

## Below is a summary of the Substantial Proposed Revisions to the Qualified Allocation Plan

QAP Section	Explanation	Proposed Revision
HFA 109.02 Primary Allocation Priorities	Renewable energy has been identified as a priority in the QAP. Renewable energy has many benefits – both financial and environmental.	Added renewable energy to the list of allocation priorities. Note: points have been added for projects that include renewable energy (see scoring section of this memo).
HFA 109.02 Primary Allocation Priorities	Though these preferences and criteria have been included in the QAP throughout the document, this change lists the preferences and criteria exactly as stated in the IRC Section 42.	<ul> <li>Incorporate specific statutory preferences (quoted from the IRS code):</li> <li>Developments serving the lowest income tenants;</li> <li>Developments affordable for the longest periods of time; and</li> <li>Developments located in Qualified Census Tracts that contribute to a concerted community revitalization plan.</li> <li>Incorporate specific statutory selection criteria (quoted from the IRS code):</li> <li>Project location;</li> <li>Housing needs characteristics;</li> <li>Project characteristics;</li> <li>Sponsor characteristics;</li> <li>Tenant populations with special housing needs;</li> <li>Projects intended for eventual tenant ownership;</li> <li>Energy efficiency of the project; and</li> <li>Historic nature of the project.</li> </ul>



HFA 109.02 Primary Allocation Priorities	The Board of Directors and NH Housing have made DEI a strategic priority, and we recognize the importance of creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive program.	culture of curiosity perspectives and those we collabora This is just one ste	and Inclusion Missi es diversity, equity y, seeks to better u experiences of the ate with, and the c ep in working towa g programs. Furth	ion Statement and inclusion and, inderstand and incluse who make up or communities we ser ards DEI through the er work is being do	ur organization, ve.
HFA 109.03.C LIHTC Availability and Set- Asides: Supplemental Set- Aside	There may be times when its beneficial for the project and for NH Housing to award supplemental LIHTCs over \$30,000. This can reduce the amount of capital subsidy needed.	to \$30,000 per pro LIHTCs. The prop	oject that has rece osed change is to	the staff level and re ived a reservation of allow staff (Execut the limit in its sole of	or allocation of ive Director) to
HFA 109.04.C Primary Program Policies: Per Unit Cost Standards/	Development costs have been a significant challenge in recent years. NH Housing recognizes this and must		ary 2023. The prop		by the Board of urther increase the
Investment Limit	balance it with being good	Limit Title	Current QAP	January 2023	Proposed
	stewards of scarce public	TDC WA	\$280,000	\$350,000	\$375,000
	resources.	TDC WA-HC	\$300,000	\$375,000	\$400,000
		TDC Non-WA	\$330,000	\$412,500	\$437,500
	These revised cost limits	Investment	\$230,000	\$264,500	\$300,000
	reflect increases based on current data.	WA: Weighted Ave HC: High Cost (continued on nex	•		



		The per unit TDC limits and investment limit will be reviewed in January of each year and some or all of the above limits may be increased by the Board of Directors.
HFA 109.04.F Primary Program Policies: Basis Boost	NH Housing recognizes that unique challenges exist for the development of affordable	In addition to the other current ways for a project to be eligible for a basis boost, change policy to include projects that are located in a rural area.
	housing in rural areas of the state. This change increases the amount of eligible basis, and therefore the equity, by up to 30%. (The eligible basis is used to calculate credits and the resulting equity.)	The definition of rural is being determined and defined based on various sources. There is not one good definition, as confirmed by research conducted by staff and in discussion with a Director at the Carsey School of Public Policy at UNH. Staff is looking at a combination of multiple sources.
HFA 109.04.G Primary Program Policies: Tax-Exempt Bond and 4% LIHTC Applications	There is no requirement to have a competitive process to allocate 4% LIHTCs, as there is no limit to 4% LIHTCs. Presently, the limited funds for	Tax-exempt bond and 4% LIHTC applications will no longer be scored for 4% LIHTCs. These projects will be scored for NH Housing capital subsidy and project-based vouchers through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFO). The language in the QAP has been revised to align with this change, and Appendix N, which includes details on scoring and preferences, has been removed.
Appendix N	tax-exempt bond and 4% LIHTCs is the NH Housing capital subsidy. Pulling this scoring out of the QAP allows NH Housing to set priorities based on known resources.	The current NOFO will be revised at a later date with input from the public. The scoring will be presented to the Multifamily Housing Committee and Board of Directors for approval.
HFA 109.05 Application Process: Healthy Housing	This section has not provided a great deal off added information about the projects. Though healthy housing is extremely important, much of the information is provided elsewhere in the application package.	Remove requirement (added in the last QAP) to submit an outline on how the housing will incorporate healthy housing development principles.



HFA 109.06.C	Encouraging new* developers	Add the following <b>bolded</b> language and requirements to this section:
Threshold Criteria:	to develop affordable housing	
Capacity	through programs we	The project's developer/sponsor, general partner and management agent
	administer is beneficial and	must:
	can also be a way to further	Submit a list of all development projects currently underway
	our DEI efforts. Staff has found	by the sponsor (in any state, including NH).
	that both the developer and	• Have the capacity, experience, and ability to successfully complete
	staff have challenges when the	the project:
	developer has no experience,	• The sponsor must have direct experience developing
	and it costs time and money to	a LIHTC project; and
	get the deal done.	<ul> <li>The sponsor must have successfully completed a</li> </ul>
	0	multifamily development project; and
	Enhancing this category will:	<ul> <li>If the sponsor does not meet all requirements above,</li> </ul>
		an experienced, qualified consultant shall be hired by
	1. With a customer service	the sponsor to assist the sponsor from the time of
	mindset, ensure that	application creation to construction completion.
	developers (current and	i. A copy of the executed consultant contract
	new) better understand the	must be submitted with the final application.
	expectations of how we	ii. All development consultant fees shall be paid
	assess capacity,	from the developer fee (see the NH Housing
	experience and ability to	Underwriting Standards and Development
	successfully complete the	Policies for Multifamily Finance for more
	project.	details).
	2. Allow staff to manage	Have appropriate staffing and/or consultant in place to
	developer capacity review	complete the proposed project.
	better.	<ul> <li>A list of staff (with job titles) that will be working on the project</li> </ul>
		must be submitted with the final application.
	*New to NH Housing and/or	<ul> <li>Have started construction within six months from the date of the</li> </ul>
	new to affordable housing	carryover allocation on a current project;
	development.	<ul> <li>Be compliant or otherwise not in default with this or any other</li> </ul>
		• Be compliant of otherwise not in default with this of any other NH Housing program as determined by NH Housing;
		(continued on next page)



HFA 109.06.G Threshold Criteria: Readiness HFA 109.06.M.	A detailed list of the required documents is needed to provide clear expectations. A new requirement was added to ensure that staff receives information needed to best manage timing (for financing commitment, loan closing and other milestones) expectations.	<ul> <li>programs;</li> <li>Have met the spe Agreement (LURA</li> <li>Not have any sign allocating agencies</li> <li>Add the following details</li> <li>The following items must</li> <li>Equity investor let</li> <li>Permit status lette</li> <li>Detailed scope of estimates.</li> <li>Identify es</li> <li>Completing NH Housin</li> <li>Schematic Design</li> <li>New requirement:</li> <li>For both 9% and 4% LIH required at the time of ap shall include estimated dat Phase requirements will the projects, refer to Appendition</li> </ul>	cific requirements of the L A) for previous projects; an inficant negative LIHTC his es. and new requirement: be submitted with the app tter of interest. er and timetable for obtain work with current (within s timator by name, job title, g the Uses of Funds for con- ng financing application is n Plans and Specifications TCs, a critical path schedu plication. The critical path ates that each item needed be completed or obtained. ix A and for 4% LIHTC pro-	nd story with other state blication. ing local approval. six months) cost and company. onstruction in the acceptable. S. ule and timeline will be schedule and timeline ed to meet Progress . For 9% LIHTC bjects refer to the
	Upon assessment of potential	I the minimum scores reco	ommended are as iollows	•
Threshold Criteria:	points with new and revised			
Threshold Criteria: Minimum Scoring	scoring categories, minimum	Project Type	Current Minimum	Proposed Minimum
Threshold Criteria:	scoring categories, minimum scores were reviewed and		Score	Score
Threshold Criteria: Minimum Scoring	scoring categories, minimum	General Occupancy	<b>Score</b> 100	<b>Score</b> 110
Threshold Criteria: Minimum Scoring	scoring categories, minimum scores were reviewed and		Score	Score



HFA 109.06.N. Threshold Criteria: Management Agent Training RequirementsThis requirement was previously included in scoring of proposed management agents; however, because it is a requirement, it has been moved to threshold criteria.	No changes have been made to the requirements.
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	109.07.A Scoring and Tiebreakers: Scoring Criteria		
	ing documentation for each scorir	n changed to a table format and now provides details on ng category. As a result, the "recommended documentation" column in the P will show as entirely new content (red-lined).	
1. General Occupancy Units	The one-bedroom section of this scoring category has been rarely used and scoring for projects with residents with a disability is elsewhere in the QAP.	Remove section related to one-bedroom units for residents with a disability. Keep remainder of the scoring category as is.	
2.c Non-LIHTC Units	Staff received feedback that mixed-income can be difficult to do in 9% projects due to size and that investors often prefer projects to be 100% affordable. Further feedback indicated that there are times when a small amount of market rate units is beneficial for the project, as it can support financial feasibility with higher rental income. To accommodate both perspectives, the scoring category remains; however, the percentage of non-LIHTC units required to receive points has been decreased.	Reduce requirement for non-LIHTC units from 25% to 10% of total units required as non-LIHTC units.	
3.a and b Supportive Services	The integration of supportive housing in LIHTC projects is important to provide options	<ul> <li>Reduce points for 100% of the units with supportive services from 25 to 15 points.</li> </ul>	
	(and avoid concentration) to	(continued on next page)	



	people needing services to maintain housing. NH Housing receive feedback that it is challenging to find qualified, dependable service providers in rural areas of the state. In considering housing priorities and all feedback, a compromise is recommended. The scoring category remains; however, the points have been reduced to ensure projects in rural areas can remain competitive.	<ul> <li>b. Reduce points for 10% to 25% of the units with supportive services from 20 to 8 points.</li> <li>Units committed to the Section 8 PRA rental assistance program for people with severe mental illness will no longer receive points in this category. Points for committing to the 811 program are available in scoring sections 5 and 6.</li> </ul>
5.c. Community Based Supportive Housing for Existing Rental Housing Properties – 811 PRA Program	Developers can commit units in existing properties that they own to receive points for the proposed project. Some developers have received points for committing 10% in earlier rounds and we want to incentivize committing another 15% up to the max of 25% of the units.	The proposed change is to award 4 points for now an additional 15% of the total units in an existing property to the 811 PRA program (individuals with severe mental illness). Note: points remain in categories 5 and 6 for the commitment of units to the Section 811 program, though NH Housing has obligated all rental assistance for the current award. HUD has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Section 811 program and NH Housing will submit an application by the due date of February 12, 2024. NH Housing intends to award points in compliance with the QAP and if a new award is granted by HUD, developers will be held to their commitments to provide units for individuals through the 811 program. If an award is not granted, developers may be released from their commitment without penalty unless units can be reserved for the 811 program at a later date (if funds become available through another NOFO).



7. Location for General Occupancy Housing	Based on feedback and the significance of developing the first affordable housing for families and the workforce in a city or town, an increase in points is recommended.	Increase points from 10 to 15 for g	eneral occupancy	/ housing.
8.a Project Grants and Assistance	Staff recognizes the great benefit to properties for having rental assistance and, at the same time, we recommend streamlining this category.	Projects receive point for having n points) or 66% (15 points) of the to for 10 points and revise 15-point c Housing Authority project-based ve	otal units; change ategory to 50% of ouchers are not e	will remove category f the units. Public ligible for points.
8.b. Project Grants Incentivizing and rewarding		Increase points for projects with pr funding other than LIHTC equity a		
	important as projects cost more and resources are	Source Amounts Per Unit	Points	Proposed Points
	limited. Staff proposed to	Greater than \$29,999	20	22
	increase the points for both	\$20,000 to \$29,999	15	17
	proposed and likely and	\$10,000 to \$19,999	10	12
	committed.	\$5,000 to \$9,999	5	7
		Less than \$5,000	0	0
	Proposed and likely means that the developer has applied for funds (CDBG, AHP etc.) that the proposed project is eligible for.	Increase points for projects that ha and likely sources above (long-tern these points).		
		Source Amounts Per Unit	Points	Proposed Points
		Greater than \$29,999	4	10
		\$20,000 to \$29,999	8	12
		\$10,000 to \$19,999	6	10
		\$5,000 to \$9,999	4	8
		Less than \$5,000	0	0



9.a. Advanced Projects	Projects that can demonstrate no requirement for a Historic Review of the proposed project currently receive 8 points. Any project that will or may receive federal funds will require a historic review (even when the proposed project is not an existing building). Scoring category no longer makes sense.	Remove points for projects that can demonstrate no requirement for a Historic Review.
11. Project Cost	This is a point <u>penalty</u> category for projects where the TDC weighted average is a certain percentage over the overall average of all projects in the application round. Feedback was received that its challenging for developers to manage their scoring expectations not knowing what the resulting benchmark will be. Staff concurs and instead will compare application TDC weighted averages to the prior year's cost data adjusted to account for cost escalations.	For this category the TDC weighted average will be compared to the overall average of the TCD weighted averages in the prior year's 9% application round (rehabilitation projects will be excluded from this calculation) adjusted to account for cost escalation. This information will be available by request by January 31 of each year.
12. Sponsor is a Public Housing Authority (PHA) or a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)	Recognizing the value of encouraging different types of sponsors, including PHAs and CDHOs, staff proposed increasing points. The LIHTC program requires that 10% of	Increase points when the sponsor is a PHA or CDHO from 3 to 8 points. <u>CHDO definition</u> : a private non-profit, community-based organization that has staff with the capacity to develop affordable housing in the community it serves. The organization must meet certain requirements pertaining to their legal status, organizational structure, and capacity and experience. <i>(continued on next page)</i>



	the 9% LIHTC allocation be awarded to non-profit organizations and this scoring category helps to support that requirement.	
14.c. Qualified Contracts	For several years now, the QAP has required that owners waive their right to submit a Qualified Contract (QC); however, there remains a very small list of projects developed prior to this condition for	Revise penalty points from 1 to -10 to -5 points.
	approval. If the developer for any one of these projects pursues a QC, a future application will receive a points penalty. The QAP includes a range of penalty points for these circumstances, which does not make sense.	<u>Qualified Contract definition</u> : is a process permitted by the program that allows property owners to opt out of the program after the first 15 years. This is a good example of using the NCSHA's Best Practices as guidance. In order to ensure that projects remain affordable, at least through the affordability period, NCSHA recommends allocating agencies require all developers to waive their right to submit a QC as a condition of receiving LIHTCs.
16.a. Energy Efficient Design and Construction: Air Conditioning	Based on feedback and staff discussions, we recognize the greater need for air conditioning, due to increased temperatures. The benefits of air conditioning can include a more comfortable environment for residents, cleaner air, and potentially more affordable upkeep.	Add a new points category that incentives the inclusion of air conditioning (A/C) in all units and common areas. Central A/C, package through-wall A/C (used in modular construction, for example), and mini split A/C systems will qualify for points. Window, portable, and portable through-wall units do not qualify for points.
16.b. Energy Efficient Design and Construction:	NH Housing recognizes there are up-front costs related to energy efficient design and	Increase points from 5 to 8 points for projects that include either Passive House or Net Zero.



Passive House or Net Zero Certification	weighs that with long-term financial benefits (operating cost savings), especially with the rising costs of energy. The high air quality, resident comfort, and energy cost savings prompted staff to recommend an increase in points.	
16.c. Energy Efficient Design and Construction: Energy Rating System (HERS)	See comments above (16.b.)	<ul> <li>Add a new points category to provide an alternative to incorporating LEED Gold, National Green Building Standards, or Enterprise Green Communities certifications; 2 points are awarded.</li> <li>Projects that achieve a HERS rating of 47 or better or projects that incorporate solar that achieve a HERS rating of 24 or better will be awarded 2 points.</li> <li>HERS: an industry standard by which a building's energy efficiency is</li> </ul>
17. Renewable Energy: Solar Electric Arrays and Geothermal heating and cooling systems.	Like with energy efficient design, rising energy costs greatly impact affordable housing operating budgets. Incorporating renewable energy help reduce energy costs.	Measured. Add new points category to incentive renewable energy systems in projects. Solar or Geothermal included in a project will be awarded 4 points.
19. Affordability Period	With the discussion about the removal of the NH Housing right of first refusal, feedback was received to increase the minimum required affordability period. Staff determined that	Add new points category for developers who commit to an affordability period of 75 years. See updates to minimum affordability period later in this memo. <i>(continued on next page)</i>



	an incentive (points) was the best way to encourage a longer-term affordability period.	
HFA 109.08.A Reservation of LIHTC	The QAP states that one age- restricted projects will be funded per round and that projects may be selected over higher scoring projects to meet this requirement. For an age-restricted project to be selected over a higher scoring general occupancy project, the minimum points is greater than the threshold requirement (100 points). Recognizing the strong need for general occupancy housing, while acknowledging that age-restricted housing is important as well, staff recommends increasing the minimum points.	Increase minimum points for age-restricted projects to be selected over higher scoring general occupancy projects to meet the requirement that one age-restricted project will be funded per round; increase to 105 points.
HFA 109.09.A. Fees to NH Housing	Staff recommends removing the fees from the QAP so that they can reviewed and updated annually. In addition, this allows staff to publish all multifamily housing development fees in one document.	Remove LIHTC and HUD Environmental fees from the QAP and create a fee schedule that includes these fees along with other multifamily fees such as fees related to HOME, HTF and Bond financing.



HFA 109.10.A. Long- term Affordability and	Staff reviewed the affordability period and received input from the public. Requiring and incentivizing long term affordability period, over the minimum requirement of 30 years, continues to be a priority for NH Housing and for the program.	Staff recommends the following:		
Compliance: Recorded Affordability Period		Project Type	Current Term	Recommended Term
		9% LIHTC	60 Years	60 Years
		As noted above (scoring section 19); points will be awarded for a commitment to 75 years for 9% LIHTC projects.		
		4% LIHTC (with NH Housing capital subsidy)	30 Years	45 Years
	With the update to the tax- exempt bond and 4% LIHTC NOFO, staff may recommend awarding points for committing to an affordability period longer than 45 years. Staff will discuss and gather external input.	4% LIHTC (with no NH Housing capital subsidy)	30 Years	30 Years
HFA 109.10.B. Long- term Affordability and Compliance: Right of First Refusal (ROFR)	Several discussions were held about the NH Housing ROFR. External partners asserted that it was no longer needed given the LURA remains even if a sale. Additionally, staff concluded awarding points for longer restrictions would be a more effective approach than the ROFR.	Remove the NH Housing longer be a requirement		



Appendix H Election	Staff determined, based upon	Remove Gross Rent Floor election form.
of Gross Rent Floor	feedback received at an	
	NCSHA conference, that this	
	election form is unnecessary.	
	The IRS default for the gross	
	rent floor is the allocation date	
	and there is no reason why an	
	owner would or should choose	
	to make it the placed in service	
	date.	