent HTC projects to receive a supplemental HTC amount, the owner must submit an application when applications are due for Round 1, Round 2 or at the time the carryover application is submitted. Developers who have a Minnesota Housing reservation from the current year will be required to submit a revised Multifamily Workbook, documentation supporting the increased amount of HTCs requested, an updated and revised Self-Scoring Worksheet, any new or revised documentation obtained since the previous application and a supplemental application fee. A complete application package with all attachments and a full application fee will be required for an application for additional HTCs for developments initially awarded HTCs from a suballocator or that have an HTC allocation from a prior year. Minnesota Housing permits only one supplemental or additional HTC allocation for each development. Allocations of additional HTCs requested as part of a carryover application are not counted against this limit.

For 4 percent HTC projects to receive an additional HTC amount, the owner must submit an application at the time of the 8609 application.

All applications that are submitted for an additional HTC amount will be subject to the same evaluation process described above, the availability of HTCs, as well as limitations on the time period for allocation of additional HTCs under Section 42.

P. Round 2 Resubmission Process for Non-Select Projects

In a current allocation year, if a project fails to receive 9 percent HTCs in Round 1, it may be considered for a reservation of HTCs in Round 2 by following these guidelines. Resubmittal must occur by Minnesota Housing's HTC application deadline. Minnesota Housing will not consider applications resubmitted after the deadline. A resubmitted application must include the following:

1. Cover letter requesting resubmission with a copy of Minnesota Housing’s non-selection letter attached
2. Re-signed and re-dated Multifamily Workbook (all changes from the initial application must be clearly identified)
3. Any new or revised documentation obtained since the previous application
4. An updated and revised Self-Scoring Worksheet, including all documentation that clearly supports the points claimed
5. Any documentation Minnesota Housing deems necessary
6. The Supplemental Application Fee

Minnesota Housing reserves the right to require a full, new application for any project.

Q. Qualified Census Tracts, Difficult Development Areas and State Designated Basis Boosts

Projects that meet the following criteria may be eligible for a greater amount of HTC than the legislated maximum HTC percentage.

1. **Qualified census tracts (QCT)** designated by HUD in which 50 percent of the population has an income of less than 60 percent of the area median or has a poverty rate of at least 25 percent; where such areas do not comprise more than 20 percent of the overall population (for a current list of the HUD-designated QCTs, go to Minnesota Housing’s website under HTC Reference Materials or go directly to the [Qualified Census Tract Table Generator](#) or [Qualified Census Tract Map](#)). Effective dates can be based upon year of application or allocation. See the HUD Designation Notice for additional details.
2. **Difficult development areas (DDA)** designated by HUD as having high construction, land, and utility costs relative to area median income. For DDA information, reference the same website for QCT above. Effective dates can be based upon year of application or allocation. See the HUD Designation Notice for additional details.
3. **State Designated Basis Boost.** For projects requesting HTCs from the state’s HTC volume cap. Buildings Designated by State Housing Credit Agency [pursuant to 42(d)(5)(B)(v)]*

It is the goal of Minnesota Housing to optimize the use of all available sources of funding for multifamily developments to produce the maximum number of affordable rental units in the most sustainable, quality, cost effective and geographically diverse developments possible that meet Minnesota Housing’s priorities. Consistent with this goal, the following criteria will be used to determine if, when, and in what HTC amount, Minnesota Housing will provide a basis boost for HTC developments on a building by building basis to obtain financial feasibility.

- a. Development must meet at least one of the following selection criteria requirements:
 - i. Permanent Supportive Housing: Projects that will serve People with Disabilities or High Priority Homeless Households under the Permanent Supportive Housing for High Priority Homeless selection criterion or the People with Disabilities selection criterion.
 - ii. Preservation: Projects that serve existing federally assisted housing or other critical affordable housing projects must be eligible under the Preservation selection criterion.

- iii. Tribal: Projects that are sponsored by, or have received, a significant financial contribution (as determined by Minnesota Housing) from a Tribal government, tribally designated housing entities, or tribal corporate entities.
- b. The application must demonstrate that without the basis boost, a significant funding gap will remain for the proposed development and HTC allocations in connection with the basis boost must be no more than needed to achieve financial feasibility.

*Requests by applicants or developers to Minnesota Housing to apply the 30 percent state designated basis boost must be formally made in writing. The request must clearly outline the reasons supporting the request and clearly demonstrate how the proposal meets the criteria established by Minnesota Housing for receiving boost considerations.

R. Reservations

Once Minnesota Housing has ranked applications and determined allowable HTC amounts for each application, staff will make recommendations to Minnesota Housing's board for final approval of the reservation of 9 percent HTCs.

Reservations are site specific. Changing a development's site could lead to the revocation of the HTC reservation/allocation.

Minnesota Housing's HTC program permits its owners to elect the applicable percentage either at reservation or placed in service. If the election is not made at the time the reservation letter is issued, the percentage will be fixed for the month in which the building is placed in service. Once made, the election is irrevocable. Upon receipt of the required documents, Minnesota Housing will complete its reservation review and send reservation agreements to be executed by the owner. Each reservation must be conditioned upon receipt of written certification, evidence of timely progress toward completion of the project acceptable to Minnesota Housing, and evidence of compliance with federal tax requirements.

Choosing the gross rent floor date as the date of allocation or the date of placed in service can be done at any time from reservation forward, but the election must be made and the completed election form received by Minnesota Housing no later than the date the project is placed in service. If you choose to make the election as of the date of the reservation, submit a fully executed Gross Rent Floor Election Form (HTC 26) including each building of the development in which there are HTC units. If the required owner-executed forms with all elections made by the owner are not submitted to Minnesota Housing by a date no later than the placed in service date, the gross rent floor date will be effective on the allocation date of the HTCs.

Selected applicants that will not place a project in service in the allocation year for which the reservation was issued may request a carryover allocation by submitting the required carryover application submissions.

S. Administrative Errors/Appeals Process

Applications requesting HTCs from the state's HTC volume cap can request an appeal. If the applicant believes that Minnesota Housing has misinterpreted, was not aware of a submission item, or miscalculated the applicant's selection points or HTC amount at time of application/reservation, the

applicant must submit in writing evidence supporting their position by the appeal due date determined by Minnesota Housing, which is generally five business days after notification of application status. The applicant's appeal must be written in letter form containing a signature and stating that the communication is an appeal under Chapter 2.S. of the QAP. The appeal letter may be submitted through email to mhfa.htc.appeals@state.mn.us or to:

Minnesota Housing
HTC Administrator
400 Wabasha Street North, Suite 400
St. Paul, MN 55102

An applicant is not permitted to contest the scores of other applicants. Notification will be in the form of a selection or non-selection letter. The first business day after the date on this letter will be the first day of the notification period.

If the evidence provided by the applicant is accepted and the selection points of the project are affected, Minnesota Housing will re-rank all projects in the order of descending selection points. After an additional five-business day period, Minnesota Housing's rankings will stand and reservations for selected projects will be distributed.

T. Waiting List

In Round 2, eligible applications will be maintained on a waiting list until the end of the year in the event Minnesota Housing receives an increase in credits due to an IRS formula adjustment, National Pool or unused and/or returned HTCs. A project on the waiting list that is selected for its HTC request through the subsequent Round 1 will no longer be eligible to receive HTCs through the waiting list and will be removed from the list. Projects determined to meet the supplemental priority in accordance to the QAP will receive priority over other applicants. The waiting list will follow Minnesota Housing's order of ranking of competitive HTC points. Generally, projects will be chosen in order; however, depending on IRS rules and requirements, time and funds available, Minnesota Housing reserves the right to make modifications to the waiting list or incorporate HTCs into subsequent rounds.

Projects placed on the waiting list must be fully evaluated for underwriting, market and financial viability prior to receiving consideration for an HTC allocation. A project must satisfy these reviews to be eligible for selection from the waiting list. If an application is not selected for a reservation of HTCs by the end of the calendar year, there will be no further consideration. An applicant currently on the waiting list must submit a completely new application packet in the next funding round, which is a new HTC year, to receive consideration for an HTC allocation.

U. Carryover Allocations

Federal law (IRS Treasury Regulation 1.42-06 Carryover Allocation) provides that Minnesota Housing may give a carryover allocation to certain qualified building(s), which are to be placed in service no later than December 31 of the second year after the allocation year for which the reservation was issued. To receive a carryover allocation, the owner must submit a complete carryover application package to Minnesota Housing no later than November 1 of the allocation year for which the reservation was issued.

In the event Minnesota Housing receives an increase in HTC's due to an IRS formula adjustment, National Pool, or unused and/or returned HTC's the agency may allocate HTC's for any additional HTC requests based upon the score of the project's allocation request. Generally, projects will be chosen in order; however, depending on IRS rules and requirements, time and funds available, Minnesota Housing reserves the right to incorporate HTC's into subsequent rounds.

Federal law requires that more than 10 percent of the expected basis in the project (including land) must be expended by the later of the date, which is one year after the date that the allocation is made or the close of the calendar year in which the allocation is made. A written certified public accountant's (CPA) certification must be submitted verifying the owner has incurred required expenditures. As decided by the owner, submission of the CPA certification may be made at the time of carryover application or at a later date as provided for by Section 42 and the QAP. However, the carryover allocation agreement must be executed prior to December 31 of the allocation year for which the reservation was issued.

For a carryover agreement to be valid it must include, among other things:

1. The amount of the reasonably expected basis at the end of the second year after the initial reservation
2. The carryover basis expended by the later of:
 - a. The date which is one year after the date that the allocation is made, or
 - b. The close of the calendar year in which the allocation is made

If the final CPA certified carryover basis and expenditure information is not available at the time the carryover application is due, an estimate of the expenditure of greater than 10 percent of the expected basis must be performed by the owner and submitted to Minnesota Housing no later than November 1 of the allocation year for which the reservation was issued. The final CPA certifications must be submitted to Minnesota Housing prior to the deadlines established by Section 42 and by no later than Minnesota Housing's submission deadlines identified in Chapter 6.B. Failure to comply with the submission dates will result in significant penalties as outlined in Chapter 8.E. Additional carryover requirements are given in Chapter 6.B.

Minnesota Housing's HTC program carryover procedures are intended to conform to the federal laws and are based upon the limited guidance received from the IRS. At any time, additional IRS guidance may be issued that will require further adjustments to the QAP and additional reviews of developments relating to carryover.

V. Final Allocations

Except for carryover allocations, no allocation of HTC's will be made until a building or project is placed in service and the proper documentation and fees have been received. The final amount of HTC's is determined when the project is placed in service.

Final allocations (Form 8609) may be requested when all eligible buildings are placed in service and the proper documentation and fees have been received. Minnesota Housing may establish, at its sole discretion, required deadlines prior to year-end for final allocation requests in order to permit timely processing of documents.

If an owner of an HTC development does not intend to obtain a carryover allocation, but instead intends to take a project from HTC reservation directly to placed-in-service status, an allocation via issuance of 8609 must be obtained prior to year-end of the allocation year for which the reservation was issued. For an 8609 to be issued by Minnesota Housing prior to year-end, the HTC application for issuance of such 8609s must be submitted to Minnesota Housing on or before November 1 of that year.

A project that has neither received a carryover allocation nor has been placed in service and issued appropriate 8609s before December 31 of the year of allocation will lose its entire allocation of HTCs.

The HTC amount that will be allocated is based on Minnesota Housing's final determination of the qualified basis for the building or project and a review of the project costs as outlined in the QAP. The allocation may be reduced to comply with federal law based on the final review of the project.

Prior to final allocation, the project owner is required to execute and record a LURA.

Non-compliance with the terms of a reservation/preliminary determination of HTCs or a carryover allocation will result in a loss of HTCs.

W. Monitoring for Compliance

Federal law requires that Minnesota Housing provide a procedure to monitor for compliance with Section 42 and to notify the IRS of noncompliance. Minnesota Housing is required to apply the monitoring procedure to all HTC projects developed within Minnesota Housing's jurisdiction, including HTCs issued in connection with tax-exempt volume limited bonds since the inception of the HTC program. Minnesota Housing will perform such duties in accordance with its [Housing Tax Credit Compliance Guide](#). HTC projects must comply with the Housing Tax Credit Compliance Guide as it may be amended. In general:

1. All HTC recipients must submit an annual certification to Minnesota Housing in a manner, form and time established by Minnesota Housing. Owners are required to certify whether or not the property is in compliance with Section 42 regulations and whether or not the property complies with the restrictions and/or set-asides under which the HTCs were allocated. The certification will include, but is not limited to, certification statements required under IRS Treasury Regulation 1.42-5, the submission of completed IRS forms, and occupancy data including demographic data, income, student status, and rent. Annual monitoring fees will be due when the owner certification is due.
2. Minnesota Housing will conduct periodic inspections including reviewing tenant files (including tenant applications, verification of income and income from assets, the tenant income certification, and documentation of eligible student status, etc.), a physical inspection using HUD's Uniform Physical Conditions Standards, and reviewing administrative records (including utility allowance and source documentation, tenant selection plans, marketing, Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan, etc.) in accordance with the HTC Compliance Guide. If a property received its HTC allocation based on serving specific targeted population(s), administrative records and/or tenant files must demonstrate that the property and/or unit is serving such population(s).

Minnesota Housing will conduct its first monitoring inspection no later than the end of the second year of the compliance period.

3. A similar monitoring inspection will be conducted at least once every three years during the 15-year compliance period. Less frequent inspections may be conducted after the 15-year compliance period has expired. Minnesota Housing reserves the right to conduct more frequent inspections, at its sole discretion.
4. Minnesota Housing must have access to all official project records, including IRS reporting forms, upon reasonable notification. All official project records or complete copies of such records must be made available to Minnesota Housing upon request.
5. To accomplish its compliance monitoring responsibilities, Minnesota Housing will charge a per unit monitoring fee beginning with the first credit year. The fee will be due annually throughout the compliance period and extended use period. See Sections 4.02 and 9.05 of the [Housing Tax Credit Compliance Guide](#) for details on the fee amount. Minnesota Housing reserves the right to adjust the fee depending upon the requirements of the U.S. Treasury, IRS, or increased cost to monitor. The fee will be due in a manner and time as prescribed by Minnesota Housing. Minnesota Housing will provide prompt written notice to the owner of a low-income housing project if Minnesota Housing does not receive the annual certification and supporting documentation described above or discovers in an audit, inspection, or review, or in some other manner, that the project is not in compliance (or Minnesota Housing cannot determine the project is in compliance because the owner will not cooperate with or respond to monitoring requests) with the provisions of Section 42. Owner will be given a period of time to make corrections and supply evidence to Minnesota Housing that corrections have been made. Minnesota Housing will file Form 8823, Housing Credit Agencies Report of Non-Compliance, with the IRS no later than 45 days after the end of the correction period regardless of whether the noncompliance has been corrected.
6. Properties that received an HTC allocation in 1990 and later are subject to a minimum 15-year extended use period which begins after the close of the 15-year compliance period. Compliance requirements and monitoring procedures for properties in the extended use period are contained in Chapter 9 of the HTC Compliance Guide.
7. All project owners must maintain records in accordance with IRS Treasury Regulation 1.42-5. See Chapter 3 of the HTC Compliance Guide for details.

X. Qualified Contract

All properties will be subject to a LURA with a term of 30 years or longer. Section 42(h)(6)(E)(i)(II) of the IRC created a provision that housing credit agencies respond to the request for presentation of a qualified contract for HTC developments with expiring compliance periods. The request for presentation of a qualified contract is a request that the housing credit agency find a buyer (who will continue to operate the property as a qualified low-income property) to purchase the property for a qualified contract price pursuant to IRS regulations. If the housing credit agency is unable to find a buyer within one year, the extended use period is terminated, subject to a three-year period following its termination where existing low income tenants cannot be evicted or tenancy terminated for other than good cause and rents cannot exceed the allowable HTC rent limits.

Owners of properties that receive 4 percent or 9 percent HTCs are required by Minnesota Housing to waive the right to request a qualified contract for a minimum of 30 years. Some owners of 4 percent and 9 percent properties have agreed to extend the term of the LURA and to waive their right to Qualified Contract for 40 or 50 years.

Y. Tenant Selection Plan

Minnesota Housing requires that a Tenant Selection Plan (Plan) be readily available to anyone interested in such Plan for review and/or retention. Minnesota Housing will not develop or provide such a Plan to owners or management companies. The Plan must be developed and implemented in accordance with Minnesota Housing’s Tenant Selection Plan Guidelines which is published on the agency website.

Z. Other Conditions

No member, officer, agent or employee of Minnesota Housing will be personally liable concerning any matters arising out of, or in relation to, the allocation and monitoring of HTC’s.

AA. Amendments and Revisions to the Qualified Allocation Plan and Manual

This QAP has been prepared to comply with Section 42 of the IRC and applicable state and federal requirements.

The QAP is subject to modification or amendment at any time to ensure that the provisions conform to the requirements of the IRC and other federal and state requirements, to make population and date changes as needed, to facilitate the award of HTC’s that would not otherwise be awarded, and to address unforeseen circumstances.

A substantive amendment to this QAP will occur only after public notice and public hearing. Any substantive amendments will require approval of the Minnesota Housing board and the governor or appropriate approval entity. Non-substantive amendments may be made by the Minnesota Housing board. The Minnesota Housing board is authorized to waive any conditions of this QAP that are not mandated by Section 42 on a case-by-case basis for good cause shown. Written explanation will be made available to the general public for any allocation of HTC’s that is not made in accordance with Minnesota Housing’s established priorities and selection criteria.

To the extent that anything contained in the QAP does not meet the minimum requirements of federal law or regulations, such law or regulation will take precedence.

Chapter 3 – Federal Program Requirements

A. Eligible Activities

Eligible activities for HTC's include new construction, rehabilitation or acquisition with rehabilitation.

B. Applicable Percentage

There are two levels of applicable percentage, depending upon whether the building is new or existing, whether there are rehabilitation expenditures and whether the buildings are federally subsidized.

1. **New Buildings and Qualifying Rehabilitation Expenditures (if neither is federally subsidized):** With respect to new buildings or qualifying rehabilitation expenditures which are not subsidized, the applicable percentage is an amount resulting in aggregate HTC's having a present value of 70 percent of qualified basis. Traditionally, this has resulted in an HTC percentage of approximately 9 percent.
2. **New Buildings and Qualifying Rehabilitation Expenditures that are Federally Subsidized and Existing Buildings:** With respect to new buildings and qualifying rehabilitation expenditures which are federally subsidized and the acquisition of existing buildings that are rehabilitated, the applicable percentage is an amount which results in aggregate HTC's having a present value of 30 percent of qualified basis. Traditionally, this has resulted in an HTC percentage of approximately 4 percent.

The 9 percent and 4 percent credit percentage represent the maximum potential rate.

Applicants are strongly advised to consult closely with their HTC professionals (legal and tax) for guidance with respect to structuring a project to use either the 9 percent or the 4 percent HTC.

C. Qualifying Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation expenditure requirements are established both by state and federal law.

Under Section 42(e), rehabilitation expenses qualify for the HTC if the expenditures for each building:

1. Are able to be awarded to one or more low-income units or substantially benefit low-income units; and
2. Are equal to the greater of:
 - a. An average qualified basis amount per low-income unit for a building which meets the inflation adjusted amount published by the IRS annually in accordance with Section 42(e)(3)(D); or
 - b. An amount that is not less than 20 percent of the adjusted basis of the building, as determined pursuant to Section 42(e)(3).

In addition to the Section 42(e) requirements, Minnesota Statutes Section 462A.221, Subdivision 5, requires rehabilitation expenditures for the project of an average of \$5,000 per unit.

It is necessary to acquire an existing building in order to incur qualifying rehabilitation expenditures with respect to that building. In such a case, the costs of acquiring the existing building may be eligible for the

30 percent present value HTC and the rehabilitation expenditures may be eligible for the 70 percent present value HTC.

D. Existing Buildings

Existing Buildings must meet the requirements of Section 42(d)(2). In order for an existing building to qualify for the 30 percent acquisition HTC in connection with rehabilitation, the building must meet the 10-year requirement (10-year rule), in accordance with Section 42(d)(2)(B) and have a period of at least 10 years between the date the building was acquired and the date it was last placed in service.

Please note that the 10-year rule also applies to existing HTC projects applying for a new allocation of acquisition HTCs at the end of the original 15-year compliance period.

E. Exception to the 10-Year Rule

Exceptions to the 10-year rule are provided in Section 42(d)(6) for federal or state assisted buildings, certain low-income buildings subject to mortgage prepayment and buildings acquired from insured financial institutions in default. Certain other situations may be exempt from the 10-year rule, such as:

1. A person who inherits a property
2. A government unit or qualified nonprofit group if income from the property is exempt from federal income taxation
3. A person who gains a property through foreclosure (or instrument in lieu of foreclosure) of any purchase money security interest, provided the person resells the building within 12 months after placing the building in service following foreclosure
4. Single family residences that had no use during the prior 10-year period except, as an owner-occupied principal residence will not be treated as being placed in service for purposes of the 10-year holding period. Note that although the 10-year rule does not apply, the property must still be rehabilitated to claim the acquisition costs of such a property.

F. Federal Subsidies

The determination of whether a building is federally subsidized is addressed in Section 42(i)(2). In general, a building is treated as federally subsidized if there is financing the interest on which is exempt from tax under Section 103 of the IRC, the proceeds of which were used (directly or indirectly) in the building or its operation.

Federal grants are not to be taken into account in determining eligible basis. The eligible basis of a building must not include any costs financed with the proceeds of a federally funded grant.

Owners of a property receiving a federal subsidy have the option of treating the subsidy amount as if it were a federal grant and deducting the amount of the subsidy from the qualified basis or costs against which the amount of the HTC is calculated.

G. Review of Federally Assisted Projects

Minnesota Housing will review projects using Rural Development Section 515 Rural Housing Loan funds in accordance with Minnesota Housing's currently approved underwriting practices and procedures. To achieve a coordinated underwriting to the extent reasonably possible, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide Minnesota Housing with available underwriting requirements and other

requirements for the project that have been established by Rural Development. Prior to issuance of the IRS Form 8609, the applicant must submit to Minnesota Housing a copy of RD Form 3560-51, Multiple Family Housing Obligation – Fund Analysis for reference in the determination of the final allocation of HTC to a project.

H. Federal Subsidy Layering Review

Section 911 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 requires that specific procedures be followed for subsidy layering review when HTCs and HUD assistance are combined in a single project. Sponsors of projects that combine HUD assistance and HTCs should be aware that a subsidy layering review must be completed for their projects and should contact Minnesota Housing to receive additional information prior to submitting their application.

Suballocators are responsible for ensuring that subsidy layering reviews are completed for developments within their jurisdiction where they are the HTC allocating agency.

Subsidy layering review is required for the following programs, but not limited to:

1. Metropolitan Housing Opportunity Program (MHOP)
2. U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Risk Share Insurance
3. Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance
4. Home Investment Partnership (HOME)
5. National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF)

At a minimum, the following documents must be submitted:

1. Partnership (Syndication) Agreement, spelling out the equity contributions and dates of disbursement; and
2. Copy of the Multifamily Workbook

I. Minimum Set-Aside Election

Applicants must set aside a minimum number of units that meet both rent and income restrictions to qualify for HTCs for each year of the HTC period. A project must, for a specific period of time, meet one of the following minimum tests:

1. **20/50 Test (20 percent at 50 percent MTSP):** To meet the 20/50 test, a minimum of 20 percent of the residential units must be both rent restricted and occupied by individuals whose income is at or below the 50 percent Multifamily Tax Subsidy Project limits (MTSP income limits), as established for different geographical areas and published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), adjusted for family size.
2. **40/60 Test (40 percent at 60 percent MTSP):** To meet the 40/60 test, a minimum 40 percent of the residential units must be both rent restricted and occupied by individuals whose income is at or below the 60 percent MTSP income limits, adjusted for family size.
3. **Average Income Test (AIT):** To meet the AIT, a minimum of 40 percent of the residential units must be both rent restricted and occupied by individuals whose imputed income average at initial occupancy is at or below the 60 percent MTSP income limits, adjusted for family size. The

set-aside allows projects to restrict a percentage of units at higher rent and income levels by agreeing to restrict a percentage of its units at lower rent and income levels. The allowable income and rent limit restrictions are 20 percent, 30 percent, 40 percent, 50 percent, 60 percent, 70 percent and 80 percent of MTSP. Only properties that are 100 percent HTC restricted are eligible to elect the AIT and the owner must agree and make a proper election per IRS instructions to treat all buildings as one multiple building project. If the AIT is elected, owner also agrees to maintain the number of 20 percent, 30 percent and 40 percent units throughout the extended use period that it represented in its application. The required number of units will be set forth on the LURA and cannot be changed without Minnesota Housing's prior written approval. The units may float throughout the property, but owner should be aware of potential fair housing concerns if the lower income and rent restrictions are not available in units with larger bedroom sizes.

After the initial HTC application has been submitted to Minnesota Housing and the project has been selected, the minimum set-aside cannot be changed without Minnesota Housing's prior written approval. Owners must demonstrate good cause for requesting a change. Once form(s) 8609 are filed with the Internal Revenue Service, the minimum set-aside election is irrevocable.

All HTC units must comply with the respective minimum set-aside income and rent election. For example, for a 20/50 minimum set-aside, if a building's applicable fraction is 100 percent; all units must have an income and rent restriction of 50 percent MTSP.

NOTE: The actual number of restricted units within the project must be consistent with the initial applicable fraction selected at the time of application. Also, IRS defines each building as a separate project unless owner elects to treat certain buildings as a multiple-building project on IRS form 8609. See the instructions for making a multiple-building election on form 8609.

The AIT is not an available minimum set-aside election under IRC Section 142 for tax exempt bonds. Owners of properties financed with tax exempt bonds may elect the AIT for the HTC allocation, but will have to comply with the 20/50 or 40/60 minimum set-aside for bonds AND the AIT minimum set-aside for HTCs.

J. Affordable Rents

The rent restrictions for the units are governed by Section 42 and regulations, rulings and other announcements by the IRS. The following summary is not intended to be comprehensive. A violation of the tenant income or rental restrictions in Section 42 may result in project ineligibility or a reduction in basis and/or HTC amount.

For a unit to count as a low-income unit, the gross rent may not exceed 30 percent of the imputed tenant income limitation. The imputed income limitation applicable to a unit equals the permissible income limitations that would apply if the number of individuals occupying the unit were:

1. One individual in the case of a studio apartment; and
2. 1.5 individuals per bedrooms in the case of a unit with one or more separate bedrooms.

Therefore, the rent restrictions applicable to a low-income unit are determined by which test is elected and how many bedrooms are contained in the unit. Current income limits, as derived from HUD, for

Minnesota counties are described in the Rent and Income tables found in the Multifamily Common Application Reference Materials section.

For HTC compliance purposes, gross rent means all payments by the tenant, including non-optional charges and payments for utilities other than telephone and cable. If the tenant pays utilities directly, the maximum rent that can be paid to the landlord is reduced by a utility allowance determined in accordance with rules under Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 (Section 8). IRS Treasury Regulation 1.42-10 Utility Allowance, as amended, provides guidance relating to Utility Allowances and lays out options for establishing them.

The following is a summary of the sources of utility allowances:

1. USDA Rural Housing Service (RHS) financed projects, or units with tenants receiving RHS assistance, must use the RHS utility allowance.
2. HUD regulated buildings must use the HUD utility allowance (project-based HUD financing).
3. Any individual apartments occupied by residents who receive HUD assistance (Section 8 Existing, etc.), must use the HUD utility allowance from the Public Housing Authority (PHA) administering the assistance.
4. For Section 42 buildings without RHS or HUD assistance, the following options may be used:
 - a. A PHA utility allowance from the local housing authority administering section 8 vouchers for the area in which the property is located.
 - b. A utility company estimate.
 - c. An “Agency Estimate” based on actual utility usage data and rates for the building.
 - d. A HUD Utility Schedule Model.
 - e. An Energy Consumption Model using an energy and water and sewage consumption and analysis model.

The HTC Compliance Guide provides additional information and instructions for utility allowances.

Federal, state and local rental assistance payments (such as Section 8 payments) made on behalf of the tenant are not included in gross rent.

Additional rent restrictions may apply if the allocation or award of HTCs was made based on such additional restrictions.

K. Tenant Eligibility

To be a low-income unit for purposes of determining the qualified basis, the tenant must have income at or below 50 percent of the applicable MTSP income limits if the 20/50 test is elected or 60 percent of MTSP income limits if the 40/60 test is elected. If the AIT is elected, the tenant must have income at or below the correct percent of MTSP income limits according to unit designation. The allowable income limit restrictions under the AIT are 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, and 80 percent of MTSP. The unit must be rent restricted as set forth above, and the unit must be suitable for occupancy.

The combined household income of all tenants occupying an HTC eligible unit must be less than or equal to the elected income requirements as shown on Rent and Income Limits.

Section 42 does not allow households comprised of full-time students to qualify as low-income units unless certain exceptions are met. There are five exceptions to the limitation on households where all members are full-time students. Full-time student households that are income eligible and satisfy one or more of the following conditions are considered eligible:

1. Students are married and entitled to file a joint tax return. A married couple that is entitled to file a joint tax return, but has not filed one, still satisfies the exception.
2. The household consists of a single parent with child(ren) and the parent is not a dependent of someone else, and the child(ren) is/are not dependent(s) of someone other than a parent;
3. At least one member of the household receives assistance under Title IV of the Social Security Act (formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), now known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or in Minnesota, the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP));
4. At least one member of the household participates in a program receiving assistance under the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) or other similar federal, state, or local laws; or
5. At least one member of the household was previously in foster care.

Households are required to certify student status annually, no later than the anniversary date of the previous certification. See Section 5.11 of the HTC Compliance Guide and Chapter 17 of the HTC Compliance Guide for Completing Form 8823, Low-Income Housing Credit Agency's Report of Noncompliance or Building Disposition, for additional guidance.

L. Eligible Basis

In general, the eligible basis of a building is equal to the building's adjusted basis for acquisition, rehabilitation or construction costs for the entire building, subject to certain conditions and modifications set forth in Section 42(d). As a general rule, the adjusted basis rules of IRC Section 1016 apply, with the exception that no adjustments are made for depreciation. Some of the special provisions for determining eligible basis under Section 42(d) are:

1. The eligible basis may be increased for new buildings and rehabilitation to existing buildings that are located in designated qualified census tracts (QCT), difficult development areas (DDA) or in 9% HTC developments utilizing the state designated basis boost.
2. The cost of the non-low-income residential units in a building is included in eligible basis only if the quality of those units does not exceed the average quality of the low-income units. If the cost of a non-low-income unit exceeds the cost of a low-income unit (using the average cost per square foot and assuming the same size) by more than 15 percent, the entire cost of the non-low-income unit must be excluded from the building's eligible basis. If the excess cost is not more than 15 percent, the owner may make an election to exclude only the excess cost of the non-low-income unit(s) from eligible basis.
3. The cost of depreciable property used in common areas or provided as comparable amenities to all residential units (e.g., carpeting and appliances) is included in determining eligible basis. The cost of tenant facilities (e.g., parking, garages, and swimming pools) may be included in eligible basis if there is no separate charge for use of the facilities and they are available to all tenants in the project.
4. The cost of a community service facility is included in basis only if the building is located in a QCT. The eligible basis of that facility must not exceed 25 percent of the first \$15 million of

eligible basis plus 10 percent of additional basis in the project. All community service facilities that are part of the same qualified low-income housing project will be treated as one facility. A community service facility is defined as a facility that is part of the qualified low-income housing project designed to serve primarily individuals including tenants and non-tenants whose income is 60 percent or less of area median income. Only limited guidance has been issued by the IRS regarding these changes. No assurances can be given that additional IRS guidance will not require further adjustments to the QAP and additional reviews of selected developments.

5. Eligible basis is reduced by federal grants, residential rental units that are above the average quality standard of the low-income units, historic rehabilitation credits, and nonresidential rental property. Buildings located in areas designated as a QCT, DDA or developments utilizing the state designated basis boost may be eligible for an increase in allowable basis.

M. Qualified Basis

Qualified basis is the portion of the eligible basis applicable to low-income housing units in a building. Qualified basis is the product of a project’s eligible basis multiplied by the applicable fraction.

N. Applicable Fraction

The applicable fraction is the lesser of:

1. The unit fraction, which is the number of low-income units in a building divided by the total number of residential rental units; or
2. The floor space fraction is the total floor space of the low-income units in the building divided by the total floor space of the residential rental units in the building.

A full-time resident manager’s unit is not considered a residential unit and shall be excluded from the numerator and denominator for calculating the applicable fraction.

At initial application and at carryover, the **estimated project applicable fraction** will be used. It is calculated by project in order to obtain a rough estimate of the percentage of eligible units and square footage needed and an estimate of the total amount of HTCs necessary for a particular project.

At the time that the placed in service application for 8609 is made, the **targeted applicable fraction for each building** is calculated. The targeted applicable fraction is determined on a building-by-building basis. Each building in a multiple building development could have a different applicable fraction. Because the estimated project applicable fraction is approximate, the targeted applicable fraction calculated by building will frequently differ unless the project has a 100 percent applicable fraction. The targeted applicable fraction is also listed as part of the extended use criteria in the LURA, which is recorded and remains with the property.

O. Annual HTC Amount

The HTC is available each year for 10 years. The amount of HTC allocated or awarded is based on the Qualified Basis multiplied by the applicable percentage. However, Section 42(m)(2) requires Minnesota Housing to limit the amount of HTC to the amount necessary to ensure project feasibility under rules established by the IRS; therefore, the actual amount of HTCs allocated or awarded could be less than the maximum allowable if the analysis reveals the project would still be feasible with fewer HTCs.

The IRS publishes the applicable percentages on a monthly basis. These figures are used to calculate the maximum allowable annual HTC amount for which the project will be eligible. (Also see Chapter 3.B.)

P. Declaration of Land Use Restrictive Covenants

As a condition of receiving HTCs, a project will be subject to a Declaration of Land Use Restrictive Covenants (LURA) between the owner and Minnesota Housing through which the owner commits the building(s) to low-income use for an extended use period of at least 15 years after the conclusion of the 15-year compliance period (a total of 30 years). The owner can elect to extend the term of the LURA and Section 42 income and rental restrictions up to 50 years. Owners of properties that receive 4% or 9% HTCs are required by Minnesota Housing to waive the right to request a qualified contract for a minimum of 30 years. (See Chapter 2. X.)

The LURA terminates upon foreclosure of the building (or deed in lieu of foreclosure) unless the Secretary determines that such acquisition is part of an arrangement with the taxpayer a purpose of which is to terminate such period.

Throughout the term of the LURA and for a three-year period after the termination of the LURA, the owner must not evict or terminate the tenancy of an existing tenant of any low-income unit other than for good cause and must not increase the gross rent above the maximum allowed under the IRC with respect to such low-income unit.

The LURA must be recorded in accordance with 42(h)(6) as a restrictive covenant and submitted to Minnesota Housing prior to Minnesota Housing issuing the allocation or award (IRS Form 8609). The LURA will set forth the commitments made by the owner to Minnesota Housing in obtaining points, including any additional requirements placed upon the building at the time of reservation. Non-compliance with these additional conditions may result in serious penalties being applied to the owner entities that could result in a ban on future allocations of HTCs being made to the owner entities. At its sole discretion, Minnesota Housing reserves the right to waive any criteria or requirement not required by law.

Q. Ineligible Properties

Any residential rental unit that is part of a hospital, nursing home, sanitarium, life care facility, trailer park or intermediate care facility for the mentally and physically handicapped is not for use by the general public and is not eligible for HTCs under section 42. Projects with buildings having four or fewer residential units must comply with 42(i)(3)(c).

R. Passive Loss Restrictions

There is a limit on the amount of HTC any individual may effectively use due to passive loss restrictions and alternative minimum tax provisions. Consult your tax attorney or accountant for clarification of this regulation.

S. State Volume Limits

Each state is limited to the amount of HTCs it may allocate annually. An estimate of Minnesota's annual per capita volume limit is published prior to allocation in Round 1.

Projects financed by tax exempt volume limited bonds which are subject to a separate volume limitation, are not counted against the state HTC volume limit. (See Chapter 7 for further details.)

T. Recapture

Minnesota Housing reserves the right to recapture HTCs from projects that do not provide evidence satisfactory to Minnesota Housing of progress toward completion of the project in accordance with the project schedule, or noncompliance with the terms of the allocation.

Part of the HTCs will also be recaptured if the qualified basis at the close of any year is less than the amount of such basis at the close of the preceding taxable year, or if the minimum number of qualified low-income units is not maintained for the complete extended use period.

U. Market Study

IRC Section 42(m)(1)(A)(iii) requires that all HTC projects conduct a comprehensive market study. The study must examine the housing needs of low-income individuals in the area to be served by a developer's HTC project and must be conducted by a disinterested party, at the developer's expense, who is approved by the housing credit agency (refer to the Market Study Guidelines on Minnesota Housing's website).

V. Eventual Tenant Ownership

Minnesota Housing will review projects incorporating eventual tenant ownership (ETO) provisions in accordance with Sec. 42 (h)(6), IRS Revenue Ruling 95-49 and Minnesota Housing's requirements. Projects that include tenant ownership will receive a preference during the selection process when reviewing tie breakers (See Chapter 5. C.)

The LURA will contain provisions ensuring compliance with these ETO commitments by the owner, including a right of first refusal allowing tenants to purchase their units.

Until the time the HTC units are purchased by qualified tenants or in the event that not all HTC units are acquired by qualified tenants, the owner will extend the duration of low-income use for the full term of the LURA. (Refer to the Eventual Tenant Ownership Guide on Minnesota Housing's website).

W. Contract Compliance, Equal Opportunity and Fair Housing Policy

It is the policy of Minnesota Housing to practice affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in all our projects, programs, and other endeavors. Minnesota Housing's goal is to achieve a client and recipient mix that is representative of the people who live in our state and our communities so that all employment and contractual benefits that develops as a result of our programs will be shared by all Minnesotans. This policy applies to all Minnesota Housing employees and Minnesota Housing's external partners.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to make Minnesota Housing's commitment to act affirmatively to achieve equal opportunity in all facets of its operation, clear to both internal staff and outside parties with whom we do business.

Goals

Our goal is to make certain that black, indigenous, persons of color, and female owned contractors and subcontractors have equal access to business opportunities on Minnesota Housing financed projects and to encourage the presence of black, indigenous, persons of color, and women at all levels, including on the staffs of the program participants having contractual agreements with Minnesota Housing.

Minnesota Housing's goal is to make certain that the workforces on the projects and programs we finance reflect demographically the area in which they are located. These goals apply for the length of the contract or the life of the mortgage. Minnesota Housing, at its discretion, may set numerical or percentage goals dependent on the location and size of a given project. Goals will be determined by staff based on the location of the project.

Requirements

Minnesota Housing is required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. These requirements extend to everyone that Minnesota Housing does business with, either by contractual agreement or as a Minnesota Housing policy.

Sanctions

Minnesota Housing has the contractual authority to demand full payment of any loan or grant, stop proceeding with any project at any stage, and cease to do business with any entity or individual that fails to follow its affirmative action policies or fails to meet its/his/her contractual equal opportunity obligations.

Fair Housing Policy

It is the policy of Minnesota Housing to affirmatively further fair housing in all its programs so that individuals of similar income levels have equal access to Minnesota Housing programs, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, familial status, gender identity or sexual orientation.

Minnesota Housing's fair housing policy incorporates the requirements of the Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1988, as well as the Minnesota Human Rights Act. Housing providers are expected to comply with the applicable statutes, regulations, and related policy guidance. Housing providers should ensure that admissions, occupancy, marketing and operating procedures comply with non-discrimination requirements.

In part, the Fair Housing Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act make it unlawful, because of protected class status, to:

- Discriminate in the selection/acceptance of applicants in the rental of housing units;
- Discriminate in terms, conditions or privileges of the rental of a dwelling unit or services or facilities;
- Engage in any conduct relating to the provision of housing that otherwise make unavailable or denies the rental of a dwelling unit;
- Make, print or publish (or cause to make, print or publish) notices, statements or advertisements that indicate preferences or limitations based on protected class status;
- Represent a dwelling is not available when it is in fact available;
- Deny access to, or membership or participation in, associations or other services, organizations, or facilities relating to the business of renting a dwelling or discriminate in the terms or conditions of membership or participation;

- Engage in harassment or quid pro quo negotiations related to the rental of a dwelling unit; or
- Refuse to make reasonable accommodations or modifications for persons with disabilities.

Minnesota Housing has a commitment to affirmatively further fair housing for individuals with disabilities by promoting the accessibility requirements set out in the Fair Housing Act, which establish design and construction mandates for covered multifamily dwellings and requires housing providers to make reasonable accommodations and to allow persons with disabilities to make reasonable modifications.

Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Regulations, held as centrally important by Minnesota Housing, require that each applicant carry out an affirmative marketing program to attract prospective buyers or tenants in the housing market area who are least likely to apply, regardless of race, creed, color, religion, sex, national origin, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or familial status. Except as determined by Minnesota Housing, all applicants must submit an Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (AFHMP) documenting an acceptable plan to carry out an affirmative marketing program. Throughout the Extended Use Period, owners must regularly update their AFHMP and maintain a copy with their property records.

Housing providers are not permitted to refuse to lease a unit to, or discriminate against, a prospective resident solely because the prospective resident has a Housing Choice Voucher or other form of tenant-based rental assistance.

X. Occupancy Restrictions

Under the HTC general public use regulations, residential rental units must be for use by the general public, which incorporates HUD housing policy governing non-discrimination. Residential units provided only for a member of a social organization or provided by an employer for its employees are not considered for use by the general public are examples of restrictions not allowed under the HTC program. Minnesota Housing has an obligation to affirmatively further fair housing, and occupancy restrictions must comply with the Fair Housing Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. Projects must also comply with any occupancy limitations imposed by any additional source of funds provided by Minnesota Housing. Age-related occupancy restrictions or preferences will be approved only if set out in the QAP or if the property qualifies as housing for older persons under the Fair Housing Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

Chapter 4 – Development Standards

All applications to Minnesota Housing for HTC's will be evaluated according to the following standards (small projects, local Community Development Initiative projects, and projects developed in difficult-to-develop areas may be considered eligible for variances from these standards, if justified).

A. Project Cost Reasonableness

Minnesota Housing will evaluate the costs of each proposed project in comparison to current comparable projects to determine whether the proposed costs are reasonable, taking into consideration unique characteristics of the project and its comparability to similar projects. Additional documentation will be required if the proposed costs are not comparable or reasonable.

Minnesota Housing will use its predictive cost model to test cost reasonableness for all projects. The model uses cost data from HTC properties, industry cost data from RSMeans and regression analysis to predict total project costs. Based on a project's characteristics (building type, building characteristics, project size, project location, population served, financing, etc.), the model predicts the total development costs.

Minnesota Housing will evaluate the cost reasonableness of proposed acquisition costs through an as-is appraisal. Refer to the Multifamily Underwriting Standards for additional as-is appraisal requirements and details.

The Agency reserves the right to reject applications that appear, at Minnesota Housing's sole discretion, to have excessive costs, or to size its award based on the lesser of the option/purchase agreement purchase price or the appraised value of the property.

B. Eligible Basis HTC Fees

Minnesota Housing will limit the amount of developer fees and general contracting fees (Contractor's Profit, General Requirements, Contractor's Overhead) based on the requirements contained in the Multifamily Underwriting Standards for the purposes of calculating eligible basis to determine the amount of HTC.

Syndication related consultant fees are not to be included in the eligible basis of the project.

C. Reserves/Contingencies

Minnesota Housing will require documentation of the amount and disposition of reserves/contingencies. If they revert back to the developer, general partner, or any ownership interest, Minnesota Housing will consider the reserves/contingencies as deferred developer fees and the above limits will apply. For letters of credit, bonds, etc., use the actual cost, not face value, when completing the development cost section of the Multifamily Workbook.

D. Comparative Analysis

Notwithstanding these Development Standards and the Selection Criteria within this QAP, each and every proposed project is analyzed on a comparative basis in a variety of categories to ensure the highest value for the HTC's allocated and awarded.

E. Property Standard

Minnesota Housing encourages sustainable, healthy housing that optimizes the use of cost-effective durable building materials and systems and that minimizes the consumption of natural resources during construction, and in the long-term, maintenance and operation.

All completed developments **must** comply with the Minnesota Overlay to the Enterprise Green Communities Criteria and Minnesota Housing’s Rental Housing Design/Construction Standards.

Minnesota Housing will not allow any significant adjustments to these standards without prior approval.

Additional design requirements will also be imposed if a developer claims and is awarded certain points on the Self-Scoring Worksheet. (See Chapter 6).

The owner and architect must certify compliance with all required Minnesota Housing Rental Housing Design/Construction Standards, and where points have been awarded, that all the applicable standards and development features have been incorporated into the final working plans.

Chapter 5 – Project Selection

A. First Round - Application Requirements

Minnesota Statute 462A.222 Subd. 3 (e) requires that all applications statewide applying for a portion of the state’s HTC volume cap in Round 1 meet one of the following minimum threshold types. The threshold type that the applicant applies under will become part of the HTC Reservation and Commitment. It will be secured by a restrictive use covenant on the land for the term of the compliance period and, as applicable, the extended use period. An Allocating Agency will allocate HTCs only to the following types of projects:

1. In the Metropolitan Area:
 - a. New construction or Substantial Rehabilitation in which, for the term of the extended use period (term of the LURA), at least 75 percent of the total HTC units are single room occupancy, efficiency or one bedroom units with rents affordable to households whose income does not exceed 30 percent of the area median income.
 - b. New construction or Substantial Rehabilitation family housing projects that are not restricted to persons 55 years old or older in which, for the term of the extended use period (term of the LURA), at least 75 percent of the total HTC units contain two or more bedrooms and at least one-third of the 75 percent contain three or more bedrooms.
 - c. Substantial Rehabilitation projects in neighborhoods targeted by the city for revitalization.
2. Outside the Metropolitan Area:
 - a. Projects that meet a locally identified housing need and that are in short supply in the local housing market, as evidenced by credible data submitted with the application.
3. Projects that are not restricted to persons of a particular age group and in which, for the term of the extended use period (term of the LURA), a percentage of the units are set aside and rented to persons:
 - a. With a serious and persistent mental illness as defined in Minnesota Statutes § 245.462, Subdivision 20, paragraph (c);
 - b. With a developmental disability as defined in United States Code, title 42, Section 6001, paragraph (5) of the IRC, as amended through December 31, 1990;
 - c. Who have been assessed as drug dependent persons as defined in Minnesota Statutes § 254A.02, Subdivision 5, and are receiving or will receive care and treatment services provided by an approved treatment program as defined in Minnesota Statutes § 254A.02, Subdivision 2;
 - d. With a brain injury as defined in Minnesota Statutes § 256B.093, Subdivision 4, paragraph (a); or
 - e. With permanent physical disabilities that substantially limit major life activities, if at least 50 percent of the units in the project are accessible as provided under Minnesota Rules Chapter 1341.
4. Projects, whether or not restricted to persons of a particular age group, which preserve existing subsidized housing, if the use of HTCs is necessary to (1) prevent conversion to

market rate use or (2) to remedy physical deterioration of the project, which would result in loss of existing federal subsidies.

5. Projects financed by Rural Development, which meet statewide distribution goals.

B. Strategic Priority

To be eligible for HTC from the state's volume cap, a developer must demonstrate that the project meets at least one of the HTC statutory strategic priorities or a strategic objective in Minnesota Housing's Strategic Plan. Residential rental housing projects financed with an allocation of tax-exempt bonds under chapter 474A are the highest strategic priority for tax credits in accordance with Minn. Stat. 462A.222, Subd. 3(d) and such projects need not meet a separate strategic priority.

C. Selection and Preference Criteria

All HTC applications are scored and/or reviewed in accordance with the Selection and Preference Criteria required by Section 42 and Minnesota Housing.

To be eligible for HTCs from the state's volume cap under Minnesota Housing's QAP, a developer must demonstrate that the project is eligible for no less than **80** points in the Self-Scoring Worksheet. This excludes projects funded through the RD/Small Projects set-aside, which must be eligible for no less than 30 points.

To be eligible for HTCs in association with tax exempt volume limited bonds under Minnesota Housing's QAP, a developer must demonstrate that the project is eligible for no less than **40** points in the Self-Scoring Worksheet.

For applicants requesting HTCs from the state's volume cap Minnesota Housing will first rank proposals. The highest-ranking proposals will then be reviewed in accordance with the following Project Selection requirements described in sections D through J of this chapter. Minnesota Housing reserves the right to reject applications not meeting these project selection requirements or to revise proposal features, and decrease associated scoring, to ensure the project meets the requirements. Lower ranking proposals will only be processed further if HTC volume cap remains available after the higher-ranking proposals are processed. Minnesota Housing may elect not to give partial HTCs to a higher-ranking application but to give the HTCs to the next ranking application that can use the balance of the HTCs (See Chapter 5. I.).

Selection Criteria consist of the following:

- a. Large Family Housing
- b. Senior Housing
- c. Permanent Supportive Housing for High Priority Homeless
- d. People with Disabilities
- e. Need for More Affordable Housing Options
- f. Workforce Housing Communities
- g. Transit and Walkability
- h. Community Development Initiative
- i. Equitable Development
- j. Rural/Tribal
- k. Multifamily Award History
- l. Black, Indigenous and People of Color-owned/Women-owned Business Enterprise (BPOCBE/WBE)

- m. Preservation
- n. Financial Readiness to Proceed/Leveraged Funds
- o. Other Contributions
- p. Intermediary Costs
- q. Universal Design
- r. Smoke free Buildings
- s. Enhanced Sustainability
- t. Sponsor Characteristics - Non-scoring selection criteria
- u. Public Housing waiting lists - Non-scoring selection criteria

Preference Criteria consist of the following:

- a. Serves Lowest Income Tenants/Rents Reduction
- b. Rental Assistance
- c. Long Term Affordability
- d. QCT/Community Revitalization, Tribal Equivalent Areas, and Opportunity Zones
- e. Eventual Tenant Ownership – Non-scoring selection criteria

D. Tie Breakers

If two or more proposals have an equal number of points, the following will be used to determine selection:

1. First tie breaker: Priority will be given to the project with the greater number of points in Preference criteria; if a tie still remains;
2. Second tie breaker: Priority will be given to the project that will have an Eventual Tenant Ownership component; if a tie still remains;
3. Third tie breaker: Priority will be given to a project located in a city, township or Tribal Reservation that has not received an allocation of HTC volume cap from Minnesota Housing in the last two years; if a tie still remains;
4. Fourth tie breaker: Priority will be given to the project with the highest percentage of Funds Secured, Awarded or Committed, as measured by the Financial Readiness to Proceed/Leveraged Funds selection criterion; if a tie still remains;
5. Fifth tie breaker: Priority will be given to the project with the lowest percentage of intermediary costs as measured by the Intermediary Costs selection criterion; if a tie still remains;
6. Sixth tie breaker will be by lot.

E. Market Review

Minnesota Housing will conduct a market review to determine the housing needs of low-income individuals in the area to be served by the project. Minnesota Housing will evaluate the Market Study and in-house occupancy data to determine the marketability of the proposed project. For market consideration, applicants are responsible for providing evidence to document market feasibility at the time of application. Minnesota Housing may contact the applicant if there is a question as to the marketability of the proposed projects. The applicant may be given an opportunity to adjust the unit mix and/or number of units and resubmit prior to Minnesota Housing scoring of selection priority points.

Minnesota Housing may consult with local communities, Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), Housing and Redevelopment Authorities (HRAs), RD and HUD to determine the marketability of projects. If, in the

opinion of Minnesota Housing, the issuance of the HTC's to a project could be detrimental to existing rental property, Minnesota Housing may not issue HTC's to the applicant. Proposed projects that do not appear marketable and do not modify their proposal will not receive further consideration in the current funding round.

F. Design Review

The proposed owner and architect must certify compliance with all the required development features outlined in Chapter 5 of the Minnesota Housing Rental Housing Design/Construction Standards before the project will be scored and ranked. (Refer to Chapter 4.E.)

G. Development Team Review

Minnesota Housing will also consider the following factors when evaluating an application for an HTC allocation or award:

1. The ability and capacity of the development team to proceed expeditiously to complete the proposed development and any previously selected projects still in process.
2. The prior record of the development team in meeting Minnesota Housing and IRS reporting requirements.
3. The experience of the development team in developing and managing similar residential housing.

Proposed projects from applicants that do not appear to have the experience, capacity or ability will not receive further consideration in the current funding cycle.

H. Site Review

Minnesota Housing staff may conduct a site inspection for each project passing all the project selection requirements described in sections A through F of this chapter for consistency with the principles of sound, affordable housing developments. Site inspections may be conducted to analyze physical characteristics; the surrounding property and community; the location of schools, shopping, public transportation, employment centers, community and housing service facilities; availability of utilities, water and sewage treatment facilities; and the suitability of the site for the proposed housing.

For purposes of Minnesota Housing's investment in affordable housing, the principles are as follows:

1. **Linkage:** Housing development must be part of a comprehensive community development effort that links housing, jobs, transportation, recreation, retail services, schools, and social and other services.
2. **Jobs:** Housing is part of the infrastructure necessary to sustain economic vitality. New housing must be located near jobs and in areas of job growth and must address housing needs of the local work force. Preference will be given to proposals that provide housing in communities with job growth.
3. **Land Use:** Housing must be developed to maximize the adaptive reuse of existing residential rental buildings and the use of existing infrastructure, where financially feasible. In cases of new developments, housing that maximizes the efficient use of land and infrastructure and minimizes the loss of agricultural and green space.

4. **Transportation:** Housing must be developed near regional and interregional transportation corridors and transit ways.

Minnesota Housing will consider, but is not limited to, the following environmental criteria when evaluating a proposed site.

1. Noise
2. Flood plains and wetlands
3. Site safety
4. Toxic and hazardous waste
5. Underground storage tanks
6. Asbestos and lead based paint

Minnesota Housing may, at its sole discretion, reject applications or recapture HTC's from projects that appear unsuitable for the housing proposed.

I. Underwriting Standards

Proposals must meet all applicable Multifamily Underwriting Standards to receive an allocation or award of HTC's. The Underwriting Standards will be used by the agency for underwriting and sizing of the HTC allocation.

All operating assumptions, including for rent, vacancy, operating expenses, reserves, inflation assumptions and debt coverage ratios, must be consistent with the requirements of the Underwriting Standards. The structure of the development budget, including acquisition price; architect, general contracting, and developer fees; sales tax and energy rebates; as well as construction contingency, must also meet the Underwriting Standards.

Refer to the Minnesota Housing Multifamily Underwriting Standards and Multifamily Application Instructions: Consolidated RFP and HTC Rounds 1 and 2 for additional information and requirements.

J. Financial Feasibility

Proposals that meet the Project Selection Requirements in sections A through H and J will be evaluated for financial feasibility as required by IRS Treasury Regulation 1.42-17(a)(3) and Chapter 2.O. Projects determined not to be financially feasible will not be processed further in the current funding cycle.

An application's structuring may be revised by Minnesota Housing during this review to ensure financial feasibility or to meet required components of the Underwriting Standards, as applicable, and a reduction to the application's scoring may occur as a result of these revisions.

K. Development Cost Review

Minnesota Housing will review project costs based on comparability and reasonableness. Minnesota Housing may, at its sole discretion, reject applications that appear to have excessive project costs. (Also refer to Chapter 4.A. Project Cost Reasonableness)

Chapter 6 – Submission Requirements

It is the applicant's responsibility to be aware of the submission requirements needed to proceed to the next step in obtaining an allocation or award. If the applicant is unable to meet the submission requirements (financing, zoning, site control, syndication, construction start, etc.) in a timely manner, or if approvals have expired, the application will no longer be processed and the application fee will be forfeited. **Any submissions not meeting the requirements below will be returned to the applicant and fees paid will not be refunded.**

A. Application Requirements

Required HTC application materials are incorporated into the Application Checklist in the Multifamily Customer Portal (Portal), including the Intent to Apply, which is due in advance of the application. The Multifamily Application Instructions: Consolidated RFP and HTC Round 1 and 2 and the Scoring Guide provide comprehensive resources for these application materials and submittal instructions. The Multifamily and Housing Tax Credit application materials can be found in the Portal and on the Application Resources and Tax Credits web pages.

If a Minnesota Housing Multifamily first mortgage and/or deferred loan are sought in conjunction with the HTC application, many HTC forms and submissions are identical to the forms and submissions required for other Minnesota Housing funding sources under the Consolidated Request for Proposals (RFP) or open pipeline.

A complete application must be submitted no later than each of the application due dates in order to be considered for selection, within the applicable competition.

Minnesota Housing will base its selection decision upon the application and attachments received on the application due date. Minnesota Housing reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to request additional information or deem an error related to an application to be immaterial.

No project may be divided into two or more projects during a single funding round to receive HTCs. Multiple applications, determined by Minnesota Housing to be one project, will be returned to the applicant and all fees forfeited. Minnesota Housing will consider factors such as, but not limited to, ownership entities, general partnerships, sponsor relationships and location of project, if contiguous site, to determine if a multiple application exists.

Upon receipt of an application, as required by federal law, Minnesota Housing will notify the Chief Executive Officer of the local jurisdiction where the proposed project is planned. This notification will include characteristics of the proposed HTC project and provide an opportunity for the local unit of government to comment on the project.

Information submitted in an application for HTCs is information that is accessible to the public pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13.

Self-Scoring Worksheet

The Self-Scoring Worksheet and the Scoring Guide provide comprehensive resources for the documentation materials and submittal instructions.

Minimum Threshold Evidence

For Round 1, all 9 percent HTC projects are required to provide evidence of meeting one of the threshold types defined in Chapter 5. Copies of the QAP and sample letter format are located in the Housing Tax Credit Allocation or Housing Tax Credits Reference Materials sections. In meeting the requirements of thresholds, fractions of units are not counted as a whole unit. Where unit percentage calculations result in a fraction of a unit being required, the fraction of a unit must be rounded up to next whole unit.

Local HRA/PHA Notice and Agreement Form

Section 42 of the IRC requires an allocating agency to give preference to owners that agree to utilize the local HRA or PHA waiting list to identify eligible individuals and households to fill vacant units. Applicants applying for HTCs must sign an agreement to utilize the public housing and Section 8 waiting lists as applicable.

Preservation

Applicants applying for HTCs and claiming points under this section must provide all required supporting documentation, as detailed in the Multifamily Customer Portal and Scoring Guide.

Applicants must choose one of three thresholds: Risk of Loss Due to Market Conversion, Risk of Loss Due to Critical Physical Needs or Risk of Loss Due to Ownership Capacity/Program Commitment.

Applicants meeting one of the three thresholds may claim points under Existing Federal Assistance – Tier 1, Existing Federal Assistance – Tier 2 or Critical Affordable Units at Risk of Loss. For more detailed information refer to requirements contained in the Self-Scoring Worksheet.

Evidence for People with Disabilities

To receive points under People with Disabilities, the proposal must meet all of the requirements contained in the Self-Scoring Worksheet.

People with Disabilities Performance Requirement Relief Provisions:

Specific performance requirement relief provisions are available for projects receiving points under the category of the People with Disabilities Selection Criterion of the Self-Scoring Worksheet for PWD Units.

If, for a particular unit meeting the criteria and receiving points under the People with Disabilities Selection Criterion (PWD Unit(s)), the necessary rental assistance or operating support (collectively PWD Unit subsidy) is (i) withdrawn or terminated due to reasons not attributable to the actions or inactions of the owner; (ii) such withdrawal or termination materially adversely impacts the financial feasibility of the project; (iii) alternative funding is unavailable; and (iv) the project is otherwise in full compliance with all the terms of the funding for the project, the owner may petition Minnesota Housing to eliminate its requirements for the affected PWD Unit(s). Such petition shall contain all material facts and supporting documentation substantiating owner's request including, but not limited to, items (i), (ii) and (iii) above. Upon confirmation of such facts, which such confirmation shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, owner shall no longer be required to treat such PWD Unit(s) as PWD Unit(s) but must convert the rents of those units to the 50 percent HTC rent limit; **provided that more restrictive threshold, selection priority or funding requirements, if any, do not apply.** If such conversion occurs, in order to retain the HTC allocation, the above described 50 percent HTC rent limit and the Section 42 minimum set-aside elected for the project by the owner must be maintained for the remainder of the HTC compliance and extended use periods.

If, for a particular PWD Unit(s), the necessary tenant support services funding is (i) withdrawn or terminated due to reasons not attributable to the actions or inactions of the owner; (ii) alternative funding or an alternative service provider is unavailable; and (iii) the project is otherwise in full compliance with all the terms of the funding for the project, the owner may petition Minnesota Housing to modify its requirements for the provision of such tenant services for the affected PWD Units(s). Such petition shall contain all material facts and supporting documentation substantiating owner’s request including, but not limited to, items (i) and (ii) of this paragraph. Upon confirmation of such facts, which such confirmation shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, owner shall modify its provision of such tenant support services for the affected PWD Unit(s) in a manner consistent with Minnesota Housing’s modified requirements for the provision of tenant services for the PWD Unit(s), **provided that more restrictive threshold, selection priority or funding requirements, if any, do not apply.**

If Minnesota Housing shall, at any time thereafter, in its sole discretion, determine that a PWD Unit subsidy may be available for the remainder of the HTC compliance and extended use periods, that would not adversely affect the full availability of the HTC allocation, and would permit the PWD Unit(s) to again serve People with Disabilities households, then at Minnesota Housing’s request the owner shall promptly apply for such PWD Unit subsidy for the PWD Unit(s), upon terms reasonably acceptable to such owner, and if such PWD Unit subsidy is obtained, shall again set aside such PWD Unit(s), when and to the extent then available, people with disabilities needs qualifying individuals.

In addition, if Minnesota Housing shall, at any time thereafter, in its sole discretion, determines that PWD Unit tenant support services funding may be available for the remainder of the HTC compliance and extended use periods, that would not adversely affect the full availability of the HTC allocation and would permit the affected PWD Unit(s) to again provide tenant support services to households targeting People with Disabilities, then at Minnesota Housing’s request, the owner shall promptly apply for such PWD Unit tenant support services funding for the affected PWD Unit(s), upon terms reasonably acceptable to such owner, and if such PWD Unit tenant support services funding is obtained, shall resume providing PWD Unit tenant support services, when and to the extent then available, to people with disabilities needs qualifying individuals.

Evidence of targeting units for Permanent Supportive Housing for High Priority Homeless

In accordance with Minnesota’s Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, Minnesota Housing is the lead agency for the action plan to increase affordable and supportive housing units to address the housing gap for people at risk of and experiencing homelessness. HTCs represent one of several resources identified to attain this goal. To receive points under Permanent Supportive Housing for High Priority Homeless, the proposal must meet all of the requirements contained in the Self-Scoring Worksheet.

High Priority Homeless Performance Requirement Relief Provisions: Specific performance requirement relief provisions are available for projects receiving points under the Permanent Supportive Housing for High Priority Homeless (HPH) Selection Criterion of the Self-Scoring Worksheet for HPH Units.

The following relief provisions may be considered for developments with HPH Units and are subject to Minnesota Housing approval:

1. An owner may request approval in writing from Minnesota Housing to prioritize filling a vacant HPH Unit(s) with the next highest need household in accordance with the Supportive Housing Guide if the HPH Unit(s) is unable to be filled with highest priority household on the permanent supportive housing waitlist in the Coordinated Entry system.

2. If, after a minimum 60-day period, or other time period approved by Minnesota Housing when reasonable options have been exhausted, an HPH Unit(s) is unable to be filled by a household through the Coordinated Entry system or the prioritization process outlined above, temporary relief from the HPH Unit may be requested from Minnesota Housing to permit a non-HPH household to fill the unit. The next comparable available unit is subject to the HPH Unit requirements when a vacancy occurs.
3. If a particular HPH Unit(s) experiences unexpected loss of rental or operating support, or tenant support services funding (collectively HPH Unit subsidy), and meets the conditions below, the owner may petition Minnesota Housing to eliminate its requirements for the affected HPH Unit(s):
 - (i) the HPH Unit subsidy was withdrawn or terminated due to reasons not attributable to the actions or inactions of the owner;
 - (ii) such withdrawal or termination materially adversely impacts the financial feasibility of the project;
 - (iii) alternative funding or an alternative service provider is unavailable; and
 - (iv) the project is otherwise in full compliance with all the terms of the funding for the project

If any of the conditions of number three above are met, the owner may petition Minnesota Housing to eliminate its requirements for the affected HPH Unit(s). Such petition shall contain all material facts and supporting documentation substantiating owner's request including, but not limited to, items (i), (ii) and (iii) above. Upon confirmation of such facts, which such confirmation shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, owner shall no longer be required to treat such HPH Unit(s) as HPH Unit(s) but must convert the rents of those units to the 50 percent HTC rent limit; provided that more restrictive threshold, selection priority or funding requirements, if any, do not apply. If such conversion occurs, in order to retain the HTC allocation, the above described 50 percent HTC rent limit and the Section 42 minimum set-aside elected for the project by the owner must be maintained for the remainder of the HTC compliance and extended use periods.

If Minnesota Housing shall, at any time thereafter, in its sole discretion, determine that an HPH Unit subsidy may be available for the remainder of the HTC compliance and extended use periods, that would not adversely affect the full availability of the HTC allocation and would permit the HPH Unit(s) to again serve households experiencing homelessness, then at Minnesota Housing's request the owner shall promptly apply for such HPH Unit subsidy for the Homeless unit(s), upon terms reasonably acceptable to such owner, and if such HPH Unit subsidy is obtained, shall again set aside such HPH Unit(s), when and to the extent then available, to households experiencing homelessness.

Serves Lowest Income Tenants/ Rent Reduction Units Performance Requirement Relief Revisions

Specific performance requirement relief provisions are available for projects receiving points under the Serves Lowest Income Tenants/ Rent Reduction selection criterion of the Self-Scoring Worksheet for 30 percent MTSP Units.

If, for a particular unit meeting the criteria and receiving points under the Serves Lowest Income Tenants/ Rent Reduction selection criterion for further restricting rents to at or below 30 percent MTSP (30 percent Unit(s)), the owner may petition Minnesota Housing to eliminate its requirements for the affected Further Restricted Rental Assisted Units (FRRRA Unit(s)). Such petition shall contain all material

facts and supporting documentation substantiating owner's request. Upon confirmation of such facts, which such confirmation shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, owner shall no longer be required to treat such 30 percent Unit(s) as 30 percent Unit(s) but must convert the rents of those units to the 50 percent HTC rent limit; **provided that more restrictive threshold, selection priority or funding requirements, if any, do not apply.** If such conversion occurs, in order to retain the HTC allocation, the above described 50 percent HTC rent limit and the Section 42 minimum set-aside elected for the project by the owner must be maintained for the remainder of the HTC compliance and extended use periods.

If Minnesota Housing shall, at any time thereafter, in its sole discretion, determines that a 30 percent Unit may be available for the remainder of the HTC compliance and extended use periods, that would not adversely affect the full availability of the HTC allocation, and would permit the 30 percent Unit(s) to restrict rents to 30 percent HTC rent limit again.

Rental Assistance Performance Requirement Relief Provisions

Specific performance requirement relief provisions are available for projects receiving points under the Rental Assistance selection criterion of the Self-Scoring Worksheet for Rental Assisted Units.

If, for a particular unit meeting the criteria and receiving points under the Rental Assistance selection criterion for Rental Assisted Units (RA Unit(s)), the necessary rental assistance or operating support (collectively RA Unit subsidy) is (i) not renewed, withdrawn, or terminated due to reasons not attributable to the actions or inactions of the owner; ii) alternative funding is unavailable; and (iii) the project is otherwise in full compliance with all the terms of the funding for the project, the owner may petition Minnesota Housing to eliminate its requirements for the affected RA Unit(s). Such petition shall contain all material facts and supporting documentation substantiating owner's request including, but not limited to, items (i), (ii) and (iii) above. Upon confirmation of such facts, which such confirmation shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, owner shall no longer be required to treat such RA Unit(s) as RA Unit(s) but must convert the rents of those units to the 50 percent HTC rent limit; **provided that more restrictive threshold, selection priority or funding requirements, if any, do not apply.** If such conversion occurs, in order to retain the HTC allocation, the above described 50 percent HTC rent limit and the Section 42 minimum set-aside elected for the project by the owner must be maintained for the remainder of the 10-year period.

If Minnesota Housing shall, at any time thereafter, in its sole discretion, determines that an RA Unit subsidy may be available for the remainder of the 10 year period, that would not adversely affect the full availability of the HTC allocation, and would permit the RA Unit(s) to again serve 30 percent income households, then at Minnesota Housing's request, the owner shall promptly apply for such RA Unit subsidy for the RA Unit(s), upon terms reasonably acceptable to such owner, and if such RA Unit subsidy is obtained, shall again set aside such RA Unit(s), when and to the extent then available, to income qualifying individuals.

Further Restricted Rental Assisted Units Performance Requirement Relief Revisions

Specific performance requirement relief provisions are available for projects receiving points under the Rental Assistance selection criterion for Further Restricted Rental Assistance of the Self-Scoring Worksheet for further restricted Units.

If, for a particular unit meeting the criteria and receiving points under the Rental Assistance selection criterion for Further Restricted Rental Assisted Units (FRRRA Unit(s)), the necessary rental assistance or operating support (collectively FRRRA Unit subsidy) is (i) withdrawn or terminated due to reasons not

attributable to the actions or inactions of the owner; (ii) such withdrawal or termination materially adversely impacts the financial feasibility of the project; (iii) alternative funding is unavailable; and (iv) the project is otherwise in full compliance with all the terms of the funding for the project, the owner may petition Minnesota Housing to eliminate its requirements for the affected FRRRA Unit(s). Such petition shall contain all material facts and supporting documentation substantiating owner's request including, but not limited to, items (i), (ii) and (iii) above. Upon confirmation of such facts, which such confirmation shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, owner shall no longer be required to treat such FRRRA Unit(s) as FRRRA Unit(s) but must convert the rents of those units to the 50 percent HTC rent limit; **provided that more restrictive threshold, selection priority or funding requirements, if any, do not apply.** If such conversion occurs, in order to retain the HTC allocation, the above described 50 percent HTC rent limit and the Section 42 minimum set-aside elected for the project by the owner must be maintained for the remainder of the HTC compliance and extended use periods.

If Minnesota Housing shall, at any time thereafter, in its sole discretion, determines that an FRRRA Unit subsidy may be available for the remainder of the HTC compliance and extended use periods, that would not adversely affect the full availability of the HTC allocation, and would permit the FRRRA Unit(s) to again serve 30 percent income households, then at Minnesota Housing's request, the owner shall promptly apply for such FRRRA Unit subsidy for the FRRRA Unit(s), upon terms reasonably acceptable to such owner, and if such FRRRA Units subsidy is obtained, shall again set aside such FRRRA Unit(s), when and to the extent then available, to income qualifying individuals.

Universal Design

Provide HTC Design Standards/Review Process Certification certifying that design features, which allow points for the benefit of a development's selection, will be delivered in the final project.

B. Carryover Requirements

Several changes to Section 42 of the IRC were included in legislation passed by Congress in July 2008 as part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. These amendments made certain changes to the carryover allocation requirements. Only limited guidance has been issued by the IRS regarding these changes. No assurances can be given that additional IRS guidance will not require further adjustments to the QAP and additional reviews of selected developments relating to carryover.

In addition to meeting requirements of federal law, the applicant of a selected project must provide no later than November 1 or the next calendar business day of the year in which the reservation was issued, a complete carryover package in final form containing all the required documents in a form satisfactory to Minnesota Housing. Late fees will be enforced (see Chapter 8). All required carryover application materials must be submitted through the Multifamily Customer Portal.

NOTE: New requests by applicants/developers to Minnesota Housing to apply the 30 percent state designated basis boost at time of carryover application must be formally made in writing. The request must clearly outline the reasons supporting the request and clearly demonstrate how the proposal meets the criteria established by Minnesota Housing for receiving boost considerations.

Application forms containing incomplete revisions are not acceptable and may be returned to the applicant.

Owner Certification/Application for Carryover Allocation

Provide a signed and notarized Owner Certification/Application for Carryover Allocation Form

Building Information

Provide a completed Building Information Form.

Attorney’s Opinion Letter

Provide an attorney’s opinion letter in an approved Minnesota Housing Form verifying:

1. The legal description of the project property (to be attached to the opinion and labeled Exhibit A) and that it is correct and identical to the property identified in the application and the reservation letter.
2. The name of the entity that will be/is the owner for tax purposes, and/or has demonstrated continued site control of the land and depreciable real property identified as the project in the application and the reservation letter.
3. The name, legal designation and Tax Identification Number (TIN) of the ownership entity that will receive the HTC’s and the legal designation of the party that signed the application.
4. The name, legal designation and Tax Identification Number (TIN) of all the general partner(s), and the names of the managing partner(s), contact person(s) and the required authorized signatories. If the partners are an organized entity, such as a limited liability corporation, a limited liability partnership, or an organized partnership, provide the above information for each such entity.
5. Identification and copies of any waivers required by Section 42 obtained from the IRS.
6. The buildings identified in the application qualify for an award or allocation of HTC’s under Section 42
7. Any additional information deemed necessary by Minnesota Housing.

Certified Public Accountants Certification

Provide a written Certified Public Accountant’s Certification in an approved Minnesota Housing form verifying:

1. The amount of the reasonably expected basis, the carryover basis and the percent of the expenses incurred.
2. More than 10 percent of the reasonably expected basis on the project must be expended by the later of the date, which is one year after the date that the allocation is made or the close of the calendar year in which the allocation is made. If the final carryover basis and expenditures information is not available at the time the carryover application is due, the application must include a written estimate of this information prepared by the owner. Final CPA certifications of this information must be submitted to Minnesota Housing prior to the deadlines established by Section 42 and by no later than Minnesota Housing’s submission deadline of May 1 of the calendar year after the allocation is made. If May 1 is not a business day, then certification will be due the next calendar business day. Minnesota Housing will consider an extension to this deadline via written request by the owner/applicant. The request for extension must be submitted by May 1 and also include information explaining why the extension is requested. Minnesota Housing will issue a written response to all extension requests. An extension until

October 1 of the calendar year after the allocation is made will be the maximum allowable. If October 1 is not a business day then the certification will be due the next calendar business day.

3. A statement of non-affiliation with the developer and/or owner.

Sources of Funds

Identify the sources of construction, interim and permanent financing. The agreement must:

1. Be in writing
2. Specify the consideration for the transaction and pertinent terms
3. Be signed by both the lender and the borrower
4. Be current and state both the effective and expiration dates

Rental Assistance

Provide a description of any governmental assistance and/or rental assistance. This includes copies of any contracts/agreements executed or any applications made for rental assistance for the project. (Refer to the Rental Assistance section of the Self-Scoring Worksheet.)

Gross Rent Floor Election

If choosing to make the election at this time, supply a fully executed Statement of Election of Gross Rent Floor including each building of the development in which there are HTC units. If the required fully executed form(s) with all elections made by the owner are not submitted to Minnesota Housing by a date no later than the date the project is placed in service, the gross rent floor will be determined to have been elected as the gross rent effective on the allocation date (the earlier of carryover or 8609) of the HTCs.

Fair Housing and Equal Employment Opportunity Forms

It is the policy of Minnesota Housing to take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in all of its endeavors. Complete, execute and return the following forms:

1. Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan describing the marketing strategies that an owner will use including, but not limited to, special efforts the owner will make to attract persons who are least likely to apply in addition to a broad cross section of the local population without regard to protected classes under federal fair housing law: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or familial status; or under Minnesota law: marital status, status with regard to public assistance, creed and sexual orientation.
2. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement.

Tenant Selection Plan

Provide a written tenant selection plan describing the tenant selection policy that an owner will use. The tenant selection plan must be submitted and reviewed by Minnesota Housing prior to the issuance of the 8609. The Plan must be developed and implemented in accordance with Minnesota Housing's Tenant Selection Plan Guidelines which is published on the agency website.

Identity of Interest

Provide a written disclosure as to any and all Identity of Interest parties (see Chapter 2.L. and 2.M.).

Allocation Fee

Submit the nonrefundable Allocation Fee based on the annual HTC reservation amount (see Chapter 8). Additional fees for additional HTCs secured at carryover will be collected following the allocation. Complete an Application Fee Remittance Form and attach with the payment to the top of application package.

Project Design Certification Form

Provide a completed form signed and dated by the developer and the architect.

Unit and Development Characteristics Profile Form

Provide a completed Minnesota Housing form indicating the unit counts and the related funding sources.

C. Placed in Service Requirements

Generally, the placed in service date for HTC purposes, for a newly constructed building or for rehabilitation expenditures in an existing building, is the date when the first unit in the building is certified as available for occupancy. The placed in service date must occur for all buildings within a project by the end of the year two years after the allocation year of HTCs.

An approved Minnesota Housing 8609 form must contain the signature of the authorized Minnesota Housing representative. Minnesota Housing will issue an approved IRS Form 8609 within 45 days after all the following items have been received by Minnesota Housing in a satisfactory form and substance. Issuance of the Minnesota Housing approved IRS Form 8609 is to be done only by Minnesota Housing or, as applicable, an authorized suballocator. An approved Form 8609 must not be created by any other entity. The owner/agent must not file a Form 8609 with the IRS in advance of the owner/agent’s receipt of the Minnesota Housing signed version of the approved Form 8609. In addition, the owner/agent must not electronically file a Form 8609 with the IRS that does not accurately reflect the information contained on the Minnesota Housing signed version of the approved Form 8609 (Also refer to Chapter 2.J. Unacceptable Practices). A condition to this effect will be added to the Carryover Agreement.

If Minnesota Housing is the credit allocating agency, all required 8609 application materials must be submitted through the Multifamily Customer Portal.

If your credit allocating agency is a suballocator, please contact the suballocator for additional filing instructions.

To optimize timely processing of requests for issuance of Form 8609, it is recommended the owner make every effort to submit the complete Application for 8609 to Minnesota Housing no later than 30 days following completion of the project and at least 60 days in advance of any required filing deadline.

If a complete 8609 application package is not received within 15 days of the last day of the first year of the HTC period, the application will be considered late and may be subject to a penalty. (See Chapter 2.J.)

Transmittal Letter

Provide a transmittal letter indicating the project name, address and Minnesota Housing assigned HTC number. The letter must request the issuance of IRS Form 8609 and list the following required

documents. In the letter, please list the revised information and explain the basis for the changes. The letter must be dated and signed by the owner or legally authorized individual.

Placed in Service Evidence

Provide evidence that all buildings have been Placed-in-Service. Submit a copy of the Certificate of Occupancy provided by the local governmental authority having jurisdiction for each building. If not available from the local government, a Certificate of Substantial Completion prepared by the architect will be accepted. For acquisition and rehabilitation, the developer must provide supporting documentation for the elected date.

Utility Allowance Schedule

Provide a current utility allowance in a manner consistent with the options provided in IRS Treasury Regulation 1.42-10 (i.e., as appropriate, a utility allowance from RD, HUD, PHA/HRA, local utility company, an Agency Estimate, a HUD utility Schedule Model, an Energy Consumption Model). Include a breakdown of the utilities that a tenant pays directly (heat, electricity, etc.), the utility allowance for each type of utility (gas, electric, etc.), for the various unit types (one bedroom, two bedroom, etc.) and housing types (apartments, townhomes, etc.). Also include a list of each unit type, total tenant paid utilities, contract rent and gross rent. (See Chapter 3.J.)

Final Cost Certification

Provide a final cost certification when total development costs are final that evidences the CPA's audit report and cost certification based upon an audit of the owner's schedule of total project costs.

All costs of projects with five or more units owned by all entities must be cost certified by a CPA when construction has been completed and before Minnesota Housing can complete its final evaluation.

Projects with four or fewer units must submit a sworn construction statement and/or certification by owner, as appropriate.

Attorney's Opinion Letter

Provide an attorney's opinion letter in an approved Minnesota Housing form verifying:

1. The legal description of the project property (to be attached to the opinion and labeled Exhibit A) and that it is correct and identical to the property identified in the application, the reservation letter and the carryover agreement (if one was issued for the project).
2. The name of the entity that is the owner for tax purposes of the property to be part of the project and which is described in Exhibit A of the opinion.
3. The name, legal designation and Tax Identification Number (TIN) of the ownership entity that will receive the HTC's, the legal designation of the party that signed the application and the business remains in good standing and duly authorized in Minnesota.
4. The name, legal designation and Tax Identification Number (TIN) of all the general partner(s), and the names of the managing partner(s), contact person(s) and the required authorized signatories. If the partners are an organized entity, such as a limited liability corporation, a limited liability partnership or an organized partnership, provide the above information for each such entity.
5. Identification and copies of any waivers required by Section 42 obtained from the IRS.

6. The buildings identified in the application satisfy the requirements for an award or allocation of HTCs under Section 42.
7. Any additional information deemed necessary by Minnesota Housing.

Reserves, Contingencies and any Cash Savings

Provide a signed and dated statement documenting the amount and disposition of reserves, contingencies and any cash savings. If any of the above reverts back to developer/owner, general partner or any ownership interest, Minnesota Housing will consider them deferred developer fees, and for purposes of HTC allocation, restrict the developer fees as specified in the Underwriting Standards.

Minnesota Housing Declaration of Land Use Restrictive Covenants

Provide a copy of the completed but unrecorded Minnesota Housing LURA for review well in advance of its required filing deadline. The LURA must be completed and recorded before the end of the first HTC period to preserve the HTCs allocated to the project. Check with your tax advisor as to timing of filing and claiming of HTCs. HUD may require that certain riders be attached to your HTC LURA if your development has primary financing via a HUD direct insured loan. Check with your financing and legal advisors to determine if this may be required of your development.

Final HTC Proceeds or Receipts

Documentation of the final amount of HTC proceeds or receipts generated. Provide an executed copy of the final Syndication, Private Placement, or Individual Investment Agreements disclosing terms and conditions.

Multifamily Intended Methods Worksheet

Provide the Minnesota Housing Multifamily Intended Methods Worksheet for compliance with the MN Overlay and Enterprise Green Communities.

8609 Certification by Owner

Provide a completed, executed and notarized original 8609 Certification by Owner/Application, verifying:

1. The placed in service date as defined in IRS Notice 88-116 for each building and/or type of HTC. Month and year must correspond with occupancy certificate. If the month and year do not correspond, submit a written statement indicating the reason.
2. Compliance with all applicable design requirements.
3. Compliance with all requirements of selection, and additional or special conditions of reservation, commitment, or carryover.

Final Loan or Grant Documents

Provide copies of final executed permanent loan and/or grant documents for all sources of funds (loan/grant agreements, mortgage and note) that support the amount, terms and conditions stated on the Multifamily Workbook. Minnesota Housing must evaluate all final sources of funds to ensure the amount of HTCs allocated to a project do not exceed the amount necessary for financial feasibility. Therefore, Minnesota Housing will not issue an IRS Form 8609 prior to the execution of final permanent loan documents, or its equivalent, for all funding sources.

Governmental Assistance and/or Rental Assistance

If not previously provided as part of a carryover application, provide a description of any governmental assistance and/or rental assistance. This includes copies of any contracts/agreements executed or any applications made for rental assistance for the project. This also includes copies of Cooperatively Developed Housing Plans/Agreements between owner and the local housing authority or other similar entity if rental assistance points were awarded to the development (Refer to the Rental Assistance section of the Self-Scoring Worksheet).

Transfer Ownership

If the ownership entity has changed, provide a copy of the assignment, a revised Transfer Agreement (HTC 20) and Notice of Intent to Transfer Ownership (HTC 27), an updated Qualification Form for all the new team members, and Release of Information Authorization Form (HTC 17) (see Chapter 2.I. and 2.J.) and the Transfer of Ownership Fee (see Chapter 8).

Partnership Agreement

Provide a copy of the executed final Partnership Agreement.

Photographs

Provide clear photographs of completed building(s).

Building Map Form

Provide a completed Building Map Form for each building. The applicable fraction on the building map must be the same applicable fraction for each respective BIN on Exhibit B of the LURA.

Identity of Interest

A written disclosure as to any and all Identity of Interest parties (see Chapter 2.L. and 2.M.).

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Forms

It is the policy of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in all of its endeavors. Complete, execute and return the following forms:

1. Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan describing the marketing strategies that an owner will use including, but not limited to, special efforts the owner will make to attract persons who are least likely to apply in addition to a broad cross section of the local population without regard to protected classes under federal fair housing law: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or familial status; or under Minnesota law: marital status, status with regard to public assistance, creed and sexual orientation.
2. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement.

Tenant Selection Plan

Provide a written tenant selection plan describing the tenant selection policy that an owner will use. The tenant selection plan must be submitted and reviewed by Minnesota Housing prior to the issuance of the 8609. The Plan must be developed and implemented in accordance with Minnesota Housing's Tenant Selection Plan Guidelines which is published on the agency website.

Allocation Fee

Submit the allocation fee based on the annual HTC allocation amount (if not already paid at carryover). (See Chapter 8)

Chapter 7 –Projects Financed by Tax-Exempt Volume Limited Bonds Seeking HTC

A. General

Section 42 of the IRC establishes a separate set of procedures to obtain 4 percent HTCs through the issuance of tax-exempt volume limited bonds.⁴

Section 42 (m)(1)(D) provides that in order for a project to receive an award of HTCs through the issuance of tax exempt volume limited bonds, the project must satisfy the requirements for allocation contained in the QAP applicable to the area in which the project is located. The Minnesota Housing QAP applies to all projects for which Minnesota Housing is the issuer of the bonds and all other projects for which the issuer is not located within the area covered by a suballocator QAP.

The project must comply with the QAP that is in effect for the calendar year in which tax exempt volume limited bonds are issued sufficient, together with any tax exempt volume limited bonds issued in a prior calendar year, to finance at least 50 percent of the aggregate basis of the building and the land it is located on.

If a development was selected or selected for further processing for tax-exempt bonds with a 4 percent financial structure through a previous consolidated RFP, and satisfied pointing and related requirements applicable to that consolidated RFP, the development may be deemed to meet the scoring and related requirements of the QAP in effect during the year in which the tax-exempt volume limited boards are issued sufficient to finance at least 50 percent of the aggregate basis of the building and the land that it is located on.

Developers must also be aware of the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 474A.047, including subdivision 1, which requires the extension of existing U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contracts to the full extent available.

For projects to which the Minnesota Housing QAP applies, Minnesota Housing must make a determination that all requirements are satisfied. After this determination, Minnesota Housing will issue a preliminary determination letter. Except as determined by Minnesota Housing, **applications for this determination must be submitted to Minnesota Housing at least 60 days prior to the issuance of the tax-exempt volume limited bonds sufficient, together with any tax exempt volume limited bonds issued previously for the same project, to finance at least 50 percent of the aggregate basis of the building(s) and land it is located on.**

The threshold requirements in Chapter 5 do not apply to projects not receiving HTCs counted in the HTC volume cap for the state.

In order to receive the preliminary determination described above, the applicant must submit to Minnesota Housing all documents required for an application for HTCs as established by the Minnesota Housing QAP and any additional information requested. These documents are those required for an application for HTCs under Chapter 6.A. incorporated into the Application Checklist in the Multifamily Customer Portal and any additional information required by Minnesota Housing. The developer must also submit to Minnesota Housing the required application fees identified.

⁴ Tax exempt volume limited bonds are “residential rental bonds” that are taken into account under the state ceiling on the aggregate face amount of tax-exempt private activity bonds pursuant to Section 146 of the IRC. Residential rental bonds are exempt facility bonds issued pursuant to Section 142(d) of the IRC to finance a qualified residential rental project.

B. Pre-Application for Projects Seeking an Allocation of Tax-Exempt Volume Limited Bonds from Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB)

Applicants may receive a predictive model and scoring determination prior to requesting preliminary determination via the pre-application process. Pre-application is strongly encouraged in order to receive a determination prior to seeking an allocation of a portion of the state ceiling for tax exempt volume limited bonds.

Preliminary Predictive Model Determination: A predictive model analysis can be pursued earlier than the submission of the 42M application. Applicants must submit the predictive model determination document and will receive a determination letter upon review. The letter will consist of the agency's determination, expiration date of the determination, the project's current percentage of the predictive model, and project cap for per unit costs in excess of an allowable threshold which board action may be required. Developments with costs above the predictive model will be notified and, if requested by the developer, will follow the agency's process to determine if approval will be granted.

Preliminary Scoring Determination: Applicants **must** submit all required pre-application documentation a minimum of 30 days prior to the 42(m)(1)(D) application submittal in order for staff to make a preliminary determination of eligibility. Failure to submit all required pre-application materials may result in rejection of the pre-application.

Pre-application Documents:

- Multifamily Workbook
- Self-Scoring Worksheet – Corresponding with the year in which bond issuance is anticipated
- Scoring Documentation

If the project is determined to be eligible for the required minimum points, the applicant will receive a Preliminary Scoring Determination letter from the Agency that details the points awarded. This letter is to be submitted with the complete 42(m)(1)(D) application. The 42(m)(1)(D) application may only be submitted following an allocation of a portion of the state ceiling for tax exempt volume limited bonds.

C. Application for Issuance of Preliminary Determination Letter

For projects in which Minnesota Housing is the allocating agency, the developer must submit an application fee (review fee). (See Chapter 8) In addition, if the issuer of the bonds is not Minnesota Housing, the initial submission must include evidence from the issuer that the project received an approval of an allocation of a portion of the state ceiling for tax exempt volume limited bonds from the state of Minnesota and a preliminary determination issued by the issuer of the bonds addressing the HTC dollar amount and project costs pursuant to Section 42(m)(2)(D) of the IRC.

In addition to complying with the requirements for HTC allocation, Section 42 (m)(2)(D) provides that in order for a project to receive an award of HTCs through the issuance of tax exempt volume limited bonds, the governmental unit that issues the bonds (or on behalf of which the bonds were issued) and the allocating agency must make a determination that the HTC amount to be claimed does not exceed the amount necessary for the financial feasibility of the project and its viability as a qualified low income housing project throughout the HTC period.

For projects to which the Minnesota Housing QAP applies, the determination by the issuer must be made in a manner consistent with Minnesota Housing’s QAP. Evaluation of the issuer and allocating agency must consider in accordance with Section 42:

1. The sources and uses of funds and the total financing planned for the project
2. Any proceeds or receipts expected to be generated by reason of tax benefits
3. The percentage of the HTC dollar amount used for project costs other than the cost of intermediaries
4. The reasonableness of the developmental and operational costs of the project, and

Section 42(h)(6)(C)(ii) provides that the HTC amount claimed for buildings financed by tax exempt volume limited bonds by the taxpayer/owner under Section 42 (h)(4) may not exceed the amount necessary to support the applicable fraction specified in the use agreement for the buildings.

Based upon the submission of documents, Minnesota Housing will prepare a letter with its preliminary determination pursuant to Section 42(m)(1)(D) as to whether the project satisfies the requirements and any additional conditions identified for an award of HTCs under the QAP. A Preliminary Determination fee must be submitted to Minnesota Housing prior to release of the letter (See Chapter 8). **This process may take eight weeks or more from the time the full application package is submitted. All applicants should develop their timelines and schedules accordingly.**

D. Election of Applicable Percentage

Section 42 of the IRC requires that the owner elect the applicable percentage for the project. **The election is made at the time any tax-exempt volume limited bonds are issued for a project to fix the percentage for the month in which the building is placed in service or the month in which any tax-exempt volume limited bonds are issued.** If the election is not made at the time any tax-exempt volume limited bonds are issued, the percentage will be fixed for the month in which the building is placed in service. Once made, the election is irrevocable.

E. Requests for Building Identification Numbers (BIN)

At the time of application for issuance of a Preliminary Determination letter, the applicant must obtain a Building Identification Number (BIN) for each of the proposed buildings in the development. Minnesota Housing will assign all BINs. An address or other specific legal description is needed to identify with each BIN. The address and BIN will be needed as part of an application for Form 8609.

F. Election of Gross Rent Floor

The owner/taxpayer of a qualified HTC project financed with tax exempt volume limited bonds is permitted under IRS Revenue Procedure 94-57 to fix the date of the gross rent floor to be the date on which Minnesota Housing initially issues its Preliminary Determination letter to the building or the Placed in Service date (Gross Rent Floor Election Form). The election of one of the two timing options must be completed, and the election form(s) received by Minnesota Housing by a date no later than the date the project is placed in service. If no election is made and/or no form(s) received by Minnesota Housing by a date no later than the date the project is placed in service, then the gross rent floor date will automatically be fixed by Minnesota Housing to be the initial issuance date of the Preliminary Determination letter for the building.

G. Application for Issuance of Form 8609

Subsequent to the project being placed in service and prior to a Form 8609 being issued for the project by Minnesota Housing, the owner must submit an application for the issuance of Form 8609 to Minnesota Housing. The application must contain those items as identified in Section H below titled Tax Exempt Placed in Service, in addition to any other submissions deemed necessary by Minnesota Housing. For projects for which Minnesota Housing is the allocating agency, the developer must submit a Form 8609 fee based upon the requested annual HTC amount. (See Chapter 8)

H. Placed in Service

Placed in service dates for HTC purposes must be established for all buildings using HTCs, including acquisition HTCs, which are treated as a separate building for HTC purposes. Generally, the placed in service date for a newly constructed building or for rehabilitation expenditures in an existing building, is the date when the first unit in the building is certified as available for occupancy. The placed in service date for acquisition HTCs is generally the date of the acquisition of the building. It is highly recommended that owners/developers of projects financed with the proceeds of tax-exempt volume limited bonds seek the appropriate legal and bond professional advice on these matters.

An approved Minnesota Housing Form 8609 must contain the signature of the authorized Minnesota Housing Finance Agency representative. Minnesota Housing will issue an approved IRS Form 8609 within 30 days after all of the following items have been received by Minnesota Housing in a satisfactory form and substance. Issuance of the Minnesota Housing approved IRS Form 8609 is to be done only by Minnesota Housing or, as applicable, an authorized suballocator. An approved Form 8609 must not be created by any other entity. The owner/agent must not file a Form 8609 with the IRS in advance of the owner/agent's receipt of the Minnesota Housing signed version of the approved 8609. In addition, the owner/agent must not electronically file a Form 8609 with the IRS that does not accurately reflect the information contained on Minnesota Housing's signed version of the approved Form 8609 or information contained in the reservation or carryover agreement. (Also refer to Chapter 2.J. Unacceptable Practices).

If Minnesota Housing is the HTC allocating agency, all required 8609 application materials must be submitted through the Multifamily Customer Portal.

Transmittal Letter

A transmittal letter indicating the project name, address and Minnesota Housing assigned HTC number. The letter must request the issuance of IRS Form 8609 and list the following required documents. In the letter, please list the revised information and explain the basis for the changes. The letter must be dated and signed by the owner or authorized individual.

Placed in Service

Submit evidence that all buildings have been Placed-in-Service. Submit a copy of the Certificate of Occupancy provided by the local governmental authority having jurisdiction for each building. If not available from the local government, a Certificate of Substantial Completion prepared by the architect will be accepted. For acquisition and rehabilitation, the developer must provide supporting documentation for the elected date.

Evidence of Tax-Exempt Volume Limited Bonds

If the issuer of the bonds is not Minnesota Housing, submit evidence from the issuer of the bonds that the project received an approval of an allocation of a portion of the state ceiling for the issuance of tax-exempt volume limited bonds from the state of Minnesota.

Utility Allowance Schedule

Provide a current utility allowance in a manner consistent with the options provided in IRS Treasury Regulation 1.42-10 (i.e. as appropriate, a utility allowance from RD, HUD, PHA/HRA, local utility company), an Agency Estimate, a HUD utility Schedule Model, an Energy Consumption Model). Include a breakdown of the utilities that a tenant pays directly (heat, electricity, etc.), the utility allowance for each type of utility (gas, electric, etc.), for the various unit types (one bedroom, two bedroom, etc.) and housing types (apartments, townhomes, etc.). Also, include a list of each unit type, total tenant paid utilities, contract rent and gross rent. (See Chapter 3.J.)

Final Cost Certification

Provide a Final Cost Certification when total development costs are final that evidences the CPA’s audit report and cost certification based upon an audit of the owner’s schedule of total project costs.

All costs of projects with five or more units owned by all entities must be cost certified by a CPA when construction has been completed and before Minnesota Housing can complete its final evaluation.

Projects with four or fewer units must submit a sworn construction statement and/or certification by owner, as appropriate.

Determination of Credits

Provide evidence that the governmental unit that issued the tax exempt volume limited bonds (or on behalf of which the bonds were issued) made a determination that the amount of HTC’s awarded to the project does not exceed the amount necessary to ensure project feasibility pursuant to Section 42(m)(2)(A) and (B), including a copy of the final written determination (and the analysis on which it was based) that the HTC’s awarded to the building did not exceed the maximum HTC based upon the lesser of the eligible basis or the amount necessary to achieve financial feasibility. The issuer analysis and determination must address all of the items set forth in Section 42(m)(2)(B). The determination must be made by the issuer based upon review of the submission items required in Chapter 6.C.

Attorney’s Opinion Letter

Provide an attorney’s opinion letter in a Minnesota Housing approved form verifying:

1. The legal description of the project property (to be attached to the opinion and labeled as Exhibit A) and that it is correct and identical to the property identified in the application, the preliminary determination letter issued by Minnesota Housing and the legal description of the property financed with the tax exempt volume limited bonds.
2. The name of the entity that is the owner for tax purposes of the property to be part of the project and which is described in Exhibit A of the opinion.
3. The name, legal designation and Tax Identification Number (TIN) of the ownership entity that will receive the HTC’s, the legal designation of the party that signed the application and that the business is in good standing and duly authorized in Minnesota.

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4. The name, legal designation, and Tax Identification Number (TIN) of all the general partner(s), and the names of the managing partner(s), contact person(s) and the required authorized signatories. If the partners are an organized entity, such as a limited liability corporation, a limited liability partnership, or an organized partnership, provide the above information for each such entity.
5. Identification and copies of any waivers required by Section 42 obtained from the IRS.
6. The buildings identified in the application qualify for an award of HTC's under Section 42(h)(4).
7. Any additional information deemed necessary by Minnesota Housing.

Reserves, Contingencies, and any Cash Savings

A signed and dated statement documenting the amount and disposition of reserves, contingencies and any cash savings. If any of the above reverts back to developer/owner, general partner or any ownership interest, Minnesota Housing will consider them deferred developer fees, and for purposes of the HTC award, restrict the developer fees as specified in the Underwriting Standards.

Minnesota Housing Declaration of Land Use Restrictive Covenants

Provide a copy of the completed but unrecorded Minnesota Housing LURA for review well in advance of its required filing deadline. The LURA must be completed and recorded before the end of the first HTC period to preserve the HTC's allocated to the project. Check with your tax advisor as to timing of filing and claiming of HTC's. HUD may require that certain riders be attached to your HTC LURA if your development has primary financing via a HUD direct insured loan. Check with your financing and legal advisors to determine if this may be required of your development.

Final HTC Proceeds or Receipts

Documentation of the final amount of HTC proceeds or receipts generated. Provide a copy of the executed final Syndication, Private Placement, or Individual Investment Agreements disclosing terms and conditions.

8609 Certification by Owner/Application Form

Submit a fully completed, executed and notarized original 8609 Certification by Owner/Application Form, (HTC 3) verifying:

1. The placed in service date as defined in IRS Notice 88-116 for each building and/or type of HTC. Month and year should correspond with occupancy certificate. If the month and year do not correspond, submit a written statement indicating the reason.
2. It is highly recommended that owners/developers of projects financed with the proceeds of tax exempt volume limited bonds seek the appropriate legal and bond professional advice on these matters.
3. Compliance with all applicable design requirements.
4. Compliance with all requirements of the Preliminary Determination letter issued by Minnesota Housing on the project and the requirements of the QAP.

Final Executed Loan or Grant Documents

Provide copies of final executed permanent loan and/or grant documents for all sources of funds (loan/grant agreements, mortgage and note) that support the amount, terms and conditions stated on the conditions stated on the Multifamily Workbook. Minnesota Housing must evaluate all final sources

of funds to ensure the amount of HTCs allocated to a project do not exceed the amount necessary for financial feasibility. Therefore, Minnesota Housing will not issue an IRS Form 8609 prior to the execution of final permanent loan documents, or its equivalent, for all funding sources.

Multifamily Intended Methods Worksheet

Provide the Minnesota Housing Multifamily Intended Methods Worksheet for compliance with the MN Overlay and Enterprise Green Communities.

Transfer Ownership

If the ownership entity has changed, submit a copy of the assignment, a revised Transfer Agreement (HTC 20), an updated Qualification Form for all the new team members, a written disclosure as to any and all Identity of Interest parties and Release of Information Authorization Form (HTC 17) (See Chapter 2.I. and 2.J.), and the Transfer of Ownership Fee (See Chapter 8).

Partnership Agreement

Provide a copy of the executed final Partnership Agreement.

Photographs

Provide clear photographs of completed building(s).

Building Map Form

Provide a completed Building Map Form for each building. The applicable fraction on the building map must be the same applicable fraction for each respective BIN on Exhibit B of the LURA.

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Forms

It is the policy of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to take affirmative action to provide equal opportunity in all of its endeavors. Complete, execute and return the following forms:

1. Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan describing the marketing strategies that an owner will use including, but not limited to, special efforts the owner will make to attract persons who are least likely to apply in addition to a broad cross section of the local population without regard to protected classes under federal fair housing law: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or familial status; or under Minnesota law: marital status, status with regard to public assistance, creed and sexual orientation.
2. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement.

Tenant Selection Plan

Provide a written tenant selection plan describing the tenant selection policy that an owner will use. The tenant selection plan must be submitted and reviewed by Minnesota Housing prior to the issuance of the 8609. The Plan must be developed and implemented in accordance with Minnesota Housing's Tenant Selection Plan Guidelines which is published on the agency website.

8609 Fee

Submit an 8609 fee based upon the annual HTC amount (see Chapter 8).

Chapter 8 – Fees

For estimates of HTC Allocation fees please reference the Fee Schedule and Remittance Form. All fees are non-refundable will not be adjusted if the final HTC amount is reduced, recaptured, or the HTCs are returned or unused.

A. Application Fee

An application fee must be submitted with all applications. For dual applications, Minnesota Housing will require a single fee. For multi-building projects, Minnesota Housing will require only one application and a single fee.

B. Supplemental Application Fee

A fee for projects requesting supplemental HTCs. This fee will be charged to projects that resubmit their proposals in Round 2 of the allocation year and were underwritten by Minnesota Housing in Round 1.

1. A non-selected project will be required to submit a new application package as described in Chapter 2.P.
2. A selected project (must have been selected in the same year) requesting additional HTCs will be required to submit a new application package as described in Chapter 2.O.

C. Reservation Fee

After the project has been selected to receive HTCs from the state's HTC volume cap, a reservation fee must be paid to Minnesota Housing. The developer will have approximately 30 days in which to pay the reservation fee and maintain their HTC selection/reservation. An additional reservation fee must also be paid for any additional HTCs allocated through carryover and must be paid following issuance of the Carryover Agreement.

D. Allocation Fee – Carryover or 8609

At the time the taxpayer/owner submits an application for a carryover allocation or for issuance of IRS Form(s) 8609 (whichever occurs earlier), an allocation fee will be due. See section C. above for fee information relating to additional HTCs allocated at carryover.

E. Allocation Late Fee

Developers submitting a carryover package or, if an owner has elected not to request a carryover, an 8609 package prior to the end of the year of allocation for which the reservation was issued that:

1. Do not submit a carryover/8609 application by the established due date; or
2. Submit a substantially incomplete carryover/8609 application by the established due date; or
3. Do not submit the carryover CPA final certification by the established due date

Must pay a late fee plus an additional penalty fee for each business day from the original due date through the date on which Minnesota Housing receives a substantially complete carryover/8609 application.

The fee will not be allowed as an eligible cost in carryover/8609 basis and must be paid at the time the carryover/8609 application is substantially complete.

F. Preliminary Determination Fee

A Preliminary Determination Fee must be submitted to Minnesota Housing prior to issuance of a Preliminary Determination letter for projects for which Minnesota Housing is the allocating agency.

G. Monitoring Fee

Minnesota Housing will charge a per unit monitoring fee beginning with the first credit year. The fee will be due annually throughout the compliance period and extended use period. See Sections 4.02 and 9.05 of the [Housing Tax Credit Compliance Guide](#) for details on the fee amount. Minnesota Housing reserves the right to adjust the fee depending upon the requirements of the U.S. Treasury, IRS, or increased cost to monitor. The fee will be due in a manner and time as prescribed by Minnesota Housing.

H. Transfer of Ownership Fee

All changes in ownership must be approved by Minnesota Housing. If the transfer occurs prior to a date five years after the project's new construction/rehabilitation placed in service date transfer of ownership fee must be submitted to Minnesota Housing along with updated materials of the new owner/management team for each project in which 50 percent or more of the ownership entity is new since reservation or carryover allocation. After the five year period, owners must submit an RFA non-refundable processing fee. Refer to the Servicing page on Minnesota Housing's website. (See Chapter 2.J. Unacceptable Practices for further details on Transfer of Ownership.)

I. Check Cashing Procedure

Applicant's payments for fees (in the form of checks) will be held pending verification of the accuracy of the amount tendered and submitted materials.

J. Right to Adjust Fees

Minnesota Housing reserves the right to adjust fees due to changing circumstances in order to cover its costs associated with producing and delivering Minnesota's HTC Program.

K. Appraisal Fee

If the as-is appraisal is ordered by Minnesota Housing, all costs will be the responsibility of the applicant. The appraisal fee will be determined based on fees charged by the appraiser to complete Minnesota Housing's requirement for an as-is appraisal. These fees are subject to change at Minnesota Housing's sole discretion based upon changes in fee structures found in the appraisal marketplace and on the type of appraisal required by Minnesota Housing for a particular application type.

Chapter 9 – Tentative Allocation Schedule of Critical Dates

A. Allocation Dates

A list of important allocation dates is identified in the Multifamily Application Instructions: Consolidated RFP and HTC Round 1 and 2

B. Previous Year's Allocation of HTCs

Placed in Service Allocation: To optimize timely processing of requests for issuance of Form 8609, it is recommended that the owner make every effort to submit the complete Application for 8609 to Minnesota Housing no later than 30 days following completion of the project.

At the latest, complete 8609 application packages are due no later than 15 days after the last day of the first year of the HTC period. Section 42 states the owner must elect the first year of the HTC period in the year the project is placed in service or the year following.

C. Compliance Dates

Owners Certifications, compliance report and monitoring fees are due February 15th (or next business day) of each year.

When filed with IRS: Completed first year 8609 with Part II completed.

Chapter 10 –Index of HTC Forms

A. Application Materials

All HTC Application Forms are available on Minnesota Housing’s Multifamily website and in the Multifamily Customer Portal.

B. Post Application Materials

All Post Application materials are available on Minnesota Housing’s Multifamily website and in the Multifamily Customer Portal.