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## I. GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

### A. Introduction

The Housing Credit Program is designed to increase the supply of quality affordable rental housing throughout the country. These federal income tax credits provide the private housing development community the incentives to develop affordable housing by offsetting building acquisition, new construction, or substantial rehabilitation costs. Since 1987, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA or “the Agency”), within the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), has used the Housing Credit Program to facilitate the development of ~~almost~~ ***over*** 60,000 affordable rental housing units in Ohio.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulations for the Housing Credit Program can be found under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Applicants should be familiar with Section 42 of the IRC, regulations and administrative documents (revenue rulings, revenue notices), and all relevant material published by the IRS. Applicants should also consult with their attorney and accountant in order to comply with all program requirements.

This Plan may be subject to change in the future, pending developments in federal and state legislative requirements and/or Agency policy. The Agency reserves the right to make all necessary changes to the Plan.

The Plan is designed specifically for OHFA’s Housing Credit Program and is not meant to describe guidelines for other State funding, including OHFA’s Multifamily Bond Program, Affordable Housing Loan Program, or the Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP). Please see the guidelines established for these and other ODOD programs for further information on specific program requirements.

### B. Description of the Housing Credit

The Housing Credit was created by Congress in 1986, replacing earlier federal tax incentives for the development of affordable rental housing.

Housing Credits are used to offset an individual’s or corporation’s federal income tax liability. The amount of Housing Credit received can be subtracted on a dollar-for-dollar basis from the federal income tax liability.

The Housing Credit is received each year for 10 years - the period the taxpayer claims the Housing Credit on his/her federal income tax return. The owner must maintain the income and rent restrictions continuously for 15 years - this is the compliance period. Additionally, the owner must enter into an extended use period of an additional 15 years by filing a Restrictive Covenant on the project with the County Recorder.

The taxpayer may claim the Housing Credit beginning either with the taxable year in which the building is placed-in-service, or in the following year at the owner’s election (or the Agency’s determination, if necessary). The allocated Housing Credit amount taken by the taxpayer is based on the portion of the building occupied by low-income tenants at the end of the first year of the Housing Credit period.

### **C. Program Priorities**

The priorities of the Housing Credit program are a blend of state and federal priorities.

The ODOD evaluates housing needs of the state and identifies actions to alleviate these needs. The State's Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) contains information regarding some of the State's housing priorities. The Agency also seeks input from its various housing advisory committees to assist in determining the State's housing needs. The Agency supports all state and federal fair-housing laws and strives to expand housing opportunities for people who are unable to secure safe, decent, and sanitary affordable housing in the private marketplace.

The following is a listing of priorities of the Housing Credit program in Ohio:

**Income Targeting.** A project qualifies for Housing Credit if at least 20% of the project is occupied by households with incomes at or below 50% (20/50 projects) of the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI) or at least 40% of the project is occupied by households with incomes at or below 60% (40/60 projects) of the AMGI. The AMGI limits are published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) annually. Incomes are adjusted by household size. OHFA has provided the income limitations by county (See Exhibit A).

Historically in Ohio, most projects have been 100% occupied by households with incomes at or below 60% of the AMGI, in order to have a large applicable fraction. The applicable fraction is defined as the lesser of A.) the number of low-income units divided by the total number of units (unit fraction) or B.) the amount of low-income unit square footage divided by the total amount of residential unit square footage (floor-space fraction). Low-income units are defined as units occupied by households with incomes at or below 50% or 60% AMGI - depending on the minimum set-aside selected by the owner. The applicable fraction is used in the calculation of the annual Housing Credit amount.

**Rent Restriction on Units.** Applicants can receive extra points during the competitive review if they set rents affordable to households with incomes less than 60% of the AMGI. The rent limits are based on the number of bedrooms in the unit. Rent subsidies paid on behalf of the tenant (such as Section 8 program payments) and overage defined by the Rural Development (RD) 515 program are not included in gross rent calculations. Gross rent includes a utility allowance for the utilities paid by the tenant. The Agency has provided the rent limitations by county (See Exhibit A).

In order to assure the units are rented at the specified level elected at application for competitive points, the Agency requires owners to file a Restrictive Covenant in the County Recorder's office where the project is located. The Restrictive Covenant details the restrictions on rent, as well as the term of affordability. Furthermore, the Restrictive Covenant also includes restrictions on the income levels the project is targeting per the election the owner makes on the application.

Utility allowance information is obtained from HUD or the Public Housing Authority in the county where the project is located. If the project is a Rural Development 515 project, the utility allowance is obtained from the Rural Development office.

**Extended Low-Income Use.** Income and rent limitations must be maintained for a minimum period of 15 years and through the extended use period, which is an additional 15 years. Project owners must enter into an extended low-income use agreement with the Agency.

**Safe, Decent, & Sanitary Housing.** All projects must meet applicable building codes promulgated by the Ohio Board of Building Standards and local governmental agencies. Projects must also comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if applicable.

**“No More Credit Than Necessary”.** Section 42 of the IRC specifically mandates that state housing finance agencies must ensure that the amount of Housing Credit awarded to a project is the minimum amount necessary for the project to be placed in service as affordable rental housing. The Agency will complete this designated task by thoroughly underwriting every project receiving Housing Credit.

**Civil Rights Compliance.** It is the responsibility of the owner/developer/borrower and any of its employees, agents or sub-contractors in doing business with OHFA to adhere to and comply with all Federal Civil Rights legislation inclusive of the Fair Housing Laws, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act as well as any state and local Civil Rights legislation along with any required related codes and laws. Should OHFA not specify any requirements, such as design, it is none the less the owners responsibility to be aware of and comply with all non-discrimination provisions relating to race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, and national origin. This includes design requirements for construction or rehabilitation, Equal Opportunity in regard to marketing and tenant selection and reasonable accommodation and modification for those tenants covered under the Laws. OHFA has provided a brief guide to federal accessibility requirements (Exhibit O).

#### **D. Eligible Use of the Housing Credit**

The Housing Credit can be used to offset the cost of acquiring, substantially rehabilitating, or constructing residential rental housing that is occupied by low-income individuals and families. These units must be available to the general public and have an initial lease of six months or longer.

The costs to develop these low-income units become the building’s eligible basis. The Housing Credit can be allocated on common areas as long as these facilities are provided to all tenants without additional fees or charges. It is important to note that units created solely for manager and/or security guard occupancy are considered common space. The Housing Credit is available for the following types of projects:

**Acquisition/Substantial Rehabilitation.** The Housing Credit is available for the acquisition and substantial rehabilitation of a building. The acquisition basis is allocated Housing Credit at the 4% Housing Credit rate. The substantial rehabilitation basis is allocated Housing Credit at the 9% Housing Credit rate. The property cannot have been placed in service within 10 years prior to acquisition. In addition, capital improvements on the building are not eligible cost items if within the previous 10 years, major capital improvements have been made to the building. The new buyer or related entity cannot currently own the building; however, 10% of the ownership may remain unchanged.

The Housing Credit may be claimed on the basis of costs incurred for the substantial rehabilitation of a property without claiming credit on the acquisition basis of the project. At a minimum, non-cosmetic improvements must total \$3,000 per unit, or 10% of total project costs.

**New Construction.** The Housing Credit at the 9% Housing Credit rate is available for the eligible costs to construct a new building or buildings.

**Housing Credit Rate.** The applicable fraction multiplied by the eligible basis is the project’s qualified basis. The applicable Housing Credit percentage (commonly referred to as the 9% and 4% Housing Credit rate) is the percentage used to determine the annual Housing Credit amount by multiplying it by the total qualified basis. The Housing Credit rates fluctuate from month to month, and the IRS publishes the new rates monthly. The recipient of an allocation of Housing Credits may “lock-in” the Housing Credit rates at the date of the Binding Reservation Agreement with OHFA or at the date the project is placed into service.

**Single Room Occupancy (SRO).** SRO housing may qualify for Housing Credit even though cooking or sanitation facilities are provided on a shared basis rather than separately within each unit. In certain

circumstances it may be possible to lease SRO units for less than a six-month lease term without violating the non-transient use requirement of the IRC. Please consult with legal experts if pursuing this option.

**Community Service Facility.** The costs of constructing or rehabilitating a community service facility, such as a daycare building, located in a qualified census tract may be included with the eligible basis of a housing credit project. These additional costs cannot exceed 10% of the eligible basis for the entire project. All community service facilities that are part of the same qualified project shall be treated as one facility. A community service facility must be designed to serve primarily individuals, not necessarily residents of the project, whose incomes are 60% or less of the AMGI.

Applicants wishing to include a community service facility with a project must so indicate on the application and provide a thorough description of facility or facilities in the project narrative. The Agency will consider all reasonable documented requests, but as with all basis items, the IRS will make the final determination of what costs can or cannot be included with the eligible basis of a project. Please refer to Section 42(d)(4)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) for more information.

**Ineligible Costs.** Certain project costs are not subject to inclusion into eligible basis upon which the Housing Credits are derived. These include:

1. Commercial Building Costs
2. Land
3. Permanent Financing Fees
4. Reserves
5. Off-Site Improvements
6. Syndication Expenses (including legal, accounting, and bridge loan interest)
7. Any expense that cannot be depreciated with the building
8. OHFA Compliance Fee

This list is not inclusive of all costs that may be ineligible for Housing Credits. Please refer to Section 42 of the IRC for more information or consult a Housing Credit tax advisor.

The Housing Credit is not available for any of the following facilities: hospitals, nursing homes, sanitariums, lifecare facilities, retirement homes (if providing significant services other than housing are mandatory for residents), employer housing, mobile homes and student housing. Factory-made housing that is permanently fixed to real property may qualify for the Housing Credit. Congregate care facilities may be eligible if the "additional supportive services" are provided to the tenant as a voluntary option and the tenant is not charged mandatory fees for those services. Please refer to Section 42 of the IRC for more information.

## II. ALLOCATION PROCESS

### A. Instructions

In order to apply for 2003 Housing Credits, submit an application to the **Office of Planning, Preservation, and Development; OHFA; 57 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215**. The application must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. by the date listed in the program calendar. Applicants must use the 2003 ODOD Affordable Housing Funding Application (AHFA) and submit the appropriate application fee. The AHFA may be completed by typewriter or electronically via Microsoft Excel. This submission should include the actual application and all attachments required by the Agency to ensure proper processing of the application. Please include a copy of the computer disk if the AHFA is prepared in Excel.

~~The Agency has scheduled one application round for 2002, and the Agency will reserve the State's entire 2002 allocation of housing credits, including returns and national pool, in this round. All initial applications must be received by the deadline listed in the program calendar (see Page 10). Housing credits will then be reserved in two funding rounds. The Agency will reserve credits in the geographic and preservation pools in the first round. Funding from the Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP) and Affordable Housing Loan Program (AHLP) will also be available to first round projects. Applicants that do not receive a reservation in the first round are eligible for the second round and may submit revisions to their application. Items such as the development team and location of the project may not be changed. All remaining credits will be reserved to the general pool in the second round. However, HDAP and AHLP funds will not be available in the second round.~~

The application round will incorporate three review phases: threshold, competitive, and underwrite. Threshold review is an evaluation of an applicant's ability to meet certain minimum requirements set forth in the Allocation Plan. Competitive review is the scoring of applications through criteria reflecting Congressional mandates and state housing policy as well as input from interested parties. These project scores serve as the basis of the Agency's funding determination. The Agency will allow applicants to remedy threshold and competitive deficiencies after the initial review. Finally, the Agency will review the financial feasibility of the project and the amount of Housing Credit necessary for the development to proceed.

**HDAP Funding:** Because of limited Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP) funds availability, it is possible that not all requests for HDAP funding will be honored. Therefore, projects in areas where alternative funding sources are available are encouraged not to seek HDAP funding. HDAP funds will be awarded according to competitive score in the following order: Pool C, Pool B, Pool A, ***and then the*** Preservation Pool ~~and then the General Pool. Housing Credit applicants seeking HDAP funding should include a description of plans for an alternative financial structure should HDAP funds not be awarded.~~ Successful ***first round*** Housing Credit applicants who have sought, but not been awarded, HDAP funds will have 30 days to provide the Agency with a revised financial structure. The Agency will accept forward commitments for financial resources, i.e. local government HOME funds. An update to the market study may be required if the revised structure includes changes such as new rents. As the Agency anticipates only reviewing the revised financial structure, applicants will be asked to resubmit only those portions of the application relative to the aforementioned revisions and only those changes will be considered by the Agency. Please note that the revised financing structure will constitute a project change and may be subject to rules listed on Page 49 of this Qualified Allocation Plan, including the fact that no changes in a project are allowed if it reduces the project's score in rent structure. Should an applicant be unable to secure alternative or additional financing the housing credit reservation will be returned. ~~Projects that do not receive a Housing Credit reservation in the round will be eligible to continue on a waiting list. The Agency has the discretion to award any returned credits to those projects listed on a waiting list. Projects that did not receive a reservation of Housing Credits and sought HDAP funds must submit a~~

~~revised financial structure along with their request to be placed on a waiting list. In all cases OHFA's underwriting guidelines still apply.~~

**Special Allocation:** A project that has returned an Housing Credit allocation from a previous year due to the inability to proceed resulting from local government action that has been determined through the judicial system to be inappropriate may seek an allocation of credit in the current year. In order to qualify to apply for this relief, the project must meet the following requirements:

1. The project must have received an allocation of competitive Housing Credits from OHFA in a previous year.
2. The owner of the allocation must have returned the Housing Credits to OHFA prior to the required placed-in-service date.
3. The underlying reason for the return of the credit allocation must relate to action or inaction of the local government approval process to allow for plan approval or building permit issuance.
4. The owner of the project must obtain either a final judicial determination that the local action or inaction is inappropriate or a settlement or consent of all parties to an appealable judicial action that no appeal will be taken from a judicial decree or that determines the local activity is inappropriate. As a result of this judicial decree or settlement, the owner of the project must demonstrate that the project can now proceed. OHFA legal counsel and/or the Ohio Attorney General's office will make the determination of these requirements.
5. The project will complete a current year application and request OHFA Board consideration to obtain a current year Housing Credit reservation.
6. OHFA staff will evaluate the project based on current year criteria, although waivers from current year requirements may be requested and considered. It is OHFA's expectation that comparable competitive commitments will be made. It is expected that any monetary damages received which are related to the project, less direct costs of litigation apportioned between damages that are related and unrelated to the project will be pledged to the project.

Qualifying requests will be summarized and presented to OHFA multifamily subcommittee and Board for consideration and approval. OHFA has no affirmative obligation to grant approval to any project seeking relief.

**Previous Allocation:** Owners of projects that received a prior allocation of Housing Credits may apply for additional credit if necessary for the continued financial feasibility of the project. The ownership structure, development team members, rent elections, applicable fraction, developer's fee, special needs population served (if any), and physical structure of the project may not be changed unless approved in advance by the Agency. **All requests for changes must be received no later than 30 days prior to the 2003 application ~~round~~ deadline.**

Applications for additional credit must include documentation dated within one year prior to application for Housing Credits.

Owners of projects that received an allocation of Housing Credits in previous years and are placed-in-service may only apply for additional Housing Credits if 10% or more residential square footage, and/or 5% or more units have been added to the project. OHFA may waive the previously mentioned requirements if an applicant can demonstrate the following: the project requires an extreme amount of repairs, the project is supported by the local government, and the local government and/or a federal agency is providing additional financial assistance. An extreme amount of repairs is defined as a situation in which the rehabilitation hard costs equal or exceed 50% of the total project cost. In addition, the Agency reserves the right to place restrictions on new ownership or management, limit the developer's fee, and

require a capital needs assessment with the application. Applicants must include a narrative with the application that outlines the need for the waiver. OHFA has the sole discretion to approve such requests and will judge the requests on a case-by-case basis.

All placed-in-service Housing Credit projects (with no tax-exempt bond financing) must apply during a standard application round, and will be reviewed according to the current year's competitive criteria. In addition, projects that re-apply may be subject to additional underwriting requirements. Projects must provide the previous Housing Credit allocation amount, the previous project square footage, and previous number of units on the new application and in the project narrative. Placed-in-service Housing Credit projects are also subject to rules outlined in Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations.

**Waiting List:** Projects that did not receive a reservation in ~~any of the pools~~ ***the second funding round*** will be given the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list for Housing Credits that are returned later in the year.

At the conclusion of the ~~2002~~ ***second*** round a waiting list will be created for the preservation pool, each geographic pool, and the general pool. Projects will be ranked by their scores in each pool. If a project returns Housing Credits that were reserved in the preservation or geographic pools during ~~2002~~ ***2003*** AND the total amount awarded, less the returned credits falls below the minimum amount of credits set aside for that particular pool, then the highest scoring project from that pool will receive an offer for a reservation of credits. If credits reserved in the ~~2002~~ ***2003*** general pool or in any other pool from any other year are returned, the highest scoring project from the general pool waiting list will receive an offer of credits. ***Please note that if a project returns credits from the preservation pool or a geographic pool, then any HDAP or AHLF awarded must also be returned. Projects that receive credits from the preservation or geographic waiting lists may then be considered for HDAP or AHLF funding.***

The Agency will contact representatives of the waiting list projects when Housing Credits become available. The Agency will set a deadline for the applicant to respond to any offer.

**Projects with Tax-Exempt Bond Financing:** Projects receiving tax-exempt bonds that finance over 50% of the project's total aggregate basis must only pass the threshold review and meet Agency underwriting standards in order to receive a letter of eligibility for Housing Credits. These projects do not have to compete for Housing Credits and will not receive a competitive score. The Agency is the final judge of eligibility for the amount of Housing Credits awarded to all tax-exempt bond financed projects. Project-specific conditions will be listed in the eligibility letter. The annual maximum Housing Credit per project and per developer cap does not apply to these projects. In addition, OHFA may also waive the unit cost cap criterion for tax-exempt bond financed projects. Applicants must include a narrative with the application that describes the need for the waiver. OHFA has the sole discretion to approve such requests and will judge the requests on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to meeting the threshold requirements listed in the QAP, the applicant must supply evidence of the following:

1. For non-OHFA-issued bonds, the inducement resolution or final approval resolution of the issuer is required. In addition, a letter from the bond underwriter indicating anticipated rate, term, and amortization of the bonds must be submitted.
2. For OHFA-issued bonds, the Housing Credit letter of eligibility will be executed following final approval of the bond issuance by the OHFA Board.
3. The Agency reserves the right to require a legal opinion stating that the project is eligible to receive an allocation of Housing Credits pursuant to Section 42(h)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.

These projects will be underwritten using the same standards outlined in these guidelines except that the owner has the option to elect the Housing Credit rate during the month in which the bonds are issued or the month the project is placed-in-service. Please note that the rate election period is tied to the month the notice of issuance indicates. If a project closes in escrow, the rate election applies to that month, not when the final closing occurs. Furthermore, if a bond closes in escrow and does not make a rate election in that month, the credit rate utilized will be the credit rate applicable at the time and for the month in which each building is placed-in-service ~~not back to the date of the escrow closing~~. ***Please note that the owner has up to five days following the month in which the bonds are issued to notify OHFA of the rate election, otherwise the month the project is placed-in-service will be used.***

For non-OHFA issued bonds, applicants may apply at any time during the year. If public notification requirements have been met and any threshold deficiencies have been corrected, the Agency may take up to ~~4 weeks~~ ***6 weeks*** to review an application and issue a letter of eligibility. These projects will not need a Carryover Allocation Agreement, but the owner must follow all 8609 Form request procedures outlined in the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) and any conditions outlined in the letter of eligibility. Applicants must provide the Agency with a copy of the property's recorded deed, legal description, and permanent parcel numbers within 30 days of site acquisition to facilitate preparation of the project's Restrictive Covenant. OHFA must receive all documentation such as an appraisal for new construction and physical needs assessment for rehab projects no later than the request for Form(s) 8609.

For OHFA issued bonds, please consult the most recent OHFA Multifamily Bond Program guidelines for appropriate submission deadlines.

**B. 2003 Calendar**

January

- 6 2003 QAP and AHFA Ready for Distribution
- 27 2003 Program Training

February

- 3 2003 Program Training

March

- 20 Application Deadline
- 27 Agency Notification of Public Notification Deficiencies

April

- 3 Applicant Response Deadline for Public Notification Corrections

May

- 1 Agency Notification of Threshold Deficiencies
- 8 Applicant Response Deadline for Threshold Corrections

June

- 5 Agency Notification of Preliminary Competitive Scores
- 12 Applicant Response Deadline for Appeals/Competitive Corrections
- 20 ***First Round*** Reservation Agreements Issued

July

- 3 ***First Round*** Reservation Agreements Due
- 17 ***Deadline for Revised Applications for Second Round***

August

- 21 ***Second Round Reservation Agreements Issued***
- 25 2004 QAP Process Begins

September

- 4 ***Second Round Reservation Agreements Due***

November

**3**      ***First Round*** Carryover Deadline

December

**1**      ***Second Round Carryover Deadline***

**1**      Carryover Extension Deadline

**22**     Carryover Allocation Agreements Issued

**29**     Carryover Allocation Agreements Due

## C. **Threshold Review**

The Agency has established the following threshold criteria that must be met in order to qualify for the competitive review stage. In addition, all projects with tax-exempt bond financing must meet all threshold requirements to receive a reservation of Housing Credits (see “Projects with Tax-Exempt Bond Financing”, Page 8). Threshold review is a basic review of the application to determine if it is complete, all necessary forms, supporting evidence, and fees are included, and the project meets minimum program requirements.

The Agency will complete threshold reviews of applications and offer the applicants the opportunity to correct deficiencies in their applications. Please refer to the calendar on the preceding pages for timelines for deficiency correction.

Threshold Review Criteria:

1. Meets Section 42 Requirements
2. Complete, Organized Application
3. Application Fee
4. Project Narrative
5. Extended Use Term
6. Site Control
7. Market Study
8. Zoning
9. Public Notification
10. Affirmative Marketing Plan
11. Conditional Financing Commitments
12. Preliminary Plans and Specifications
13. Maximum Credit Cap
14. Unit Cost Cap
15. Utility Allowance Information
16. Good Standing in ODOD Housing Program
17. Adherence to Agency Underwriting Standards
18. Site Location and Photographs
19. Consistency with HDAP Funding
20. Minimum Project Standards
21. Conformity with Local Consolidated Plan/Comprehensive Housing Improvement Strategy

### 1. **Meets Section 42 Requirements**

The project must meet all the requirements set forth in Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and all relevant U.S. Department of the Treasury regulations, notices, and rulings.

### 2. **Complete, Organized Application**

Applications must be submitted in a three-ring binder, utilizing the index provided with the application and appropriate tabbing. Applications must be complete and consistent with all supporting documentation. Any applications that are incomplete, inconsistent, and/or illegible will be rejected.

### 3. Application Fee

The appropriate processing fee must accompany each application. If a check is returned for insufficient funds, the application will be immediately rejected. The amount of the application fee is dependent upon the number of units in the project (including market rate and employee units) and is scaled as follows:

Projects 25 units or less:	\$ 250
Projects 26-50 units:	\$ 500
Projects 51-75 units:	\$ 750
Projects 76+ units:	\$1000

Projects with threshold deficiencies will be charged a resubmission fee. The resubmission fee will equal \$50 per corrected threshold review criterion up to a maximum of \$250. If a resubmission fee check is returned twice for insufficient funds, the application will be rejected. The threshold resubmission fee does not apply to projects with tax-exempt bond financing, ***and does not apply to the Public Notification threshold criterion.***

### 4. Project Narrative

The applicant must submit a project narrative using the outline listed below:

- 1.1 Briefly describe the project and its location(s), project design, target population, development team members, financing, and project timeline.
- 2.1 Briefly describe the history of each organization with an ownership interest in the project, including accomplishments with respect to past projects; programs and services provided to the community or neighborhood served, particularly those activities related to housing; and the service area of the organization.
- 2.2 Describe how each organization will be involved in the project with respect to specific areas of responsibility, and how each organization will function as part of the development team, including the roles of the other members of the development team. Identify specifically what staff members will be involved in the project and their roles. Explain how this project will affect staff capacity, and, if staff capacity is lacking, explain how the organization will expand staff capacity.
- 3.1 Discuss any pre-development funding that is being provided to the project, including whether funds are in the form of a loan or a grant, and the expenses and activities covered by the pre-development funding.
- 3.2 Discuss the financial structure of the project, including how funds will flow into the project, and the terms of grants or loans, including collateral positions and security arrangements of the various funding sources.
- 3.3 Describe the provisions made for project reserves, including operating reserve, replacement reserve, lease-up reserve, and any lender reserve. Provide the assumptions used to estimate the reserve needs.
- 3.4 Describe any specific line items (i.e. miscellaneous or other items) in the operating proforma that may need further explanation.
- 3.5 If the ownership and/or financial structure is anticipated to change during the life of the project, please explain in detail when and how this will occur. For example, the exercising of a lease purchase option, withdrawal of a general partner, or acquisition of the project by a non-profit organization.

**5. Extended Use**

All projects must commit to an extended use term of a minimum of 30 years of affordability. Projects with tax-exempt bond financing must commit to an extended use term of the greater of 30 years or the outstanding term of the bonds. The owner must file a Restrictive Covenant (provided by the Agency) to waive the right to petition the Agency to terminate the extended use term as described in Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code.

**6. Evidence of Site Control**

Both the buyer and seller must evidence site control. The executed and recorded deed(s) of the current owner(s) must be included with the application. In addition, if the current owner(s) is not the applicant, then one of the following must be submitted to properly evidence site control:

- a. Executed purchase option with date certain performance;
- b. Executed purchase contract;
- c. Executed land contract; or
- d. Executed and recorded long-term (35 or more years) land lease.

For portfolio re-engineering projects, applicant must provide evidence that a Transfer of Physical Assets (TPA) application has been submitted to the appropriate party, either the Participating Administrative Entity (PAE) or HUD.

The items listed above are the minimum required to meet the Agency's threshold requirements. The Agency reserves the right to require, as needed, additional documentation that evidences proper site control.

Each of the site options/contracts, as applicable, must not expire before 120 180 days following the submission of the application. The Agency reserves the right to waive this requirement for projects with tax-exempt bond financing.

There are two exceptions to the site control requirements listed above:

- a. For scattered site projects with 10 or more sites, the Agency will require that at least 35% of the sites be under control at the time of application. A site is defined as a parcel with an assigned permanent parcel number as it exists at application. For scattered site projects that contain a mix of rehabilitated and newly constructed units, the sites under control must reflect the proportion of rehab units to new construction units. The Agency reserves the right to reduce basis at Carryover if the site control percentage at application is not maintained at Carryover. A project qualifies as a scattered site if there are 10 or more sites AND no more than 50% of the sites are contiguous.
- b. For single-site properties that are currently in default to a mortgage held by a federal agency, the documentation of site control may be held in abeyance until Carryover. In lieu of site control documentation, the project sponsor must produce a deed of the current owner, a letter from the federal agency indicating that the first mortgage which it holds is currently in default, that the federal agency is willing to proceed with a foreclosure action if the project is otherwise eligible for a tax credit reservation, and that foreclosure will be completed and title transferred to the project sponsor prior to the Carryover deadline for the project. No Carryover extensions will be permitted for any project that seeks this avenue of site control.

## 7. Market Study

A market study conducted by an independent, disinterested, third-party market study professional must be submitted with the application.

The market study provider must organize the study using the index provided by the Agency. Please refer to Exhibit K.

The study must include all of the following:

- a. Provide a brief executive summary in bullet format that briefly reviews the requirements listed below.
- b. Provide a concise conclusion by the author that indicates a market exists for the proposed project. The conclusion must include the estimated stable year vacancy rate and the estimated time needed to fully lease-up the proposed project. If the estimated stable year vacancy rate exceeds 7% and/or the estimated lease-up time exceeds one year, provide a detailed explanation for the higher rates.
- c. Describe the proposed project including location, number of units, number of bedrooms (efficiency, SRO, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and up), and project rents. This information must be consistent with the AHFA.
- d. Describe and provide a map of the effective market area for the proposed project. If the effective market area includes areas outside a five-mile radius from the proposed project, provide a detailed explanation for the larger area.
- e. Analyze the rents of the proposed project and the market rents for the project's effective market area. Include the methodology for the calculation of the market rents.
- f. Describe the number of **income-eligible renter households** in the proposed project's effective market area. Indicate the percentage of these households that are required to fully lease-up the project. If this percentage exceeds 10%, provide a detailed explanation for the higher rate.
- g. Describe and evaluate the public services (transportation, police, fire department, schools), infrastructure (roads, traffic) and community services (shopping, recreation, transportation, medical and services for special needs if applicable) in the effective market area. List the approximate distances to all the services. Also include a description and evaluation of employers serving the effective market area.
- h. If the project will be serving a special needs population, identify the number of special needs households residing in the effective market area. Indicate the percentage of these households that are required to meet the project's special needs set-aside. Information regarding the number of special needs households may be obtained from the local Continuum of Care study, local CHIS or Consolidated Plan, local Mental Health or MR/DD Board, homeless shelters, or other community social services agencies. Please document the source of your information.
- i. Describe the federally subsidized developments and Housing Credit projects - both operating and not yet placed in service - located in the project's effective market area. Housing Credit projects not yet placed in service must be included in the analysis. Provide the current vacancy rate for each project. Also, include the person(s) contacted for each competing project and the method of contact. Compare the rents, amenities, unit sizes, bedroom sizes, and populations served of the competing projects to the proposed project. Projects that receive a reservation may be required to amend their market study to incorporate those other projects receiving an allocation in the same round and are located in the same effective market area. A listing of Housing Credit projects in service and in development is located on the Agency's website: ***www.odod.state.oh.us/ohfa***. Calculate the ratio of subsidized and Housing Credit units to income eligible renter households.

- j. Estimate the vacancy rates of the Housing Credit projects - only those currently operating - located in the project's effective market area during the first stabilized year of the proposed project. If the estimated vacancy rates exceed 10%, provide a detailed explanation for the higher rates.
- k. Describe other comparable market rate developments located in the effective market area. Provide the current vacancy rate for each project. Also, include the person(s) contacted for each competing project and the method of contact. Compare the rents, amenities, unit sizes, bedroom sizes, and populations served of the competing projects to the proposed project.
- l. Evaluate and address the concerns or issues raised by the most local Public Housing Authority (PHA). The applicant or market study author must send a letter via certified mail to the local PHA. The letter must contain a brief description of the project and target population, instructions for the PHA to forward all comments to the market study author, and a statement that all comments must be submitted within 30 days from receipt of the letter. If the PHA does not respond to the letter or comments are submitted after the 30-day comment period, the market study author does not need to analyze the PHA's issues or concerns. Include in the market study a copy of the letter, certified mail receipt, and a copy of any letters from the PHA.
- m. Include an executed original ODOD Form 008 – Market Study Certification. The market analyst shall have no financial interest in the proposed project. Financial interest is deemed to be any remuneration other than the fee for preparing the market study. Furthermore, the fee assessed for the study shall not be contingent upon the proposed project being approved by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency.
- n. Provide a listing of all data sources used in the study.

The study must have been completed or updated by the author within one year prior to the application for Housing Credits.

The characteristics listed above are the minimum required to meet OHFA's threshold requirements. OHFA reserves the right to independently determine if a market exists for the proposed project and to require additional information and/or another market study.

## **8. Zoning**

The applicant must demonstrate that the zoning for each site on which the project will be located allows for the use(s) proposed by the applicant. Thus, at a minimum, the zoning designation for each site must allow residential use. Applicants must include the section of the local zoning map that clearly displays the project site location and the date of the map. In addition, a letter from the local jurisdiction must be submitted to confirm the zoning, and must include the following:

- a. The actual zoning designation and a description of this designation; and
- b. Any density and/or lot coverage requirements; and
- c. If a conditionally permitted use, explanation of the conditions to be met for the project to be considered a permitted use; and
- d. A description of any overlay or planned development district regulations that would further condition the development of the project.

For jurisdictions with no zoning regulations in effect, a letter from the jurisdiction so stating is required.

## **9. Public Notification**

The applicant must notify, in writing, certain officials from

- a. The political jurisdiction(s) in which the project will be located; and
- b. Any political jurisdiction(s) whose boundaries are located within one-half mile of the project's location.

The applicant must use the letter template provided in Exhibit I of the 2003 QAP. The notification must state the applicant's intent to develop a project using OHFA funding. The notification must be in writing and sent via certified mail, return receipt requested. Please provide a copy of the stamped post office receipt (return receipt not required) for certified mail and copies of your notification letters with your application. The letter must include:

- a. The project's address;
- b. The maximum number of units;
- c. The nature of the project (i.e. new construction or rehabilitation);
- d. **All OHFA programs utilized in the project;**
- e. A statement regarding the recipient's right to submit comments;
- f. The address of OHFA and to whom comments should be sent; and
- g. The recipient's rights and procedures to express disapproval or objection.

The officials to be notified include:

- a. Highest elected executive local political official and each member of the elected legislative body (i.e. mayor, city council);
- b. Members of the board of township trustees;
- c. Members of the board of county commissioners
- d. State Representative
- e. State Senator; and
- f. Governor's Regional Economic Development Representative (see Exhibit M)

Scattered site projects must complete the public notification process for sites under control at application and then again for remaining sites prior to the Carryover deadline. The notification must be evidenced at Carryover.

## 10. **Affirmative Marketing Plan**

The applicant must complete ODOD Form AFHM-98 -- Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan. **All items on the form must be completed correctly including all attachments.** The applicant must include on the form a description of the outreach, marketing, and advertising methods used in order to affirmatively market the project. The form and instructions are located in the AHFA.

## 11. **Conditional Financial Commitments**

All non-ODOD construction and permanent financing, grants, and equity sources shall be conditionally committed at the time of application. The executed conditional commitment letters from these sources must be included with the application. A conditional financing commitment shall contain at a minimum a) the amount of financing, b) the interest rate of the loan, c) the term and amortization period of the loan, and d) the contact person's name and telephone number.

Those applicants seeking funding from a local government, Federal Home Loan Bank, or other public or quasi-public funding source that does not issue a funding decision prior to the Housing Credit application deadline must substitute a letter of application or letter of intent from the funding source. The letter of application or letter of intent must be signed by the funding source

and shall include the name of the project, the number of units, the amount of funding sought, the terms and rates for the funding sought, anticipated date of funding decision, and a statement that the project is or will be considered for funding.

A conditional equity commitment must contain at a minimum a) The amount of Housing Credit equity - net and gross, b) The pay-in schedule for the equity, c) The cents per Housing Credit dollar factor used, and d) amount of historic equity (if any). The conditional commitment letters must be consistent with the information provided on the Housing Credit application. OHFA reserves the right to verify these commitment(s) and to require a legal opinion that will state that the project's sources should or should not affect the project's eligible basis and/or Housing Credit rate.

Projects participating in HUD's portfolio re-engineering program (Mark-to-Market) must provide a copy of the most recent underwriting model to evidence the anticipated amount of any HUD second mortgage.

Applicants who have been denied requested ODOD loans and/or grants may be required to submit conditional-funding commitments that will match the funding sought from ODOD. Failure to provide these conditional commitments may result in the rejection of the application or revocation of the project's reservation.

## **12. Preliminary Plans and Specifications**

The applicant must submit preliminary plans and specifications that provide a description of the proposed development. All projects should submit the following:

1. Typical unit plan(s) including the square footage of each unit;
2. Building elevation (photographs are acceptable for rehabilitation projects);
3. Site plan (scattered site projects exempted);
4. Detailed scope of work (rehabilitation projects only); and
5. Completed ODOD Form 002 - Accessibility Certification.

***The Agency reserves the right to reject any unit plans that are not drawn accurately and to scale.***

## **13. Maximum Credit Cap**

***The Agency restricts any project to \$1,000,000 in annual Housing Credits. In addition,*** the Agency restricts any user to ~~\$1,100,000~~ ***\$1,500,000*** in annual Housing Credits. "Users" to which the credit cap applies are ~~projects~~, actual general partners, and parent organizations of general partner entities or affiliates of the general partner or managing members of entities to which tax credits have been awarded. Affiliate is any entity who directly or indirectly controls another entity or has a Controlling Interest in the entity. Controlling Interest is defined as the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of an entity, whether through the means of ownership, position, contract, or otherwise. In addition, controlling means the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of an entity, whether through the means of ownership, position, contract, or otherwise.

The Agency reserves the right to determine to which entities the maximum credit cap may apply. Any such determinations shall apply only to the applications received in ~~2002~~ ***2003***, and such determinations shall not be bound or limited by any determinations by the Agency for any previous year. ***The Agency reserves the right to combine the credit amounts for projects located***

*in close proximity to each other and sharing similar attributes. Possible examples include similar project type, construction style, or development team.* The annual credit total will be applied equally to the general partners, regardless of ownership interest; thus, a 51% general partner will have the entire project credit total applied toward its cap, rather than 51% of the credit total.

**14. Unit Cost Cap**

The total development cost (total project cost minus cost of land, commercial hard construction, bridge loan interest, operating reserves, OHFA compliance monitoring fee and replacement reserves) per unit must not exceed 110% of the HUD 221 (d)(3) mortgage limits by bedroom size (see Exhibit C). Projects receiving historic rehabilitation tax credits will be allowed to deduct the residential portion of the historic tax credit from the project cost to allow for stricter rehabilitation standards. The Agency may, on a case-by-case basis, allow a project receiving historic rehabilitation tax credits or participating in HUD's portfolio re-engineering program to exceed the unit cost cap. Portfolio re-engineering projects should include a copy of the projects Physical Condition Assessment to demonstrate the potential unit cost. ~~However, total adjusted eligible basis (before qualified census tract adjustment) will be limited to the HUD 221(d)(3) mortgage limits.~~ The Agency reserves the right to reduce basis for all projects at Carryover and 8609 reviews to compensate for increased costs.

**15. Utility Allowance Information**

Utility allowance information provided must be consistent with Section 42 of the IRC *and IRS Regulation 1.42-10.*

**16. Good Standing with ODOD Housing Programs**

If any controlling or managing owner (LLC or proprietorship), or general partner (partnership) was involved with a project that is in a state of uncured noncompliance (both IRS regulations and OHFA application requirements) due to site audits or the failure to comply with owner reporting requirements during the period of January 1, ~~2001~~ **2002** through date of application or remains in a state of noncompliance from a previous year, the project will be rejected. Owners who received an uncured Form 8823 due to a building transfer will still be considered in good standing. In addition, owners or general partners not in compliance or not in good standing with other OHFA programs will be subject to threshold rejection of their applications.

Non-profits and/or for-profit housing developers that previously received assistance from the Office of Housing and Community Partnerships (OHCP) or any other Ohio Department of Development division must be in compliance with the applicable program regulations and guidelines. Aforementioned entities that are not in compliance will have 15 working days from receipt of a deficiency letter to rectify the deficiencies or be subject to a threshold rejection of the application(s).

Owners, general partners, and other development team members involved with projects subject to a Voluntary Compliance Agreement or other similar agreements between ODOD and HUD must be currently complying with the terms of the agreement. OHFA reserves the right to reject the current application of owners, general partners, and other development team members who are either not cooperating with, or are in violation of an agreement.

**17. Adherence to Agency Underwriting Standards**

The Agency has certain underwriting standards that must be met or exceeded to pass threshold review. In addition, the Agency may require a legal opinion stating that any government sources utilized by the project will or will not affect the eligible basis and/or credit rate as a condition of the Housing Credit reservation. The project must comply with the following underwriting standards:

- a. Developer's fee and overhead less one-half of the deferred portion of the fee, and any consultant fees may not exceed 15% of total eligible basis. Projects with 32 units or less may go up to 20% of total eligible basis. The Agency reserves the right to combine the costs for projects located in close proximity to each other and share similar attributes such as project type, construction style, development team. The Agency will use the combined costs to evaluate the fee percentages for the projects. In addition, for acquisition and substantial rehabilitation projects, the total developer's fee cannot exceed the sum of 5% of the acquisition eligible basis and 15% of the substantial rehabilitation eligible basis. For projects with 32 units or less the total developer's fee cannot exceed the sum of 5% of the acquisition eligible basis and 20% of the substantial rehabilitation eligible basis. For HUD-TPA projects, the total developer's fee cannot exceed the sum of 10% of the acquisition eligible basis and 15% of the substantial rehabilitation eligible basis.
- b. Contractor's profit, overhead, and general requirements may not exceed 14% of total eligible basis.
- c. Total soft costs may not exceed 35% of total eligible basis. Total soft costs means the sum of general requirements, contractor overhead, architectural fees, survey costs, engineering fees, permanent loan fees, costs of tax-exempt bond issuance, taxes, appraisal, market study, environmental report, rent-up/marketing costs, title & recording, non-syndication legal fees, consultant fees, organizational fees, and syndication fees.
- d. The total of the project's permanent financing sources must equal the total project costs at the time of application. After the Agency's initial underwrite, any financial shortfalls cannot exceed 10% of total project costs.

## **18. Site Location and Photographs**

Applicants must include a clear map identifying the exact location of the project site. In addition, color photographs of each site location must be included with the application. Please include photographs of the area surrounding the project.

## **19. Consistency with HDAP funding**

Projects seeking funding through the Housing Development Assistance Program (HDAP) must initially meet the following requirements:

- a. Minimum 40% of the units occupied by and affordable to households at or below 50% AMGI and cannot exceed the HUD low HOME rent for the county where the project will be located. If the project is in a non-participating jurisdiction, the project must commit a minimum of 35% of the project to occupancy and affordability at 50% AMGI with rents at the HUD low HOME rent; ~~and~~
- b. Completion of the appropriate section of the AHFA;
- c. ***Projects located in a participating jurisdiction (PJ) must evidence conditional financing commitment(s) from a unit of local government in an amount greater than or equal to the amount of HDAP funding sought from OHFA.***

## **20. Minimum Project Standards**

In addition to meeting all new construction and rehabilitation standards required within Section 42 and local and state building codes, each unit must provide a refrigerator and stove in good working order. OHFA reserves the right to allow exceptions to these standards on a case-by-case basis.

**21. Conformity with Local Consolidated Plan/Comprehensive Housing Improvement Strategy**

Applicants must evidence that their project meets community housing needs through the local Consolidated Plan or Comprehensive Housing Improvement Strategy (CHIS). Applicants will be required to secure approval from the local agency that administers the Consolidated Plan or CHIS. It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine which plan applies. Please see Exhibits E and F for a listing of cities and counties with a Consolidated Plan or CHIS. If no local Consolidated Plan or CHIS exists in the community in which the project is located, the project must conform to the state Consolidated Plan. A completed ODOD Form 003 signed by the appropriate official from the city, county, or state must be included with the application.

## D. Competitive Review

The Agency has developed an allocation scoring system based on the identified housing needs for Ohio, as well as federal mandates for the Housing Credit Program. Points are awarded based on the criteria illustrated below, and reflect a scale of ~~775~~ 750 points.

Ohio is a diverse state incorporating urban, suburban, small cities, and rural areas. Due to Ohio's diversity and the goal of equitable distribution of the credit, the population credit will be divided to accommodate minimum amounts of credit distributed throughout Ohio. Approximately ~~60%~~ 65% of the population credit will be divided between the preservation pool, described below, and three geographic pools as shown in Exhibit J of the QAP and approximately ~~40%~~ 35% of the population credit will be allocated to a general pool. Applications will be reviewed in all *applicable* pools.

OHFA reserves the right to limit the amount of credit in the geographic pool if project scores in any pool are not determined competitive by OHFA. OHFA will utilize funds from the general pool to fully fund projects that qualify for partial funding from any geographic pool.

**Scoring/Ranking Procedure:** Projects will be evaluated in ~~two~~ *three* stages:

**Stage One - Geographic Pools:** The projects will be separated based on their location into three geographic pools (*see Exhibit J*). The points for the Project Location criterion will be subtracted from the projects' scores. The projects will then be ranked from highest score to lowest in each pool, and OHFA will award, from highest scoring project to lowest, up to the maximum amount of Housing Credit for that pool. *Any remaining credits will be allocated to the general pool.*

**Stage Two - Preservation Pool:** The Agency will award approximately ~~10%~~ 15% of the population credit in a preservation pool. Projects that are eligible for the full ~~25~~ 30 points in the At-Risk criterion (criterion II.b. - Page 26) or received an allocation of credits in 1987, 1988, or 1989 may participate in this pool. ~~The Agency will award credits to projects in the preservation pool before awarding credits in the geographic and general pools.~~

Projects in the preservation pool will be evaluated as follows: The points for the At-Risk criterion will be subtracted from the projects' scores. The projects will then be ranked from highest score to lowest in the pool, and OHFA will award, from highest scoring project to lowest, up to the maximum amount of Housing Credits for the preservation pool. Any remaining credits will be allocated to the general pool.

**Stage ~~Two~~ Three - General Pool:** Projects that did not receive an allocation in ~~Stage One~~ *the geographic or preservation pools may submit revisions to their applications, and* will then be grouped into one general pool. ~~The points for the Project Location criterion will be added back to the projects' scores.~~ The projects will ~~then~~ be ranked from highest score to lowest, and OHFA will award, from highest scoring project to lowest, up to the maximum amount of Housing Credit for the general pool.

**Tie-Breaking Procedure:** Projects will be ranked by their scores for the Competitive Criteria categories (a subtotal of all sub-criteria) listed below. If the tie remains, the Agency will rank the projects by their scores for the next Competitive Criteria category, until the tie is broken.

Tie-Breaking Order:

1. Applicant Characteristics (VI.a. - VI.d.)
2. Project Characteristics (II.a. - II.g.)
3. Local Government Support (IV.a. - IV.c.)

4. Public Benefit (I.a. - I.d.)
5. Project Location (III.a.)
6. Project Costs (Va. - Vb.)

If the tie remains, the Agency will rank the projects by the following:

7. Most Underserved County (based on Housing Credits reserved in 2003) in that Pool
8. Lowest Housing Credit Request in that Pool

For example, Projects A and B both have a competitive score of 700. Project A's total score for criteria VI.a. through VI.d. was 50, and Project B's total score for criteria VI.a. through VI.d. was 40. Therefore, Project A would be ranked ahead of Project B.

OHFA will institute the tie-breaking procedure in all pools.

**Competitive Cure Period:** Applicants will have a one-time opportunity to correct up to two administrative errors or omissions regarding certain competitive criteria. Corrections will only be permitted for the following items:

Special Needs Supportive Service Plan	<del>Resident Council Formation Plan</del>
<del>Energy Efficiency Items</del>	At-Risk Housing Documentation
Documentation of Leveraging of Federal Funds	Documentation of Historic Status
Letters of Local Government Support	Lease-Purchase Strategy
Letters of Other Local Support	<del>Universal Design Options</del>
Evidence of Ability to Proceed	<b><i>Documentation of Value-Added Items</i></b>
<b><i>Evidence of Management Company Experience</i></b>	<b><i>Documentation of Ownership Value-Added</i></b>

During the round, the Agency will notify all applicants of their preliminary project scores, and then applicants will have one week to submit additional information. Based on the original application and any additional documents, the Agency will issue revised scores for the projects. The Agency will not accept any additional information after the one-week cure period. All changes including but not limited to changes in ownership, development team, project physical structure, project costs, project financing, site(s), special needs population, value-added items and project location will not be permitted. Please be advised that certain items are date sensitive and must have been completed on or before the application deadline to be eligible for points. Please review the descriptions of the Competitive Criteria (pages 24-39) for more information.

**Appeals:** Applicants may appeal their preliminary project score, Housing Credit amount (at Binding Reservation, Carryover and 8609), or Threshold rejection if the applicant believes OHFA has erred in its determination. The applicant must submit the appeal in writing to the Director of the Office of Planning, Preservation & Development. The appeal must be sent to the Agency within one week of notification of results.

In the appeal, the applicant must state the objections to the Agency's determinations and give specific reasons why the Agency's decision should be overturned. Any documentation to support the Threshold and Competitive appeal can be provided, but will not override the documentation or materials which were included in the original application or provided during the threshold or competitive cure period.

Upon receipt of the appeal letter, an appeals committee comprised of Agency personnel, excluding Housing Credit staff, will review and respond in writing to the sponsor. The Committee may review the project in its entirety. The appeal will be granted only if the applicant can document that the Agency has erred in its review of the project application or in determining the credit amount.

AN APPEAL IS JUDGED SOLELY UPON THE MATERIALS THAT WERE PROPERLY AND TIMELY SUBMITTED WITH THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION OR DURING THE THRESHOLD AND COMPETITIVE REVIEW DEFICIENCY CORRECTION PERIOD.

**COMPETITIVE CRITERIA**

**I. Public Benefit**

**a. Project Rents -- 200 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects whose rent structure will be affordable to households below 60% of AMGI (defined by HUD), adjusted for family size (see Exhibit A). Ten (10) points will be given for each 1% below 60% AMGI, down to 40% AMGI. The applicant may choose up to three rent elections, upon which the rent average will be derived. Projects located in counties with AMGI levels below the county(s) with the highest state AMGI will receive points toward the maximum rent score (see Exhibit B for income adjustment points, ***which are subject to change based on the 2003 HUD Rent & Income Limits***). The sum of the points for the rent structure and the income adjustment points applicable to the project location will determine the total points in this category, but in no case will points total more than 200.

**b. Mixed-Income Projects -- ~~20~~ 10 Point Maximum**

The Agency uses the Internal Revenue Service definition of mixed-income as any unit that is not a tax credit unit. Preference will be given to projects that consist of market rate and affordable rental housing units. The market rate units must be dispersed throughout the project and cannot all be located in one building or selected floors within a building. Points will be awarded based on the ratio of market rate units to total project units, according to the following scale:

<del>15% - 39% Market Rate</del>	<del>15 Points</del>
40% or greater Market Rate	20 Points
<b>50% or greater market rate units</b>	<b>10 Points</b>

Projects that contain scattered site single-family ***detached structures*** ~~homes~~ where no more than 50% of the sites are contiguous are ineligible for Mixed-Income Project points. The Agency reserves the right to combine projects located in close proximity to each other and share similar attributes such as project type, construction style, development team. The Agency will use the unit mix for the combined projects to determine the "mixed-income" points for each project. Market rate units cannot have any rent or income restrictions imposed by any OHFA program. Projects that are 100% project-based Section 8 are not eligible for mixed-income points. However, rent and income restrictions imposed by other entities (e.g. FHLB, etc.) will be acceptable.

**c1. Special Needs Populations -- 40 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects that serve special needs populations. Experienced service coordinators, evidence of service coordinator salary or an in-kind service agreement, additional market study requirements - see Page 13, and supportive service plans containing specified services (see Exhibit L.) are required for all special needs populations. With regards to the supportive service plans, applicants will be permitted to provide minimal updates to their plans during the Competitive Cure period. However, in order to receive the special needs points, a reasonable quality plan must be included with the original application by the submission deadline. **Unit set-asides are required for all special needs populations and are based on a percentage of all units in the project.** Exceptions to set-aside requirements may be considered on a case-by-

case basis if the set-aside requirement is inconsistent with other federal programs or any fair housing regulations.

Thirty-five (35) points will be awarded to projects serving one of the following special needs populations:

1. Persons with a mobility or sensory impairment
  - 20% minimum unit set aside
  - All units and buildings must contain at least 20 universal design features as described on ODOD Form 005
2. Persons with a developmental disability
  - 20% maximum unit set aside and exact percentage must be established in collaboration with the local MR/DD agency (owners must initially offer 20% of the units to be set-aside), the final set-aside must be equal to or greater than ~~10%~~ 5% of the total units
3. Persons with severe and persistent mental illness
  - 20% maximum unit set aside and exact percentage must be established in collaboration with the local ADAMHS or Mental Health Board (owners must initially offer 20% of the units to be set-aside), the final set-aside must be equal to or greater than ~~10%~~ 5% of the total units.
4. Persons/households that are extremely low-income (35% AMGI or below)
  - 20% minimum unit set aside, units must be occupied by and affordable to households with incomes at or below 35% AMGI.

~~Thirty (30) points will be awarded to projects serving the following special needs population:~~

- ~~5a. Persons who are elderly (55 years and older)~~  
~~- 100% minimum unit set aside, all buildings must contain only one story unless an elevator is provided, and an application cannot receive points for lease purchase of units~~

Thirty-five (35) points will be awarded to projects serving the following special needs population:

- 5b. Persons who are elderly (55 years and older)
- 100% minimum unit set aside, all buildings must contain only one story unless an elevator is provided, and an application cannot receive points for lease purchase of units.
  - ***Units may contain no more than two bedrooms.***
  - All units and buildings must contain at least 20 universal design features as described on ODOD Form 005 in addition to grab bars in the bathrooms (in shower and around the toilet).
  - The project must contain common space equal to the lesser of 5% of the total residential square footage for the entire project or 20 square feet per number of units in entire project. Project must annually set-aside at least \$100 per unit for service coordination.

An additional 5 points will be awarded to the two highest scoring projects for each special needs population ***in each funding round***, except for elderly persons. The points will be awarded after OHFA reviews the scores of all projects, and OHFA will use its tie-breaking procedures (see Page 22) if necessary to determine the two highest scores.

Projects that receive points for Special Needs (I.c1.) may not receive points for Family Housing (I.c2.).

**c2. Family Housing -- 30 Point Maximum**

Thirty (30) points will be awarded to projects that are not specifically designed for special needs populations and target low-income families and individuals. All projects still must comply with federal and state fair housing and accessibility requirements.

Projects that receive points for Family Housing (I.c2.) may not receive points for Special Needs (I.c1.).

**II. Project Characteristics**

**a. Creation of Affordable Housing -- 30 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects that create decent, safe, and sanitary affordable housing units, through new construction, adaptive reuse, and/or for substantial rehabilitation (rehabilitation hard costs that exceed 50% of total project costs minus costs of land, and ~~in the Preservation Pool only~~, any soft subordinate debt restructured by HUD under the Mark-to-Market Program or other HUD Programs). Rehabilitation hard costs include hard construction, on-site improvements, construction contingency, furnishings, and appliances. For buildings with multiple uses (commercial and residential), adaptive reuse points will be awarded if at least 50% of the total floor space of the building was non-residential in its most previous use. OHFA will separately analyze the costs of projects that are a combination of new construction and substantial rehabilitation, and will prorate points if necessary.

**b. At-risk Housing -- 30 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to the following projects:

1. Projects receiving project-based rental subsidy through a Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment Program (HAP) contract that has expired or is due to expire by December 31, ~~2004~~ ***2005***. ***At least 75% of the units in the project must qualify in order to receive points in this category.*** Documentation from HUD that evidences the assistance and length of the contract must be submitted with the application. A new owner must accept the project-based rental subsidy if it is offered from HUD. If a compelling reason exists for the new owner to not accept the subsidy, the applicant must include a narrative that explains this decision and should submit letters supporting this decision from the tenant council (if one exists), local government official(s), and a local or statewide low-income housing advocacy group that receives OTAG funding from HUD.
2. Troubled projects that have received assistance through the USDA Rural Development (RD) office. Applicants must provide a letter from the RD office that details the current situation for the project, explains the need for housing credits, and approves of the current or proposed owner(s) and management company.
3. Projects participating in the HUD Portfolio Reengineering Program. Applicants must provide a letter of eligibility from HUD and be assigned to a Participating Administrative Entity (PAE). ***Projects that have closed their financing under this program since March 1, 2000 are also eligible for points.***
4. HUD Section 202 or 811 projects placed-in-service prior to 1979.
5. ***HUD Section 236 projects that include decoupling of the Interest Reduction Payment (IRP).***

For each project type *items 2. - 5.* listed above, points will be prorated based on the percentage of units subsidized or financed through the federal programs listed above ***100% of the units in the project must qualify in order to receive points in this category.*** At-risk Housing points will also be prorated ~~further~~ based on the project's applicable fraction (percentage of housing credit units or floor space).

**c. Unit Size -- 15 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects whose residential living space for low-income units exceed certain standards for square footage. Points will be awarded based on the following scale:

SRO Units:	Exceed 400 S.F.
Efficiency:	Exceed 450 S.F.
1-Bedroom Units:	Exceed 650 S.F.
2-Bedroom Units:	Exceed 850 S.F.
3-Bedroom Units:	Exceed 1000 S.F.
4-Bedroom Units:	Exceed 1150 S.F.

Points will be calculated as the total number of low-income units, that exceed the above standards, divided by the total number of low-income units. This percentage will then be multiplied by 15 to award the points in this category.

**d. Preservation of Historic Buildings -- ~~25~~ 15 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects that evidence use of historic rehabilitation tax credits. Projects are eligible to receive points if the building(s) is/are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Applicants must include documentation indicating that the project is indeed individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. If the building(s) is/are not individually listed in the National Register then the project applicant must have submitted a Part 1 application ("Evaluation of Significance") and received a recommendation for approval by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office. Applicants must submit their complete Part 1 application to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office no later than 30 days prior to the round application submission deadline. At least 75% of the total units must be located in eligible historic buildings in order for a project to receive points in this category. Points will be prorated based on the percentage of total units located in eligible historic buildings. In addition, to be eligible for these points, one of the project's General Partners or the Contractor must provide evidence of having successfully completed and placed-in-service at least one other historic project by including with the housing credit application a certificate of occupancy or 8609 Form(s).

**e. Lease Purchase of Units -- ~~20~~ 15 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects that offer homeownership opportunities to qualified tenants after the initial 15-year compliance period. Applicants must have a viable homeownership strategy for tenants who inhabit the units during the compliance period. The strategy must incorporate an exit strategy, homeownership counseling, and a minimum amount of funds set-aside by the owner for the tenant to assist in the purchase. Applicants will be permitted to provide minimal updates to their lease purchase strategies during the Competitive Cure period. However, in order to receive the lease purchase points, a reasonable quality strategy must be included with the original application by the submission deadline.

Points are available according to the following scale:

<del>85% to 100% lease purchase:</del>	<del>20 points</del>
<del>75% to 84%</del> <b>85% to 100%</b> lease purchase:	15 points

<del>65% to 74%</del> <b>70% to 84%</b> lease purchase:	10 points
<del>50% to 64%</del> <b>50% to 69%</b> lease purchase:	5 points

Scattered site projects will be evaluated based on sites under control at application. The percentage of lease purchase units at application must be maintained at Carryover and 8609. All sites must be owned (long-term leases are unacceptable) and properly sub-divided by the Carryover submission deadline. As with site control requirements, projects may be required to reduce overall sites subsequent to application to maintain consistency with their initial lease purchase commitment.

The only types of units eligible for these points are single-family detached structures. The detached structures in new construction projects must be at least four (4) feet apart and neither joined nor touching in any manner.

**f. Value-Added to a Project -- 45 50 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to owners that provide additional benefits to the housing, residents, and community. Five (5) points will be awarded for each item listed below, except for item 12 which is worth 10 points, that is properly evidenced in the application, ~~total not to exceed 45 points~~. ***A maximum of 50 points are available in this category. Projects that receive points for Lease Purchase of Units (criterion II.e.) may receive a maximum of 45 points in this category.*** Please refer to the AHFA for additional submission requirements.

1. Provide on-site security (at least 20 hours per week), on-site police substation, individual security systems with a basic monitoring service (fee paid by owner), or a block watch implementation plan coordinated with the local police or sheriff departments.
2. Provide an on-site manager (at least 20 hours per week) - scattered site projects are ineligible.
3. The project is consistent with a local community revitalization plan, not including the CHIS or Consolidated Plan, that incorporates affordable rental housing. ***The revitalization plan must have been approved by a local jurisdiction, such as a county, township, or municipal government, or a neighborhood commission.***
4. Allow for a non-profit with five years housing experience at the time of application and service in the community, evidenced by a resume, to obtain first position to purchase the limited partner interest at the end of the 15-year compliance period - lease purchase projects are ineligible.
5. Incorporate twelve universal design options - see ODOT Form 005.
6. The buildings are townhomes or single family detached structures.
7. a) An on-site community room (minimum floor space must be equal to the lesser of 3% of the total residential square footage of the project or 20 square feet per unit, but in no case smaller than 1000 square feet) that will be available to all residents. The minimum floor space is defined as areas available for all residents and does not include areas utilized by employees of the project, such as maintenance facilities, leasing office, and manager's office.  
b) Only single-family detached homes receive points for full basements (must contain at least 200 square feet with seven-foot high ceilings) that are not bedrooms.
8. Provide units that have at least 1½ ~~or more~~ bathrooms - ***these units must contain at least two bedrooms.***
9. Provide on-site individual garages (must contain at least 160 square feet each) without extra charge.

10. Provide a reasonable resident council formation plan including timelines for implementation and initial marketing efforts - plan must be included with the application. If a resident council already exists the project will be eligible for these value-added points. However, the owner must describe how they will assist and actively work with the existing council.
11. Provide a parking lot with concrete curbs for a single site project or a parking garage on-site for a single site mid-rise or high-rise building. ***The number of parking spaces must at a minimum meet local zoning codes.***
12. Incorporate energy efficiency items above minimum code requirements as certified on ODOD Form 009.

An item must apply to at least 50% of all units and will be prorated using the following scale:

100% of total units	5 points (10 points - Item 12. only)
90-99% of total units	4 points (8 points - Item 12. only)
80-89% of total units	3 points (6 points - Item 12. only)
65-79% of total units	2 points (4 points - Item 12. only)
50-64% of total units	1 point (2 points - Item 12. only)

All value-added items must be provided without any additional fees charged to the residents.

Projects will be monitored based on the above commitments, and may be issued an 8823 form for non-compliance if the items are not being provided.

**g. Leveraging Federal Funds – 20 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects that receive specific assistance (see list below) from the U.S. Department of Agriculture or Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The assistance must be conditionally committed by the application deadline. The assistance must finance at least 20% of the total costs for the project or provide operating subsidy for at least 75% (~~except for the Project Based Voucher program~~) of the units in the project. Applicants must provide evidence of the assistance in the application. Projects that receive “at-risk” points (criterion II.b.) are ineligible for these points.

**Applicants may receive points for only ONE of the following:**

1. Projects receiving a Rural Development 515-New Construction Loan ~~or Rural Development 538 Loan Guarantee~~ will receive 20 points.
2. Projects receiving capital assistance or operating subsidy from the HUD McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program (Shelter Plus Care, SRO Assistance, or Permanent Housing for the Handicapped Homeless) will receive 15 points. If the entity receiving the McKinney-Vento funding is not part of the project ownership, applications must include evidence that funds are committed to the project and subsidize at least 75% of the units, copies of the grant award, and copies of the contract between the award recipient and the project.

~~Project Based Vouchers (must provide subsidy for the greater of 20% of the total units or 8 units for at least 10 years) from the local Metropolitan Housing Authority will receive 15 points. The Agency will accept a conditional commitment for vouchers, however the only acceptable condition is the receipt of housing credits. A firm commitment of vouchers must be submitted within 30 days of notification of a reservation of housing credits. If a waiver from HUD is required for Project Based Vouchers, evidence of such a waiver must be included with the Housing Credit application. The Agency reserves the right to~~

~~seek guidance from HUD to determine whether a waiver is required for a particular project. Furthermore, the applicant should note that projects with 9 or more Project Based Voucher units may require Davis Bacon prevailing wage rates for the project. HOPE VI projects are not eligible for Project Based voucher points.~~

3. Projects funded through a HOPE VI *revitalization* grant from HUD. Applicants must provide documentation that evidences the HOPE VI grant award. For purposes of OHFA's maximum credit cap, the annual credit amount will be applied to all general partners and the PHA that received the HOPE VI grant award. The project must set aside a minimum of 20% of the units in the project for Public Housing residents. HOPE VI projects will receive ~~40~~ 5 points.

### III. Project Location

#### a. Location in a Qualified Census Tract, a RD Designated Place, or a Low-Income County --20 Point Maximum

Twenty (20) points will be awarded to projects located in the following:

1. Qualified census tracts (as defined by HUD) that qualify for the 130% basis adjustment (see Exhibit D).
2. Within the corporation limits or proposed annexation area of a designated place defined by the USDA Rural Development (RD) office. Please refer to Exhibit G for the specific locations.
3. ~~Low income county, defined as counties whose median incomes are below 80% (HUD definition of low income) of the state's 2002 non-metropolitan area median income. Those counties that qualify under this category are as follows:~~

~~Adams Jackson Monroe Perry Scioto  
Harrison Meigs Morgan Pike Vinton  
Lawrence **Guernsey**~~

3. *Distressed Counties, defined by ORC Section 5733.33 and identified by the Ohio Department of Development in 2002. The following counties qualify in this category:*

*Adams Ashtabula Belmont Coshocton  
Crawford Gallia Guernsey Harrison  
Hocking Huron Jackson Jefferson  
Lawrence Meigs Monroe Morgan  
Muskingum Noble Perry Pike  
Richland Scioto Vinton Washington*

4. A high-income census tract (see Exhibit H). The total number of low-income units from existing projects and the proposed project may not exceed 100. The number of existing low-income units in the census tract must be identified in the market study.

Scattered site projects will be evaluated based on the sites controlled at application.

These points will not be used for the scores of projects competing in the geographic pools.

#### **IV. Local Government Support**

##### **a. Letters of Local Government Support -- 35 Point Maximum**

Applicants may receive points for only ***ONE*** of the following:

1. Thirty-five (35) points will be given to applicants who have obtained a resolution of support from the local government in which the project is located. For incorporated jurisdictions, the resolution would come from the council. For unincorporated jurisdictions, the resolution would come from the township trustees. A copy of the official resolution must be included with the application. The resolution must indicate the number of units in the project including a breakdown between low-income and market rate units and specifically mention any special needs populations to be served or indicate that the project is not targeted for a special needs population. If the local government withdraws its support during the 45-day local notification response period due to any inaccuracy in the original resolution, the project will lose local government support points. The resolution must be signed and dated on or before the application deadline.
2. Thirty (30) points will be given to applicants who provide a letter signed by the President of the city council for incorporated areas or a majority of the township trustees for unincorporated areas, when council or trustees will not pass a resolution. The letter must state that the local government has voted in support of the proposed project. The letter must provide the location of the project with reasonable specificity and state specific support for the project. The letter of support must be on official letterhead or indicate in the letter that letterhead is not available, indicate the number of units in the project including a breakdown between low-income and market rate units, and specifically mention any special needs populations to be served or indicate that the project is not targeted for a special needs population. The signature(s) must be notarized. If the local government withdraws its support during the 45-day local notification response period due to any inaccuracy in the original support letter, the project will lose local government support points. The letter must be signed and dated on or before the application deadline.
3. Twenty-five (25) points will be given to applicants who have obtained local government support for the proposed project through an affirmative letter by the highest-elected official of the most local jurisdiction in which the project is located. For incorporated jurisdictions, the letter must come from the mayor. For unincorporated jurisdictions, the president of the board of township trustees must sign the letter. The letter must provide the location of the project with reasonable specificity and state specific support for the project. The letter of support must be on official letterhead or indicate in the letter that letterhead is not available, indicate the number of units in the project including a breakdown between low-income and market rate units, and specifically mention any special needs populations to be served or indicate that the project is not targeted for a special needs population. The signature(s) of the local official(s) must be notarized. If the local government withdraws its support during the 45-day local notification response period due to any inaccuracy in the original support letter, the project will lose local government support points. The letter must be signed and dated on or before the application deadline.

Tax credit applications for a project that will have units in more than one local government jurisdiction must provide resolutions or letters of support from all jurisdictions in which there are

project units. Points for local government support letters will not be pro-rated. If different types of support are received for a single project, the lower(est) points will be awarded.

**b. Letters of Other Local Support -- 35 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to applicants who have obtained the support of other local officials, groups, or agencies that represent or serve the jurisdiction in which the project will be located. Five (5) points will be awarded, total not to exceed 35 points, for an affirmative signed support letter from each of the following entities:

1. Neighborhood Association/Commission/Economic Development Organization (unless it is the applicant) - only one organization will be considered
2. United States Representative
3. State Representative
4. State Senator
5. A local social services agency that provides services or service referrals to the project's target population (unless it is the applicant or is related to the applicant) - only one agency will be considered
6. Majority of the County Commissioners will be given 10 points
7. Public Housing Authority (unless it is the applicant)
8. School Superintendent
9. Chamber of Commerce
10. City/County Engineer or City/County Planner
11. Community Action Agency (unless it is the applicant)

For projects with buildings in multiple jurisdictions/service areas, the letters must be from the jurisdictions/service areas in which the majority of the buildings will be located (e.g. a project will be located in three different state representative districts and therefore, OHFA will only award five points for a letter from the state representative of the jurisdiction in which the majority of buildings will be located). Letters must be specific to the project, contain a specific affirmative statement of support, and contain information (address, number of units, etc.) consistent with information in the application. The letters must be signed and dated on or before the application deadline.

**V. Project Costs**

**a. Developer Fees and Overhead -- 80 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects whose developer's fees and overhead percentage is below the maximum threshold figure of 15% (20% for projects with 32 units or less). Before calculating the fee percentage, OHFA will subtract one-half of the deferred developer's fee from the total fee amount. In addition, developer's fees and overhead includes any fees paid to consultants and is computed as a percentage of total eligible basis. ~~Ten~~ **Sixteen (16)** points will be awarded for each 1% below 15% (20% for projects with 32 units or less), up to a maximum of 80 points.

**b. Combined Contractor Profit, Overhead and General Requirements Fee Percentage -- 70 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects whose combined contractor profit, overhead, and general requirements percentage is below the maximum threshold figure of 14%. This combined percentage is calculated as the percentage of total eligible basis. Ten points will be awarded for each 1% below 14%, up to a maximum of 70 points.

## VI. Applicant Characteristics

### a. Ability to Proceed -- 30 Point Maximum

Preference will be given to applicants who have demonstrated that the project has completed certain steps in the development process. Applicants can receive points for the following development steps:

1. Completion of Phase 1 Environmental Review (ER): 20 Points
  - must submit with application a copy of the executive summary(ies) of the ER(s), the ER(s) must meet ASTM standards, and the owner must address any issues raised in the ER(s)
2. Primary utilities are available to the site: 10 Points
  - for New Construction projects only
  - primary utilities include electricity, water, and sewer
  - must submit a letter indicating availability from the utility provider(s)
- ~~3. Site plan approval: 10 Points~~
  - ~~- Must submit a letter from the appropriate local government certifying that the owner has completed the entire site planning process or that no further planning process exists. Single family scattered projects are ineligible for site plan approval points.~~
4. For rehabilitation projects only: (See exhibit N)
  - If seeking acquisition credits, an appraisal which meets all carryover standards 10 Points
  - Capital Needs Assessment which meets all carryover standards 10 Points

All information including environmental study and ~~site plan approval evidence~~ must be completed, signed, and dated on or before the application deadline.

For scattered site projects, points will be based solely on the required number of sites under control at application. For projects that are a combination of new construction and substantial rehabilitation, OHFA will prorate points if necessary. All points will be prorated based on the number of units affected by the various items.

### b1. General Partner Affordable Housing Funding Experience -- 15 Point Maximum

Preference will be given to projects whose general partner/owner or parent organization has had previous experience in the United States in securing public funds for the development of affordable housing. Points will be prorated based on percentage of ownership. The minimum ownership share in the proposed project to be considered for points is 25%. In addition, to be eligible for points, the ownership of the proposed project must be maintained for 10 years. Each general partner must be a material participant in the proposed project as well as a material participant in the projects submitted for point consideration. Local Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) administrators such as local governments or Community Action Agencies administering the CHIP program on behalf of the local government may also qualify for experience points. Points are based on years of experience as well as a minimum number of units:

1-2 Years	20 units:	5 Points
3-4 Years	40 units:	10 Points
5+ Years	60 units:	15 Points

Experience from other states may be included. However, if the owner has no experience in Ohio, then the point scale will be as follows:

<del>2-3</del> <b>3-4</b> Years	<del>20</del> <b>40</b> units	5 Points
<b>4+</b> 5+ Years	<del>40</del> <b>60</b> units	10 Points

Applicants will receive points based on the lesser of years of experience or units produced using public funding. Units must be completed and placed in service ***on or before the application deadline*** to be eligible for points.

Note that points will only be awarded for the construction and/or rehabilitation of affordable housing units based on public subsidy--weatherization is not included.

Each eligible general partner/owner will receive a score of the greater of b1. - General Partner Affordable Housing Funding Experience, b2. - General Partner Housing Credit Experience, or b3. - General Partner Combined Affordable Housing Funding and Housing Credit Experience. Points will be awarded for only one of these criteria. The project will receive the total of the scores (prorated by ownership percentage) for each eligible general partner/owner.

**b2. General Partner Housing Credit Experience -- 30 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects whose general partner/owner or parent organization has had previous experience placing projects into service under the Housing Credit Program. Points will be prorated based on percentage of ownership. The minimum ownership share in the proposed project to be considered for points is 25%. In addition, to be eligible for points, the ownership of the proposed project must be maintained for 10 years. Each general partner must be a material participant in the proposed project as well as a material participant in the projects submitted for point consideration. Experience from other states may be included. In order to evidence out-of-state experience, applicants must submit a copy of one building's 8609 Form from each project (not every building in every project).

Points will be awarded as follows:

1-2 Projects	10 Points
3-4 Projects	15 Points
5-6 Projects	20 Points
7-8 Projects	25 Points
9+ Projects	30 Points

If the owner has no experience in Ohio, then points will be awarded as follows:

2-3 Projects	5 Points
4-5 Projects	10 Points
6-7 Projects	15 Points
8-9 Projects	20 Points
10+ Projects	25 Points

A project must consist of at least 10 units in order to be considered for the points listed above.

Projects that count under this category must have received 8609 forms for all buildings at the time of application, or must have submitted a complete request for 8609 Forms, including evidence that all buildings have been placed into service on or before the application deadline.

Each eligible general partner/owner will receive a score of the greater of b1. - General Partner Affordable Housing Funding Experience, b2. - General Partner Housing Credit Experience, or b3. - General Partner Combined Affordable Housing Funding and Housing Credit Experience. Points will be awarded for only one of these criteria. The project will receive the total of the scores (prorated by ownership percentage) for each general partner/owner.

**b3. General Partner combined Affordable Housing Funding and Housing Credit Experience -- 25 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects whose General Partner/Owner or parent organization has had previous experience in the United States in securing public funds for the development of affordable housing and also has had experience in placing projects in service under the Housing Credit Program. Points will be prorated based on percentage of ownership. The minimum ownership share in the proposed project to be considered for points is 25%. In addition, to be eligible for points, the ownership of the proposed project must be maintained for ten years. Each General Partner must be a material participant in the proposed project as well as a material participant in the projects submitted for point consideration. Local Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) administrators such as local governments or Community Action Agencies administering the CHIP program on behalf of the local government may also qualify for experience points. Experience from other states may be included. In order to evidence out-of-state experience, applicants must submit a copy of one building's 8609 Form from each project (not every building in each project).

Points will be awarded as follows:

<u>Years of Experience</u>	<u>Affordable Housing Units*</u>	<u>Housing Credit No. of Projects</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
1-2 years	20-39	1	15
3-4 years	40-59	3	20
5+ years	60 or more	5 or more	25

\* - Excluding units from the Housing Credit project(s).

If the owner has no experience in Ohio, then points will be awarded as follows:

<u>Years of Experience</u>	<u>Affordable Housing Units*</u>	<u>Housing Credit No. of Projects</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
<del>2-3</del> <b>3-4</b> years	<del>20-39</del> <b>40-59</b>	2	10
<del>4+</del> <b>5+</b> years	<del>40</del> <b>60</b> or more	4 or more	20

\* - Excluding units from the Housing Credit project(s).

A Housing Credit project must consist of at least 10 units in order to be considered for the points listed above.

Applicants will receive points based on the lesser of years experience or units produced using public funding or number of housing credit projects. Units must be completed and placed into service ***on or before the application deadline*** to be eligible for points.

Housing credit projects that count under this category must have 8609 Forms for all buildings at the time of application, or must have submitted a complete request for 8609 Forms, including

proper evidence that all buildings have been placed into service on or before the application deadline.

Note that points will only be awarded for the construction and/or rehabilitation of affordable housing units based on public subsidy -- weatherization is not included.

Each eligible General Partner/Owner will receive a score of the greater of b1. – General Partner Affordable Housing Funding Experience or b2. – General Partner Housing Credit Experience or b3. – General Partner Combined Affordable Housing Funding and Housing Credit Experience. Points will be awarded for only one of these criteria. The project will receive the total of the scores (prorated by ownership percentage) for each eligible General Partner/Owner.

**c. Management Company Experience -- 20 Point Maximum**

Preference will be given to projects that contract with management companies that have experience with assisted or Housing Credit housing.

1. Three (3) points will be given for management companies who are currently a member of at least one of the following organizations:
  - National Assisted Housing Management Association
  - Midwest Assisted Housing Management Association
  - National Leased Housing Association
  - Council for Affordable Rural Housing (CARH)
  - Council for Rural Development of Ohio (CHRDO)
  - American Association for Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA)
  - Association for Ohio Philanthropic Homes and Housing for the Aging (AOPHA)
  - A special needs association with a focus on housing management training for that special needs population
  - American Association of Service Coordinators
2. Five (5) points will be awarded if representatives of the management company attended ~~OHFA's 2002 Housing Credit conference~~ ***the annual OHFA Compliance Monitoring Training in 2002*** or one of the ~~2001~~ monthly ~~or 2001 annual~~ Compliance Monitoring Training(s) ***held during 2002***.
3. Two (2) points will awarded if representatives of the management company are certified by the National Association of Home Builders or other nationally recognized consultant or association as Housing Credit Certified Professionals.
4. Preference will be given for management companies with demonstrated success in managing Section 42 projects that are placed in service and have received 8609 Forms for all buildings at the time of application. Projects will receive 2 points for each project managed up to a maximum of 10 points. A project must consist of at least 10 units, ***and must have been under management for at least six months as of December 31, 2002*** in order to be considered for ~~the~~ points ~~listed above~~. Projects may be located outside Ohio. ***The management company must evidence that they have the capacity to serve the proposed project***. Demonstrated success means all projects are in compliance and have no current non-compliance issues or uncured non-compliance issues. If a project has current 8823 ***Forms***, provide an explanation as to the circumstances. The Agency will decide if points will be given on a case-by-case basis regarding

current 8823 Forms. For those projects located outside Ohio, applicant must certify that there are no uncured 8823 ***Forms*** outstanding ***using ODOD Form 004***. Such certification must be signed and notarized.

5. Management companies with demonstrated success in managing non-housing credit subsidized projects, i.e. Rural Development, HUD Section 8 and HUD Section 202, may be eligible for experience points for Pool C projects only. These projects will receive 2 points for each non-housing credit project managed, up to a maximum of 6 points if the management company lacks housing credit management experience. The maximum points awarded for managing Section 42 projects and managing other subsidized projects will not exceed 10 points. A project must consist of at least 10 units in order to be considered for these points. The applicant must provide evidence that 1) the management company has qualified for and received the experience points awarded for attending ~~OHFA's annual Housing Credit Conference~~ or one of OHFA's monthly or annual Compliance Monitoring Training(s) and 2) all projects are in compliance and have no non-compliance or uncured non-compliance issues under the program for which the project is receiving the aforementioned subsidy. In order to obtain the points, the application must contain letters from BOTH Rural Development and HUD indicating that the management company is in good standing with the projects that are managed. If the management company does not manage either a HUD or RD project, a letter from that Agency stating that must be included in the application.

**d. Ownership Value-Added -- 30 Point Maximum**

Projects with a non-profit general partner will receive 10 points. The non-profit must be a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization, must own or control at least 25 percent of the general partnership, must materially participate in the development and operation of the project, as defined by the Internal Revenue Service throughout the 15 year compliance period on a regular, continuous, and substantial basis, and must agree to receive credits from the Non-Profit Set-Aside as defined in IRC Section 42(h)(5)(B). ODOD Form 001 must be completed by the non-profit and submitted with the application. A newly formed non-profit must submit a signed copy of the Internal Revenue Service application. The IRS determination letter must be received by the Agency no later than issuance of Housing Credit Reservation. If the IRS does not issue a determination letter or the non-profit does not qualify as a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization, the project will not be eligible for the ownership value added points. The competitive score will be adjusted accordingly which may result in the application not receiving a reservation of credit.

***If the non-profit general partner is a State certified CHDO, will own or control at least 51% of the general partnership, and meets all of the requirements listed above, then the project will receive 12 points.***

If one non-profit organization owns or controls ~~100%~~ ***at least 75%*** of the general partnership and meets all of the requirements listed above, then the project will receive 15 points.

If no more than two non-profit organizations own or control ~~100%~~ ***at least 75%*** of the general partnership, meet all of the requirements listed above, are both material participants in the project, with both owning or controlling at least 25% of the general partnership, then the project will receive 15 points.

Five (5) points will be awarded, up to a maximum of 15 points, for each of the following characteristics:

1. One of the general partner entities is a local organization, defined as having a central office located in the same county in which the project will be developed. The central office must be the entity's main/corporate headquarters and must have been located in the project county for a minimum of one year prior to application.

A non-profit organization that serves up to six contiguous counties may also qualify for these points if the central office is not located in the project county. The ***proposed project must be located in the six county service area of the organization***, must qualify for inclusion only in geographic pools B or C, and the county where the central office is located must be included in the ***six county*** service area of the organization.

The following entities will also be considered to be local organizations if the project is located in their particular service area:

- One of the Area Agencies on Aging or Community Action Agencies located in Ohio (see listing in Exhibit P).
- Other organizations created under the auspices or direction of one of the Area Agencies on Aging or Community Action Agencies referenced above.

Any of the entities listed above must document a history of developing, constructing, or managing affordable housing or providing supportive services in the project county to receive the five points.

2. One of the general partner entities is affiliated with the management company for the project. The general partner entity must be:
  - Wholly owned or controlled by the management company or the management company must be wholly owned by or controlled by the general partner entity. This common ownership must have been in place for at least one year prior to application, or
  - There must be an identity of interest (e.g., common board member(s)) between the general partner entity and the management company. This identity of interest must have been in place for at least one year prior to application. Points will not be awarded if identity of interest members exceed the ~~\$1,100,000~~ annual ***maximum*** credit cap.
3. For a project that will serve a special needs population (as defined on pages 24-25), one of the general partner entities is the lead supportive service provider. The entity must be providing and delivering at least 75% of the services listed in the supportive services plan for the project. The entity must have experience providing services in the county for at least one year prior to application. The general partner entity must execute ODOT Form 010 to certify that they intend to and have the capacity to provide and deliver the services to the residents. The services must be furnished directly to the residents by employees of the general partner entity or a subsidiary of the general partner entity at no additional cost to the residents. If a non-profit is a subsidiary of a MHA, the MHA's experience may be used for "experience points". However, the subsidiary non-profit must be the entity providing the supportive services to be considered the lead service provider for an award of these owner value-added points. The Agency will

consider awarding these points to those projects where evidence is provided with the application which demonstrates that the required services are and have been provided on a continuous basis by the most local unit of government in which the project is located.

Applicants must provide a narrative that clearly describes how the project is eligible to receive points for the items listed above.

## **E. Financial Underwriting**

If a project is selected to receive a reservation/allocation of Housing Credits, OHFA will underwrite each project to ensure that the project receives the minimum amount of Housing Credits necessary to assure project feasibility and viability throughout the Housing Credit period. This includes tax-exempt bond financed projects which are excluded from the state's Housing Credit allocation ceiling. The Agency is required to perform the Housing Credit evaluation three times:

- 1) prior to issuing Binding Reservation or letter of eligibility;
- 2) at the time of allocation, i.e., Carryover or Form 8609; and,
- 3) at the time the project is placed-in-service and requests IRS Form(s) 8609.

After the first underwrite, OHFA will issue a Binding Reservation. The Agency's reservation will not necessarily equal the amount of Housing Credit requested in the application. In addition, Housing Credit may be reduced at any underwriting stage.

If the credit percentage has not been elected, the Agency will use the current month's applicable Housing Credit percentage at Binding Reservation, and/or Carryover to calculate the value of the Housing Credit. The owner may elect to lock in the current month's applicable Housing Credit percentage at Reservation or placed-in-service. **HOWEVER, THE RESERVATION HOUSING CREDIT AMOUNT IS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT THAT THE PROJECT CAN RECEIVE NO MATTER WHAT THE HOUSING CREDIT RATE MAY BE IN THE FUTURE.**

OHFA staff will review all projects receiving a Binding Reservation, Carryover, 8609 Forms, or a letter of eligibility using the following procedures:

1. The applicant's determination of adjusted qualified basis will be reviewed. All non-eligible costs will be deducted from the basis.
  - ◆ The Agency will verify the applicable fraction for each project. The applicable fraction is defined as the lesser of a) number of low-income units divided by the total number of units or b) residential low-income unit square footage divided by the total residential square footage.
  - ◆ Owners of projects with market rate units must demonstrate in the application that all amenities (i.e. garages, community buildings, parking spaces, etc.) are available to ALL units. If certain amenities are only available to the market rate units, the costs for these amenities must be deducted from the eligible basis. Also, if the market rate units are larger and of higher quality than the low-income units, the basis for the market rate units will be reduced to match the basis for the low-income units. The Agency reserves the right to request additional information to clarify any issues regarding the market rate units.
  - ◆ The acquisition eligible basis cannot exceed the value of the property at or before the date of acquisition (the date of acquisition equals the date the deed or lease is recorded) as determined by the appraisal of the property (see G. Carryover Allocation). The estimated value cannot include the value of the Housing Credit.
  - ◆ For projects receiving "soft" loans (e.g. HOME, deferred fees, AHP, etc.), owners must adequately explain in their application and cost certification form the repayment schedule of these loans. Projects with deferred interest and principal exceeding the total project cost at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> year must submit a legal opinion. The legal opinion must state whether the "soft" loans should be considered grants and be deducted from eligible basis.

- ◆ Applicants must include an operating reserve as part of the total project cost. The operating reserve must equal four months of operating expenses and hard debt payments. The maximum operating reserve allowable must be equal to or less than twelve months of operating expenses and hard debt payments. This reserve is not included as part of the project's eligible basis. Applicants who believe a reserve is unnecessary for their project may, upon clear demonstration to OHFA, request a waiver. The request and reasons for the waiver must be in writing and must accompany the application. The Agency reserves the right to approve or disapprove requests and to exclude reserves from its unit cost analysis on a case-by-case basis.
2. All fees, costs, and assumptions will be checked to determine if they meet Agency standards.
- ◆ OHFA will assume that all projects will receive no less than \$.70 per dollar of Housing Credit for equity. Applicants for projects located in a qualified census tract that have difficulty achieving the \$.70 per dollar of Housing Credit may, upon clear demonstration to OHFA, request a waiver. The request and reasons for the waiver must be in writing and must accompany the application. The Agency reserves the right to approve or disapprove requests on a case-by-case basis. The equity per dollar of tax credit will be evaluated based on the percentage of the limited partner ownership of the project. The Agency reserves the right to modify the equity standards at any time based on extreme fluctuations in the equity market. Updated equity standards will be published on OHFA's website at <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/ohfa>.
  - ◆ The developer fee and the combined contractor profit, contractor overhead, and general requirement percentages must not increase from date of application to the placed-in-service date. If any of the percentages increase at any time, the project's eligible basis ~~will~~ **may** be reduced, potentially reducing the Housing Credit amount. The adjustment is calculated by multiplying the fee increase by the total eligible basis. The adjustment is then deducted proportionately from the acquisition, rehabilitation, and/or new construction basis.
  - ◆ For acquisition and substantial rehabilitation projects, the developer's fee cannot exceed the sum of 5% of the acquisition eligible basis and 15% of the substantial rehabilitation eligible basis. For HUD-TPA projects, the total developer's fee cannot exceed the sum of 10% of the acquisition eligible basis and 15% of the substantial rehabilitation eligible basis.
  - ◆ Total eligible soft costs may not exceed 35% of total eligible basis.
  - ◆ The number of units and square footage in the project must remain constant from date of application to the placed-in-service date. If the number of units or square footage decrease at any time, the project's eligible basis may be proportionally reduced by the decrease in units or square footage, potentially reducing the Housing Credit amount.
  - ◆ An owner may appeal ~~this reduction~~ ***a reduction of credits resulting from a violation of any of the Agency's underwriting standards. The Agency will only consider an appeal if the owner can demonstrate that the reason(s) the project cannot meet Agency underwriting standards is outside the control of the owner and could not be reasonably anticipated before the initial application date. The Agency will review each appeal independently and will have discretion in its decisions.*** In order to appeal, an owner must ~~demonstrate all of the following within the two weeks of notification of the reduction period:~~ ***submit their complete appeal in writing along with an appeal processing fee of \$250.***
    - a) ~~The reason(s) for the loss of units and/or square footage must have been beyond the control of and could not have been reasonably foreseen by the owner. Evidence from a third party (i.e. city, planning commission, etc.) must be provided.~~

~~b) The reason(s) that costs did not decrease must have been beyond the control of the owner. Detailed letters from the contractor and/or construction lender, etc. describing the costs of the project must be submitted. It must be certified by the owner that none of the cost overruns could have been anticipated by the developer at application or carryover— simply underestimating costs at these phases is not sufficient— specific unanticipated circumstances must have occurred.~~

~~e) The developer must have deferred at least 50% of the developer's fee. Also, the agency will analyze the amount of contractor profit, overhead, and general requirements and the identity of interest among these players. The agency may require portions of these fees and additional developer's fee to be deferred as well.~~

~~d) Letters from ALL (banks, cities, equity providers, etc.) permanent sources stating that no additional funds are available must be submitted.~~

~~e) An appeal processing fee of \$250 must be submitted.~~

~~The Agency will re-underwrite the project based on all new information received. The agency may award credits up to the original allocation amount. The Agency will give favorable consideration to those owners willing to accept some reduction of credits. However, all appeals will be considered on a case by case basis. The Agency has complete discretion in its decisions.~~

- ◆ The evaluation of each type of basis is separately determined. Losses in one type of basis (e.g., acquisition) cannot be offset by increases in another type of basis (e.g., rehabilitation).

3. The project's total sources must always equal the total project cost. If the sources exceed the costs, the Agency will reduce the Housing Credit equity by reducing the annual Housing Credit allocation.

4. The Net Operating Income (NOI) is calculated according to OHFA standards, and is then compared to the annual debt service payments to make sure there is positive and adequate debt service coverage.

- ◆ The hard debt coverage ratio (DCR) must be above 1.15. Owners of projects with a hard debt coverage ratio lower than 1.15 must provide a written explanation from their lender(s) describing the reasons for their willingness to accept a low DCR. The Agency has the discretion to waive this requirement based on documentation provided by the owner.

- ◆ The DCR for all debt sources may be no higher than 1.25. If the DCR is too high, the following will happen:

A new loan amount will be calculated to reflect a lower DCR. The characteristics of the new loan will be rate = prime + 3 (published in the Wall Street Journal) and a term/amortization period = 25 years. The new loan will be added to the project's permanent sources. The new loan amount is an artificial gap created by the Agency. If the gap exceeds 10% of total project costs, the Agency will require that the owner obtain additional financing to cover the gap before issuing a reservation/allocation.

- ◆ For owners who are not syndicating the Housing Credits, the Agency will include the annual Housing Credit amount as part of the total cash flow in order to determine the DCR.
- ◆ Projects must maintain a positive cash flow for the first 15 years in the Agency's analysis or provide to OHFA a written explanation describing the strategies to overcome any shortfalls. The Agency reserves the right not to allocate Housing Credits to projects it believes are financially infeasible.

- ◆ The project's annual operating expenses per unit including replacement reserves, but excluding management fees, owner-paid utility costs, annual bond fees, and property taxes, may not exceed \$2,650 for non-elevator buildings, and \$3,150 for elevator buildings. Exceptions may be made for projects with special circumstances. Owners must provide persuasive evidence in order to secure a waiver of these standards.
- ◆ OHFA has adopted maximum and minimum annual replacement reserve standards.

Project Type:	New Construction	Acquisition/Rehabilitation
Maximum:	\$300 per unit	\$350 per unit
Minimum:	\$200 per unit	\$250 per unit

For Rural Development and FHA-financed projects, OHFA will use the reserve limits prescribed by those agencies. Exceptions may be made for projects with special circumstances. Owners must provide persuasive evidence in order to secure a waiver of these standards.

- ◆ The Agency will assume an annual income increase of 3% and an annual expense increase of 4%. The Agency will use the vacancy rate listed in the application and/or cost certification forms by the owner. The vacancy rate must be consistent with the project's market study unless the owner has supplied adequate supporting information.
- ◆ The gross rents for low-income units must be at or below the maximum rent limits for the year in which the Agency is analyzing the project. In addition the gross rents must be higher than 95% of the maximum rent limit. If the gross rents are lower than 95% of the maximum rent limit, the owner may reduce the rent election percentage or the Agency will use gross rents equal to 95% of the maximum rent limit in its analysis.
- ◆ OHFA will utilize the applicable utility allowances as referenced in Section 42 and Reg. 1.42-10.

Projects may receive an allocation of credit based upon 130% of the qualified basis for new construction or substantial rehabilitation if the project is located in designated high cost areas of the state. High cost areas are defined as qualified census tracts and difficult development areas. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development publishes a list of qualified areas for 130% basis.

## **F. Binding Reservation Agreement**

After the Agency has determined which projects to award Housing Credits and has performed the underwrite, the Binding Reservation Agreement will be mailed to the primary project contact. The original Binding Reservation Agreement and Credit Rate Election form must be signed and notarized by the owner/general partner during the month the agreement was issued. The Binding Reservation Agreement, Credit Rate Election form and reservation fee that equals 4 % of the reservation amount, and any additional documentation listed in the Agreement, must be sent to the Agency by the fifth day of the following month in which the agreement was issued, or the reservation of Housing Credit will be **invalid**.

## G. Carryover Allocation

All projects must meet all Carryover Allocation requirements as described in Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code and in Treasury Regulation 1.42-6.

The following are required to be submitted for all projects by the Carryover submission deadline:

1. Completed OHFA Cost Certification forms (*the most current version*) signed by the owner and accountant/attorney. These forms and instructions are available for download on the Agency's website: **<http://www.odod.state.oh.us/ohfa>** or contact the Office of Planning & Development directly at 614-466-0400 or 1-800-848-1300 x6-0400.
2. Federal Tax ID number for the owner.
3. The project owner must, at a minimum, acquire all property or have entered into a long-term leasehold agreement. Acquisition must be evidenced by a copy of a recorded deed or recorded long-term lease for each site. Owners must also provide legible legal description and permanent parcel numbers for each site. These items will be used to facilitate the production of the project's Restrictive Covenant.
4. Conditional commitment letters, including equity commitments, from non-OHFA lenders must be updated from those submitted with the application. This requirement may be waived for Round 2 projects that receive Binding Reservations.
5. An appraisal meeting OHFA requirements if the project is seeking acquisition credit. Those requirements include:
  - ◇ preparation by a third party licensed (state does not matter) appraiser. Name, address, and license number must be included;
  - ◇ stated estimated value of the property at or before the date of acquisition (the date of acquisition equals the date the deed or lease is recorded). The estimated value cannot include the value of the Housing Credit;
  - ◇ adherence to the Uniform Standards of Appraisal Practice. A statement to this effect must be included in the report;
  - ◇ conducted in 2003, although the Agency will consider earlier reports on a case-by-case basis.
6. All rehabilitation projects must submit a capital needs assessment performed by a third party professional. The assessment must meet the standards outlined in Exhibit N. For scattered site rehabilitation projects, a capital needs assessment must be performed for only 50% of the buildings. Based on the assessment the Agency reserves the right to adjust the project's total project costs and eligible basis that may affect the Agency's financial analysis of the project.
7. Any additional conditions that appeared on the reservation with a performance date by Carryover submission.

Projects that meet all requirements will be given a Carryover Allocation Agreement and each building in the project will receive a Building Identification Number (BIN). Those buildings receiving an acquisition and substantial rehabilitation credit will receive one BIN for both Housing Credit types.

A Carryover Allocation Agreement is considered to be binding and will give the applicant 24 months from the end of the allocation year to complete the project and place the units in service. The Agency reserves the right to add conditions or require follow-up items in the Carryover Agreement that must be met before the Agency will issue 8609 Forms to the owner.

The Agency will charge an *extension fee* for any granted extension of the Carryover submission. Extension fees are **4%** of the Binding Reservation fee. The Agency will not approve any extensions beyond ~~December 3, 2002~~ **December 1, 2003**.

Projects that will be completed and placed-in-service in the same year in which they received a reservation should request 8609 form(s) and not a Carryover Allocation Agreement. The owner of the project must submit all appropriate request documentation by the Carryover submission deadline for that year.

## **H. Project Completion Stage / 8609 Request**

Upon project completion, the owner must notify the Agency of the placed-in-service date(s) of each building and submit:

1. Completed OHFA Cost Certification forms (*most current version*) signed by an independent accountant. The accountant will be required to conduct a complete audit of the project costs. The required audit language is included on the forms. These forms are available for download on the Agency's website: <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/ohfa>. ***Any project with more than 10 buildings must also submit an electronic copy of the cost certification on disk.***
2. Certificates of Occupancy, unconditional, from the issuer of the building permits. Certificates of Completion or similar information from the owner will be accepted for Rehabilitation projects. The Agency reserves the right to conduct a site visit of a property to verify completion before issuing the 8609 Form(s) to the owner.
3. Permanent source(s) closing documents, executed by the borrower and the source provider(s). This includes all first and second mortgages, government loans, deferred fee notes, and grants. The Agency may, on a case-by-case basis, conditionally release the 8909 Form(s) or issue a commitment letter to owners who are unable to immediately close their hard debt sources due to restrictions imposed by the lender. All permanent hard-debt sources must have a term no shorter than 15 years.
4. Partnership agreement, executed by the limited and general partners.
5. Recorded Restrictive Covenant.
6. Payment of the monitoring fee.

The Agency will mail out 8609 Form(s) up to 90 working days after the request materials have been submitted to the Agency. Incomplete or insufficient request documentation will result in a delay of the 8609 Form issuance. The Agency reserves the right to defer processing 8609 Form requests that are received during a future competitive funding round.

### III. MONITORING

#### A. Introduction

The Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990 mandated that beginning in 1992, housing finance agencies must actively monitor all Housing Credit properties to determine if they are complying with the requirements of the Housing Credit program. In September 1992, the IRS issued final regulations with regard to the monitoring requirement. These regulations were effective June 30, 1993.

The monitoring process determines if the project is complying with requirements of the IRC. The Agency's internal monitoring process is outlined in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program Compliance Manual, which will be provided to the owner/agent for each Housing Credit property. All residents must be income qualified, adjusted for family size prior to moving into the unit. All units must be rent restricted as provided for in the IRC. All units allocated Housing Credit must be safe, decent and sanitary housing units complying with local building, health, safety, and zoning codes.

Compliance with the requirements of the IRC is the sole responsibility of the owner of the building for which the Housing Credit was allocated.

#### B. Monitoring Process

ALL Housing Credit projects are required to comply with the following:

1. The owner/agent, prior to rent up, **MUST** complete a pre-occupancy training/meeting with the Agency, unless the project is financed with tax-exempt bonds and did not receive an allocation from the competitive housing credit pool:
  - a) The owner/agent will be required to contact the Agency in writing within 120 days prior to leasing units to arrange a training/meeting with the Agency.
2. The owner of a Housing Credit project must keep records for each qualified low-income building in the project for each year of the compliance and extended use period. These records must include:
  - a) The total number of residential rental units in the building (including the number of bedrooms and the size in square feet of each residential rental unit);
  - b) The percentage of residential rental units in the building that are low-income units;
  - c) The rent charged on each residential rental unit in the building (including any utility allowances);
  - d) The number of occupants in each low-income unit, but only if rent is determined by the number of occupants in each unit under section 42(g)(2) (as in effect before the amendments made by the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1989);
  - e) The low-income unit vacancies in the building and information that shows when, and to whom, the next available units were rented;
  - f) The annual income certification of each low-income tenant per unit;
  - g) Documentation to support each low-income tenant's income certification. Tenant income is calculated in a manner consistent with the determination of annual income under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 ("Section 8"), not in accordance with the determination of gross income for federal income tax liability;
  - h) The eligible basis and qualified basis of the building at the end of the first year of the credit period; and

- i) The character and use of the non-residential portion of the building included in the building's eligible basis under section 42(d).
3. The owner of a Housing Credit project is required to retain the records described in Section 2 above for at least six years after the due date (with extensions) for filing the federal income tax return for that year. Records for the first year of the credit period must be retained for at least six years beyond the due date (with extensions) for filing the federal income tax return for the last year of the compliance period of the building (reference 26 CFR Par. 2. 1.42-5 (b)(2)).
  4. The owner is responsible for reporting to the Agency annually in the form and manner the Agency specifies, the project's compliance with the Code and for certifying under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true, accurate, and in compliance with Section 42 of the IRC. The owner certifies that for the preceding 12-month period --:
    - a) The project met the requirements of:
      1. The 20-50 test under section 42(g)(1)(A), the 40-60 test under section 42(g)(1)(B), whichever minimum set-aside test was applicable to the project; and
      2. If applicable to the project, the 15-40 test under sections 42(g)(4) and 142(d)(4)(B) for "deep rent skewed" projects;
    - b) There was no change in the applicable fraction (as defined in section 42(c)(1)(B)) of any building in the project, or that there was a change, and a description of the change;
    - c) The owner has received an annual income certification from each low-income tenant, and documentation to support that certification; or, in the case of a tenant receiving Section 8 housing assistance payments, the statement from a public housing authority described in paragraph (b)(1)(vii) of this section;
    - d) Each low-income unit in the project was rent-restricted under section 42(g)(2);
    - e) All units in the project were for use by the general public and used on a nontransitional basis (except for transitional housing for the homeless provided under section 42(i)(3)(B)(iii));
    - f) Each building in the project was suitable for occupancy, taking into account local health, safety, and building codes;
    - g) There was no change in the eligible basis (as defined in section 42(d)) of any building in the project, or if there was a change, the nature of the change (e.g. a common area has become commercial space, or a fee is now charged for a tenant facility formerly provided without charge);
    - h) All tenants facilities included in the eligible basis under section 42(d) of any building in the project, such as swimming pools, other recreational facilities, and parking areas, were provided on an comparable basis without charge to all tenants in the building;
    - i) If a low-income unit in the project became vacant during the year, that reasonable attempts were or are being made to rent that unit or the next available unit of comparable or smaller size to tenants having a qualifying income before any units in the project were or will be rented to tenants not having a qualifying income;
    - j) If the income of tenants of a low-income unit in the project increased above the limit allowed in section 42(g)(2)(D)(ii), the next available unit of comparable or smaller size in the project was or will be rented to tenants having a qualifying income;
    - k) The owner has not refused to lease a unit in the project to a Section 8 applicant because the applicant holds a Section 8 voucher or certificate;
    - l) No finding of discrimination under the Fair Housing Act has occurred for the project (a finding of discrimination includes an adverse final decision by HUD, an adverse final decision by a substantially equivalent state or local fair housing agency, or an adverse judgment from a Federal court); and
    - m) An extended low-income housing commitment as described in section 42(h)(6) was in effect (for buildings subject to section 7108 (c)(1) of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1989).

5. The Agency requires that the owner of a Housing Credit project annually certify the resident's income and assets.  
  
The Agency reserves the right to make a determination at a later date regarding the Annual Income Recertification Waiver (Section 42 (g) (8) (B) of the IRC).
6. The Agency has the right to review tenant files throughout the 15-year compliance period plus extensions (up to an additional 15 years for a total of 30 years, based upon the extended use provision). The Agency has the right to perform on-site inspections of any low-income housing project at least through the end of the compliance period of the building(s) in the project (26 CFR Par.2. 1.42-5 (d)). New building(s) receiving allocations on or after January 1, 2002 will be on-site inspected no later than the end of the second calendar year following the year the last building in the project is placed in service.
7. The Agency will provide prompt written notice to the owner of a Housing Credit project if the Agency does not receive the required certification or discovers through inspection, review, or any other manner that the project is in non-compliance. The owner will have up to 60 days from date of the notification to correct any non-compliance issues found and give a written response to the Agency of corrective actions taken. The Agency may extend the correction period for up to six months, but only if the agency determines there is good cause for granting the extension. During the correction period, an owner must supply any missing certifications and bring the project into compliance with the provisions of the IRC.
8. The Agency is required to file Form 8823, "Low-Income Housing Credit Agencies Report of Non-Compliance" with the IRS no later than 45 days after the end of the correction period, including extensions, and no earlier than the end of the correction period, whether or not the non-compliance or failure to certify is corrected. The Agency must explain on Form 8823 the nature of the non-compliance or failure to certify (reference 26 CFR Par. 2. 1.42-5 (e)(3)).
9. Compliance with the requirements of Section 42 of the IRC is the responsibility of the owner of the building(s) for which the Housing Credit is allowable. The Agency's obligation to monitor for compliance does not make the Agency liable for owner/agent non-compliance.
10. If the Agency is unable to serve notice on the property owner by mail and/or telephone during the compliance period as defined by the IRS, the Agency will consider the property out of compliance and notify the IRS by filing Form 8823 of non-compliance.
  - a) The Agency will maintain one contact person per project. The owner/agent will agree upon the contact person and notify the Agency immediately of any change.
  - b) Recapture determinations are made by the IRS.
11. OHFA requires Housing Credit owners to pay a one-time compliance monitoring fee. The fee amount for projects receiving a reservation in 2003 will be \$500 per unit. The fee must be submitted with the 8609 request.

#### IV. MISCELLANEOUS

**Project Changes:** All project changes require Agency approval, and all changes will be reviewed by the Agency on a case-by-case basis. Any change in a project which reduces the project score, or that reduces the project score below the score of the last funded project in a particular funding round, may result in a reduction or revocation of the Housing Credit reservation or allocation. No changes in a project are allowed if it reduces the project's score in rent structure. A new application, fee, and Competitive review may be required if any project characteristics change.

Failure to inform OHFA of any changes in the applicant's situation or project structure at any time may cause the application to be rejected or the Housing Credit reservation to be revoked.

**Document Correction Fee:** *The Agency will assess a correction fee of \$250 if a Carryover Allocation Agreement, Restrictive Covenant, or 8609 Form must be re-issued due to an error on the part of the owner or applicant.*

**Agency Information Sources:** The Agency's website contains important, easily accessible program information such as Housing Credit percentages, frequently asked questions, technical support, general tax credit information, important program dates, and downloadable files such as the QAP and Affordable Housing Funding Application. The website address is <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/ohfa>. It is the responsibility of the applicants to regularly browse the website to obtain current information on the Housing Credit and other Agency programs.

**Contacting the Applicant:** The Agency will only contact the person listed in the application as the project contact. The Agency asks other parties involved in the project to communicate with the project contact, prior to contacting the Agency.

**Requesting Information:** At the end of each allocation round, the Agency will make available a listing by score of all projects, along with a detailed report featuring the reserved projects of that round. Please visit the OHFA website at <http://www.odod.state.oh.us/ohfa> or contact the Agency to obtain this listing. Interested parties requesting project specific information will be required to use a Freedom of Information Request Form (forms are available from OHFA) and follow Ohio Department of Development procedures.

**Agency Participation Notification:** Project owner(s) and applicant(s) should coordinate with Agency personnel to provide the opportunity for public notification of the Agency's participation in a project.

**Plan Development:** OHFA receives input in the development of the Plan from the Housing Credit Advisory Committee and citizens at the public hearings. The Governor and OHFA's Board approve the QAP. OHFA encourages participation from interested parties during the public hearing and written comment process.

The Credit Advisory Committee is a working group that meets periodically in Columbus to discuss the QAP and other program details. Interest groups represented on the committee include: lenders, equity providers, for-profit developers, non-profit developers, special needs advocates, rural development advocates, urban development advocates, local government officials, and others. The Agency always welcomes new representatives to replace retiring or inactive members. Anyone interested in joining or nominating someone for the committee should contact OHFA at (614) 466-0400.

## V. 2003 QAP EXHIBITS

NOTE: Updated Exhibits A and B are not available at the time of this printing. In early 2003 these exhibits will be published separately. They will also be included in the final AHFA spreadsheet. Please contact OHFA or visit OHFA's website located at [www.odod.state.oh.us/ohfa](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/ohfa) to receive the updated exhibits. *Exhibits C - H are not included with the first draft of the 2003 QAP. These will be updated if necessary and included with the final version of the QAP.*

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**A. RENT AND INCOME LIMITS**

**B. INCOME ADJUSTMENT POINTS**

**C. MAXIMUM DEVELOPMENT COST PER UNIT**

**D. QUALIFIED CENSUS TRACTS**

**E. COMMUNITIES WITH A CONSOLIDATED PLAN**

**F. AREAS WITH A COMMUNITY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY  
(CHIS)**

**G. RURAL DEVELOPMENT LIST OF DESIGNATED PLACES**

## H. HIGH INCOME CENSUS TRACTS

## I. MODEL LANGUAGE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION

DATE

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED (Attach copies)

Applicable Person  
Title  
Name of Political Jurisdiction  
Address  
City, State Zip

RE: Name of Project

Dear Applicable Person:

The purpose of this letter is to apprise your office that (Name of General Partner, Managing Member, etc.) will be the (general partner, managing member, etc.) of a multifamily residential development located in or within a one-half mile radius of your political jurisdiction. The following describes the project and the multifamily funding programs of the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) that will be utilized for the project and notifies you of your right to submit written comments to OHFA:

Project Address: Be as specific as possible; note city or township location as well as county location.

Number of Units: Total number of units; you may wish to do a breakdown on unit types, i.e. 1BR, 2BR, 3BR.

Nature of Project: Such as new construction, acquisition & rehabilitation, substantial rehabilitation, adaptive reuse. Note any other distinguishing characteristics.

Program(s) Utilized  
in the Project: Indicate that the project will utilize funding from the Housing Credit, Affordable Housing Loans, and/or Multifamily Bond Programs.

Right to Submit  
Comments: You have the right to submit comments to OHFA regarding the project's impact on the community. If you intend to submit a statement of disapproval or objection, you must submit a written statement that is signed by a majority of the voting members of the legislative body governing your jurisdiction. The written objection must be forwarded separately to the Chairman of OHFA and to the Agency's Executive Director and be delivered by certified mail,

return receipt requested. The persons and addresses to be notified at OHFA are:

Mr. Douglas A. Garver, Chairman  
Ohio Housing Finance Agency  
77 S. High Street, 29th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Mr. Richard V. Everhart, Executive Director  
Ohio Housing Finance Agency  
57 E. Main Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

The written objection must be submitted within 30 days of your receipt of this notice, and must be received by OHFA within 45 days of the date of the sponsor's or private developer's notice.

OHFA is required to respond to any written statement submitted by you under the terms outlined above.

Sincerely,

Name  
Title of Writer

**J. GEOGRAPHIC POOL AREAS AND AMOUNTS**

<u>Category A</u>	<u>Category B</u>	<u>Category C</u>	<u>Category C</u> <i>(continued)</i>
<i>% of 2003 Allocation*: 19%</i>	17%	14%	
Akron	Allen	Adams	Lawrence
Canton	Butler	Ashland	Logan
Cincinnati	Clark	Ashtabula	Madison
Cleveland	Clermont	Athens	Marion
Columbus	Cuyahoga	Auglaize	Meigs
Dayton	Delaware	Belmont	Mercer
Toledo	Fairfield	Brown	Monroe
Youngstown	Franklin	Carroll	Morgan
	Geauga	Champaign	Morrow
	Greene	Clinton	Muskingum
	Hamilton	Columbiana	Noble
	Jefferson	Coshocton	Ottawa
	Lake	Crawford	Paulding
	Licking	Darke	Perry
	Lorain	Defiance	Pike
	Lucas	Erie	Preble
	Mahoning	Fayette	Putnam
	Medina	Fulton	Ross
	Miami	Gallia	Sandusky
	Montgomery	Guernsey	Seneca
	Pickaway	Hancock	Scioto
	Portage	Hardin	Shelby
	Richland	Harrison	Tuscarawas
	Stark	Henry	Union
	Summit	Highland	Van Wert
	Trumbull	Hocking	Vinton
	Warren	Holmes	Wayne
	Washington	Huron	Williams
	Wood	Jackson	Wyandot
		Knox	

\* - *Per Capita Credits Only - does not include returns or national pool credit.*

## **K. MARKET STUDY INDEX**

The following information must be included in a market study. The market study author must organize the information using this index or provide the corresponding page number(s) for each item. Please refer to pages 14-15 of the 2003 QAP for more details.

- I.** Executive summary
  - A.** Statement that a market exists for the proposed project
  - B.** Estimated stable year vacancy rate for the proposed project
    - 1.** Explanation if greater than 7%
  - C.** Estimated lease-up time for the proposed project
    - 1.** Explanation if greater than one year
- II.** Description of the proposed project - including location, number of units, amenities, population served, number of bedrooms, unit sizes, etc.
- III.** Description of the effective market area for the project
  - A.** Map of the effective market area
  - B.** Explanation if greater than five mile radius
- IV.** Rent comparison table
  - A.** Rents for the proposed project
  - B.** Market rents and methodology for calculation of market rents
- V.** Number of income-eligible renter households in the effective market area
  - A.** Percentage required to fully lease-up the project
    - 1.** Explanation if greater than 10%
- VI.** Description and evaluation of services, including approximate distance to project
  - A.** Public services
  - B.** Infrastructure
  - C.** Community services
  - D.** Employers
- VII.** Number of income-eligible special needs households in the effective market area
  - A.** Percentage required to meet the special needs set-aside
  - B.** Source of information
- VIII.** List of federally subsidized and Housing Credit projects (including projects under construction) in the effective market area
  - A.** Brief description of each project - including number of units, rents, amenities, bedroom sizes, population served, etc.
  - B.** Current vacancy rate for each existing project
  - C.** Contact name and method of contact for each project

- D. Ratio of all subsidized and Housing Credit units to the number of income-eligible renter households in the effective market area
- E. For Housing Credit projects only, calculate the estimated vacancy rate for each project (except those under construction) during the first stabilized year of the proposed project
  - 1. Explanation for estimated vacancy rates greater than 10%
- IX. List of comparable market rate developments in the effective market area
  - A. Brief description of each project - including number of units, rents, amenities, bedroom sizes, population served, etc.
  - B. Current vacancy rate for each existing project
  - C. Contact name and method of contact for each project
- X. Analysis of Public Housing Authority (PHA) concerns and issues
  - A. Copy of letter and certified mail receipt or details of interview
  - B. Copy of response(s) from PHA or transcript of interview
  - C. Narrative that evaluates and addresses any issues or concerns raised by the PHA
- XI. Original signed copy of ODOD Form 008 - Market Study Certification
- XII. Listing of all data sources used in the study

## **L. SUPPORTIVE SERVICE PLAN INDEX & REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants for projects designed to serve a special needs population must submit a supportive services plan in order to qualify for competitive points. The supportive service plan must include the following elements in the order listed:

**I. Population Served** - Describe the population to be served and indicate the number of units to be set-aside for this population.

**II. Service Coordinator** - Describe the role of the supportive service coordinator. Include a copy of the coordinator's resume or if the coordinator is not known at application, a copy the coordinator's job description. List the experience in providing supportive services, including trainings that the coordinator may have attended. Identify the budget line item for the service coordinator's salary or document in-kind assistance with commitment letters per section VI. Detail the number of hours that the coordinator will spend at the site and working with residents from the project.

**III. Annual Budget** - List in detail the estimated annual costs of providing services including the coordinator's salary and equipment.

**IV. Description of Services** - Provide specific descriptions of the following services and explain how they will be made available to residents (see below for required services for each population).

**V. Support Letters** - (see below for required support letters for each population)

**VI. Commitment Letters** - Attach signed letters from agencies/organizations that have committed to provide or refer services to residents. Also, where services have been contracted, provide a signed letter from an agency/organization providing contracted service coordination. Commitment letters should contain a brief description and history of the agency/organization, a description of the services to be provided, and details of any funding to be provided to the project for services. Commitment letters must be provided for all agencies/organizations referred to in IV. **Description of Services.**

The supportive service plan must be specific to the proposed project. All requirements, including all population specific service requirements, must be listed in the plan. The descriptions of services must include enough details and information so that OHFA can determine what services are being provided, how are the services being provided, and who is providing the services.

### **Population Specific Requirements**

#### **A. Persons age 55 and Over - (for both 30 and 35 point categories)**

##### **Requirements**

1. 100% of total units minimum set-aside.
2. All buildings must contain only one story unless an elevator is provided.
3. The project cannot be lease-purchase.

##### **Description of Services**

1. Make meals available at or accessible to housing facility.
2. Make light housekeeping services available.
3. Ensure the availability to adequate transportation services for residents.
4. Provide information and referral to home health services.
5. Provide evidence of regularly scheduled activity programs reflecting the cultural, social, recreational, and health and wellness aspects of resident lives.

6. Provide accommodations for and support of a Resident Association.

**Support Letters**

1. Submit a letter of support from local Area Agency on Aging (AAA). If a letter of support is unavailable from the AAA provide an explanation as to why, and then provide letters of support from local senior citizens centers, the public housing authority, or the Department of Aging.

**Additional Requirements - 35 point category**

1. All units and buildings must contain at least 20 universal design features as described on ODOB Form 005 in addition to grab bars in the bathrooms (in shower and around the toilet)
2. The project must contain common space equal to or greater than 5% of the total residential square footage for the entire project
3. Project must annually set-aside at least \$100 per unit for service coordination.

**B. Persons with Severe and Persistent Mental Illness**

**Requirements**

1. OHFA requires a maximum target set-aside of 20% of the total units for this population in order to work toward the goal of integration. The final set-aside determined in collaboration with local ADAMHS or Mental Health Board must be greater than or equal to 10% of the total units. However, OHFA recognizes that circumstances may require projects to exceed the 20% target. In such instances, exceeding the 20% target set-aside will not be considered a non-compliance issue.
2. Acceptance of services should not be a condition of occupancy.

**Description of Services**

1. The level of services and service coordination to be provided must be approved by the local ADAMHS or Mental Health Board. Projects targeting persons with severe and persistent mental illness have the option to not provide on-site services and service coordination if a local case management and community support services system are already in place. A service coordinator would not be required in these circumstances.
2. Demonstration of input from people with mental illness in the Housing Credit application and design and development of the project.
3. Residents must have control over the assistance they receive and who provides that assistance. Service coordinators must work directly with the local county board case management system.
4. Residents may choose to seek mental health services through public or private mental health providers. (All local mental health systems are required to have 24-hour mobile case management and crisis intervention services available and accessible to all people with mental illness; such services need not be housing project based).

**Support Letters**

1. Letters of support from local Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI) and/or qualified consumer groups including their mission statement, agency goals, and a *specific* statement of support for the proposed project.
2. Written support from the Executive Director of the local ADAMHS or Mental Health Board. The support letter must describe how the number of set-aside units was determined and how this set-aside will benefit the special needs population.
3. A copy of a letter from the applicant to the local ADAMHS or Mental Health Board stating that up to 20% of the units can be set-aside for persons with severe or persistent mental illness. The exact set-aside will be determined by the local ADAMHS or Mental Health Board. A copy of the certified mail receipt must be included.

**C. Persons with Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities**

**Requirements**

1. The percentage of units set-aside must be established in collaboration with the local MR/DD agency but cannot exceed 20% of the total units. However, OHFA recognizes that circumstances may require projects to exceed the 20% target. The final set-aside determined in collaboration with local MR/DD agency must be greater than or equal to 10% of the total units. In such instances, exceeding the 20% target set-aside will not be considered a non-compliance issue.

**Description of Services**

1. The level of services and service coordination to be provided must be approved by the local MR/DD agency . Projects targeting persons with mental retardation/developmental disabilities have the option to not provide on-site services and service coordination if a local case management and community support services system are already in place. A service coordinator would not be required in these circumstances.
2. Ensure adequate education and awareness of community resources, intervention and support for residents experiencing a crisis, referral to resources and services in the community, development and support for resident participation with management.
3. Assistance to residents in identifying and accessing local resources and services.
4. Development and support of resident participation in the development of services, programs and activities.
5. Crisis intervention and short-term support or referral to outside resources.
6. Longer-term support for residents pursuing goals related to social and/or economic self-sufficiency.
7. Intervention and prevention of problems related to substance abuse, criminal activity, destruction of property or other issues harmful to residents.
8. Provide a continually updated notebook or bulletin board of neighborhood and community programs and resources.

**Support Letters**

1. Letter from the local MR/DD agency indicating *specific* support and evidencing collaboration with the project related to the projected percentage of set-aside units for this population. The support letter must describe how the number of set-aside units was determined and how this set-aside will benefit the special needs population.
2. A copy of a certified letter from the applicant to the local MR/DD agency stating that up to 20% of the units can be set-aside for persons with severe or persistent mental illness. The exact set-aside will be determined by the local MR/DD agency. A copy of the certified mail receipt must be included.

**D. Persons with a Mobility or Sensory Impairment**

**Requirements**

1. Twenty (20) percent of total units minimum set-aside.
2. Projects must meet all ADA requirements.
3. All units and buildings must contain at least 20 universal design features as described on ODOB Form 005.

**Description of Services**

1. Assistance to residents in identifying and accessing local resources and services.
2. Development and support of resident participation in the development of services, programs and activities.
3. Support for residents pursuing goals related to social and/or economic self-sufficiency.

**Support Letters**

1. Letter of support from a local qualified consumer/social services group including their mission statement, agency goals, and a *specific* statement of support for the proposed project.

**E. Extremely Low-Income Persons/Households**

**Requirements**

1. 20% of total units minimum set-aside.
2. Rents must be affordable to extremely low-income households (at or below 35% of AMGI) and must be evidenced in Section B (1) of the AHFA.

**Description of Services**

1. Credit Counseling.
2. Personal finance training/planning.
3. Continuing Education/Job Training Opportunities.
4. Life Skills Training.
5. Healthcare- Prevention and Community Outreach (i.e. drug/alcohol prevention, stress/anger management, AIDS awareness etc.).

**Support Letters**

1. Letter of support from a local qualified consumer/social services group including their mission statement, agency goals, and a *specific* statement of support for the proposed project.
2. Provide a letter from the county Human Service/OBES Department or a designated Welfare-to-Work agency indicating a linkage with the county's Welfare-to-Work initiative.

**M. GOVERNOR'S REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Deputy Director  
Jean Carter Ryan  
Phone: 614-466-9627  
Fax: 614-752-4858  
Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Region 1 - Columbus  
Tonya Barnett  
Phone: 614-466-9627  
Fax: 614-752-4858  
Riffe Center  
77 S. High Street, 29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Counties Represented: Delaware, Fairfield,  
Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Logan, Madison,  
Pickaway and Union

Region 2 - Toledo  
Wesley R. Fahrback  
Phone: 419-245-2445  
Fax: 419-245-2448  
One Government Center, Suite 1520  
Toledo, OH 43604-2205  
Counties Represented: Defiance, Erie, Fulton,  
Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Williams and  
Wood

Region 3 - Lima  
Judith M. Crawford  
Phone: 419-229-5320  
Fax: 419-229-5424  
Perry Building  
545 W. Market Street, Suite 305  
Lima, OH 45801-4717  
Counties Represented: Allen, Auglaize,  
Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and  
Van Wert

Region 4 - Dayton  
Anthony B. Whitmore

Phone: 937-285-6185  
Fax: 937-285-6187  
One Dayton Centre  
1 S. Main Street, Suite 2060  
Dayton, OH 45402-2016  
Counties Represented: Champaign, Clark,  
Clinton, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery,  
Preble and Shelby

Region 5 - Cincinnati  
Rose Vesper  
Phone: 513-852-2826  
Fax: 513-852-2840  
414 Walnut Street, Suite 505  
Cincinnati, OH 45202-3109  
Counties Represented: Butler, Clermont,  
Hamilton and Warren

Region 6 - Mansfield  
David L. Williamson  
Phone: 419-522-2029  
Fax: 419-522-2203  
Walnut Building  
24 W. Third Street, Suite 301  
Mansfield, OH 44902-1235  
Counties Represented: Ashland, Crawford,  
Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland,  
Seneca and Wyandot

Region 7 - Chillicothe  
T.J. Justice  
Phone: 740-775-0612

**2003 Housing Credit Qualified Allocation Plan  
Ohio Housing Finance Agency**

**DRAFT #1**  
**September 6, 2002**

Fax: 740-775-0604  
15 N. Paint Street, Suite 102  
Chillicothe, OH 45601-3116  
Counties Represented: Adams, Brown, Gallia,  
Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto  
and Vinton

Region 8 - Cleveland  
Fran Migliorino  
Phone: 216-787-3240  
Fax: 216-787-3244  
615 W. Superior Avenue, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Cleveland, OH 44113-1187  
Counties Represented: Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake  
and Lorain

Region 9 - Akron  
Daryl Revoldt  
Phone: 330-643-3392  
Fax: 330-643-3391  
Ocasek Government Office Building  
161 S. High Street, Room 404  
Akron, OH 44308-1615  
Counties Represented: Medina, Portage, Stark,  
Summit and Wayne

Region 10 - Cambridge

William Gotschall  
Phone: 740-439-2263  
Fax: 740-439-1524  
2146 Southgate Parkway  
Cambridge, OH 43725-3082  
Counties Represented: Belmont, Carroll,  
Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison,  
Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum and Tuscarawas

Region 11 - Marietta  
Michael Jacoby  
Phone: 740-373-5150  
Fax: 740-373-2984  
308 Front Street  
Marietta, OH 45750-2922  
Counties Represented: Athens, Hocking, Meigs,  
Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry and Washington

Region 12 - Youngstown  
Julie Michael  
Phone: 330-797-6301  
Fax: 330-797-6305  
George V. Voinovich Government Center  
242 Federal Plaza West, Suite 401  
Youngstown, OH 44503  
Counties Represented: Ashtabula, Mahoning and  
Trumbull

## **N. CAPITAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT STANDARDS**

### **Purpose**

A capital needs assessment represents a qualified professional's opinion of a property's current overall physical condition and identifies significant deferred maintenance, existing deficiencies, and material building code violations that affect the property's use and its structural and mechanical integrity. The assessment should include an opinion as to the proposed budget for recommended improvements and should identify critical building systems or components that have reached or exceeded their expected useful lives.

The assessment should include a projection of recurring probable expenditures for significant systems and components impacting use and tenancy, which are not considered operation or maintenance expenses, in order to determine the appropriate replacement reserve deposits on a per unit per year basis.

### **Process**

1. Conduct site visit and physical inspection of interior and exterior of units and structures
2. Interview available on-site property management and maintenance personnel and inquire about past repairs/improvements, pending repairs and existing or chronic physical deficiencies

### **Components**

Components which should be examined and analyzed in order to prepare a comprehensive property condition report or capital needs assessment for rehabilitation projects:

Site, including:

- Topography and drainage
- Pavement, curbing, sidewalks and parking
- Landscaping and amenities
- Water, sewer, storm drainage, gas and electric utilities and lines

Structural system, both substructure and superstructure, including:

- Exterior walls and balconies
- Exterior doors and windows
- Roofing system and drainage

Interiors, including:

- Unit and common area finishes (carpeting, vinyl tile, plaster walls, paint condition)
- Unit kitchen finishes and appliances
- Unit bathroom finishes and fixtures
- Common area lobbies and corridors

Mechanical systems, including:

- Plumbing and domestic hot water
- HVAC
- Electrical and fire protection
- Elevators

## **O. GUIDE TO FEDERAL ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The following is a checklist of design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act. This checklist represents many, but not all, of the requirements to the Act. This checklist is not intended to be exhaustive, rather, it is a helpful guide in determining if the major requirements of the Act have been met in designing and constructing a particular multifamily development. Projects may also be required to meet additional requirements included in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act as well as any state and local Civil Rights legislation along with any required related codes and laws.

### General Requirements

- Affected projects are developments with buildings containing four (4) or more units that were designed and constructed for first occupancy on or after March 13, 1991.
- If it is an elevator building, all units are “covered units.”
  - All units in buildings with elevators must have features required by the Act.
- If it is a non-elevator building, all ground-floor units are "covered units."
  - All ground-floor units in buildings without elevators must have features required by the Act.

**NOTE:** There is a narrow exception which provides that a non-elevator building in a development need not meet all of the Act’s requirements if it is impractical to have an accessible entrance to the non-elevator building because of hilly terrain or other unusual characteristics of the site.

### ***FEATURES REQUIRED BY THE FAIR HOUSING ACT***

#### 1. ACCESSIBLE BUILDING ENTRANCE ON AN ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

- The accessible route is a continuous, unobstructed path (no stairs) through the development that connects all buildings containing covered units and all other amenities.
- The accessible route also connects to parking lots, public streets, public sidewalks, and to public transportation stops.
- All slopes are no steeper than 8.33%.
- All slopes between 5% and 8.33% have handrails.
- Covered units have at least one entrance on an accessible route.
- There are sufficient curb cuts for a person using a wheelchair to reach every building in the development.

#### 2. COMMON AND PUBLIC USE AREAS

- At least two percent (2%) of all parking spaces are designated as handicapped parking.
- At least one (1) parking space at each common and public use amenity is designated as handicapped parking.
- All handicapped parking spaces are properly marked.
- All handicapped parking spaces are at least 96 inches wide with a 60-inch wide access aisle that can be shared between two spaces.
- The accessible aisle connects to a curb ramp and the accessible route.
- The rental or sales office is readily accessible and usable by persons with disabilities.
- All mailboxes, swimming pools, tennis courts, clubhouses, rest rooms, showers, laundry facilities, trash facilities, drinking fountains, public telephones, and other common and public use amenities offered by the development are readily accessible and usable by persons with disabilities.

3. USABLE DOORS

- All doors into and through covered units and common use facilities provide a clear opening of at least 32 inches nominal width.
- All doors leading into common use facilities have lever door handles that do not require grasping and twisting.
- Thresholds at doors to common use facilities are no greater than one-half (1/2) inch.
- All primary entrance doors to covered units have lever door handles that do not require grasping and twisting.
- Thresholds at primary entrance doors to covered units are no greater than three-quarter (3/4) inches and beveled.

4. ACCESSIBLE ROUTE INTO AND THROUGH THE COVERED UNIT

- All routes through the covered units are no less than 36 inches wide.

5. ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

- All light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats, and other environmental controls must be no less than 15 inches and no greater than 48 inches from the floor.

6. REINFORCED BATHROOM WALLS FOR GRAB BARS

- Reinforcements are built into the bathroom walls surrounding toilets, showers, and bathtubs for the later installation of grab bars.

7. USABLE KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS

- At least 30" x 48" of clear floor space at each kitchen fixture and appliance.
- At least 40 inches between opposing cabinets and appliances.
- At least a 60-inch diameter turning circle in U-shaped kitchens unless the cooktop or sink at end of U-shaped kitchen has removable cabinets beneath for knee space.
- In bathroom, at least 30" x 48" of clear floor space outside swing of bathroom door.
- Sufficient clear floor space in front of and around sink, toilet, and bathtub for use by persons using wheelchairs.

*For additional information, please visit the following web sites:*

- Accessible Home Page <http://www.homemods.org>
- Access Board <http://www.access-board.gov>
- ADA <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>
- Center for Universal Design <http://www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud>
- HUD information <http://www.hud.gov/fhe/fheacss.html>

**P. LISTING OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING & COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES**

***Area Agencies on Aging***

<u>Name</u>	<u>Counties Served</u>
District 1 (Cincinnati Area) Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio, Inc.	Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Warren
District 2 (Dayton Area) Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2	Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby
District 3 (Lima Area) Area Agency on Aging, PSA 3	Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Putnam, Van Wert
District 4 (Toledo Area) Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio, Inc.	Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Sandusky, Williams, Wood
District 5 (Mansfield Area) Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging, Inc.	Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, Wyandot
District 6 (Columbus Area) Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging	Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Union
District 7 (Rio Grande Area) Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.	Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton
District 8 (Marietta Area) Area Agency on Aging Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District	Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Washington
District 9 (Cambridge Area) Area Agency on Aging Region 9	Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Muskingum, Tuscarawas
District 10A (Cleveland Area) Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging	Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina
District 10B (Akron Area) Area Agency on Aging, PSA 10B	Portage, Stark, Summit, Wayne
District 11 (Youngstown Area) District XI Area Agency on Aging	Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning, Trumbull

***Community Action Agencies***

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Counties Served</u></b>
1. Adams-Brown Counties Economic Opportunities, Inc.	Adams, Brown
2. Lima/Allen Council on Community Affairs	Allen
3. Kno-Ho-Co Community Action Commission	Ashland, Coshocton, Holmes, Knox
4. Ashtabula County Community Action Agency	Ashtabula
5. Tri-County (Hocking-Athens-Perry) Community Action Agency	Athens, Hocking, Perry
6. SOURCES Community Network Services	Auglaize, Mercer
7. Community Action Commission of Belmont County	Belmont
8. Supports to Encourage Low-Income Families (SELF)	Butler
9. Har-Ca-Tus Tri-County Community Action Organization	Carroll, Harrison, Tuscarawas
10. Tri-County Community Action Agency of Champaign-Logan-Shelby Counties	Champaign, Logan, Shelby
11. Opportunities Industrialization Center of Clark County	Clark
12. Clermont County Community Services	Clermont
13. Clinton County Community Action Program	Clinton
14. Community Action Agency of Columbiana County	Columbiana
15. Ohio Heartland (Marion-Crawford) Community Action Commission	Crawford, Marion
16. Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland (CEOGC)	Cuyahoga
17. Supportive Council of Preventive Effort (SCOPE)	Darke, Greene, Montgomery, Preble, Warren
18. Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission, Inc.	Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Williams
19. Community Action Organization of Delaware/Madison/Union Counties, Inc.	Delaware, Madison, Union
20. Erie-Huron Counties Community Action Commission	Erie, Huron

*Community Action Agencies* (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Counties Served</u>
21. Community Action Program Commission of the Lancaster-Fairfield Area	Fairfield
22. Community Action Commission of Fayette County	Fayette
23. Columbus Metropolitan Area Community Action Organization (CMACAO)	Franklin
24. Community Action Program Committee of Meigs & Gallia Counties, Inc.	Gallia, Meigs
25. Geauga Community Action, Inc.	Gauga
26. G-M-N Tri-County Community Action Committee	Guernsey, Monroe, Noble
27. Cincinnati/Hamilton County Community Action Agency	Hamilton
28. HHWP Community Action Commission	Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Wyandot
29. Highland County Community Action Organization	Highland
30. Jackson-Vinton Community Action, Inc.	Jackson, Vinton
31. Jefferson County Community Action Council	Jefferson
32. Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers, Inc.	Lake
33. Ironton-Lawrence County Area Community Action Organization	Lawrence
34. Licking County Economic Action Development Study (LEADS)	Licking
35. Lorain County Community Action Agency, Inc.	Lorain
36. Economic Opportunity Planning Association of Greater Toledo, Inc. (EOPA)	Lucas
37. Youngstown Area Community Action Council	Mahoning
38. Wayne-Medina Community Action Agency	Medina, Wayne
39. Miami County Community Action Council	Miami
40. Community Action Program Corporation of Washington-Morgan Counties, Inc.	Morgan, Washington

*Community Action Agencies* (continued)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Counties Served</u>
41. Mansfield/Richland/Morrow Community Action Program	Morrow, Richland
42. Muskingum Economic Opportunity Action Group, Inc.	Muskingum
43. WSOS Community Action Commission, Inc.	Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Wood
44. Pickaway County Community Action Organization	Pickaway
45. Community Action Committee of Pike County	Pike
46. Community Action Council of Portage County	Portage
47. Ross County Community Action Commission, Inc.	Ross
48. Community Action Organization of Scioto County	Scioto
49. Stark County Community Action Agency	Stark
50. Akron-Summit Community Action Agency	Summit
51. Trumbull Community Action Program	Trumbull
52. Van Wert County Community Action Commission	Van Wert