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## CHAPTER 13 MULTIFAMILY DIRECT LOAN RULE

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### §13.1. Purpose.

**(a) Authority.** The rules in this chapter apply to the funds provided to Multifamily Developments through the Multifamily Direct Loan Program (MFDL or Direct Loan Program) by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department). Notwithstanding anything in this chapter to the contrary, loans and grants issued to finance the development of multifamily rental housing are subject to the requirements of the laws of the State of Texas, including but not limited to Tex. Gov't Code, Chapter 2306, and federal law pursuant to the requirements of Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, Division B, Title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) of 2008 - Emergency Assistance for the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes, Section 1497 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act: Additional Assistance for Neighborhood Stabilization Programs, Title I of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Section 1131 (Public Law 110-289), and the implementing regulations 24 CFR Parts 91, 92, 93, and 570 as they may be applicable to a specific fund source. The Department is authorized to administer Direct Loan Program funds pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code, Chapter 2306.

**(b) General.** This chapter applies to Applications submitted for, and award of, MFDL funds by the Department and establishes the general requirements associated with the application and award process for such funds. Applicants pursuing MFDL assistance from the Department are required to certify, among other things, that they have familiarized themselves with all applicable rules that govern that specific program including, but not limited to this chapter, Chapter 1 of this title (relating to Administration), Chapter 2 of this title (relating to Enforcement), Chapter 10 of this title (relating to Uniform Multifamily Rules), Chapter 11 of this title (relating to Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP)), and Chapter 12 of this title (relating to Multifamily Housing Revenue Bond Rules) as applicable. The Applicant is also required to certify that it is familiar with the requirements of any other federal, state, or local financing sources that it identifies in its Application. Any conflict with rules, regulations, or statutes will be resolved on a case by case basis that allows for compliance with all requirements. Conflicts that cannot be resolved may result in Application ineligibility, with the right to an Appeal as provided in 10 TAC §1.7 of this title (relating to Appeals Process) or 10 TAC §11.902 of this title (relating to Appeals Process for the Housing Tax Credit program), as applicable.

**(c) Waivers.** Requests for waivers of any program rules or requirements must be made in accordance with 10 TAC §11.207 of this title (relating to Waiver of Rules), as limited by the rules in this chapter. In no instance will the Department consider a waiver request that would violate federal program requirements or state or federal statute. Waiver requirements are provided in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection:

- (1) Waivers for Layered Developments. For Direct Loan Developments layered with Competitive Housing Tax Credits, an Applicant may request, at the latest at Application submission, that the Department amend its NOFA, amend its Consolidated Plan or One Year

Action Plan, or ask HUD to grant a waiver of its regulations, if such request will not impact the timing of the Application's review, nor alter the scoring or satisfaction of threshold requirements for the Competitive Housing Tax Credits. Such requests will be presented to the Department's Board. The Board may not waive rules that are federally required, or that have been incorporated as a required part of the Department's Consolidated Plan or One Year Action Plan (OYAP) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), unless those Plans are so amended by the earlier of a date the NOFA stops accepting Applications or by an earlier date that is identified by the Board;

(2) Waivers for Non-Layered Developments. For Direct Loan Developments not layered with Competitive Housing Tax Credits, an Applicant may request that the Department amend its NOFA, amend its Consolidated Plan or OYAP, or ask HUD to grant a waiver of its regulations. Such requests will be presented to the Department's Board; if the Applicant's request is approved by the Department's Governing Board (Board), the Application Acceptance Date will then be the date the Department completes the amendment process or receives a waiver from HUD. If this date occurs after the NOFA closes, the Applicant will be required to submit a new Application, and the Direct Loan awardee (pre-closing) may be required to reapply, under a new or otherwise open NOFA; and

(3) Waivers under Closed NOFAs. The Board may not waive any portion of a closed NOFA prior to Construction Completion. Thereafter, the Board may only waive any portion of a closed NOFA as part of an approved Asset Management Division work out. Allowable Post-Closing Amendments are described in 10 TAC §13.13 of this chapter (relating to Post-Closing Amendments to Direct Loan Terms).

**(d) Eligibility and Threshold Requirements.** Applications for Multifamily Direct Loan funds must meet all applicable eligibility and threshold requirements of Chapter 11 of this title (relating to the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP)), unless otherwise excepted in this rule or NOFA.

## §13.2. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Any capitalized terms not specifically mentioned in this section shall have the meaning as defined in Tex. Gov't Code, Chapter 2306; §§141, 142, and 145 of the Internal Revenue Code; 24 CFR Parts 91, 92, and 93; 2 CFR Part 200; and 10 TAC Chapters 1 of this title regarding Administration, 2 of this title regarding Enforcement, 10 of this title regarding Uniform Multifamily Rules, and 11 of this title regarding the Qualified Allocation Plan.

**(1) Application Acceptance Date**--The date the MFDL Application is considered received by the Department as described in this chapter, chapter 11 of this title, or in the NOFA. An Applicant will not receive an Application Acceptance Date until the Application is complete.

**(2) Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)**--A private nonprofit organization with experience developing or owning affordable rental housing that meets the requirements in 24 CFR Part 92 for purposes of receiving HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds under the CHDO Set-Aside. A member of a CHDO's board cannot be a Principal of the Development beyond their role as a board member of the CHDO or be an employee of the development team, and may not receive financial benefit other than reimbursement of expenses from the CHDO (e.g., a voting board member cannot also be a paid executive).

**(3) Construction Completion or Development Period**--The Development Period is the time allowed to complete construction, which includes, without limitation, that necessary title transfer requirements and construction work has been fully performed, the certificate(s) of occupancy (if New Construction or reconstruction), Certificate of Substantial Completion (AIA Form G704), Form HUD-92485 (for instances in which a federally insured HUD loan is utilized), or equivalent notice has been issued.

**(4) Deobligated Funds**--The funds released by the Development Owner or recovered by the Department canceling a Contract or award involving some or all of a contractual financial obligation between the Department and a Development Owner or Applicant.

**(5) Federal Affordability Period**--The period commencing on the later of the date after Construction Completion and after all Direct Loan funds have been disbursed for the project, or the date of Project Completion as defined in 24 CFR §92.2 or §93.3, as applicable, and ending on the date which is the required number of years as defined by the federal program.

**(6) HOME**--the HOME Investment Partnership Program, authorized by Title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act,

**(7) HOME Match-Eligible Unit**--A Unit in the Development that is not assisted with HOME Program funds, but would qualify as eligible for Match under 24 CFR Part 92. Unless otherwise identified by the provisions in the NOFA, TCAP RF and matching contribution on NSP and NHTF Developments must meet all criteria to be classified as HOME-Match Eligible Units.

**(8) Housing Contract System (HCS)**--The electronic information system established by the Department for tracking, funding, and reporting Department Contracts and Developments. The HCS is primarily used by the Department for Direct Loan Programs administered by the Department.

**(9) Land Use Restriction Agreement (LURA) Term**--The period commencing on the effective date of the LURA and ending on the date which, at a minimum, is the greater of the loan term or 30 years. The LURA may include the Federal Affordability Period, in addition to the State Affordability Period requirements and State restrictive criteria.

**(10) Matching Contribution (Match)**--A contribution to a Development from nonfederal sources that may be in one or more of the forms provided in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of

this paragraph:

(A) Cash contribution (grant), except for cash contributions made by investors in a limited partnership or other business entity subject to pass through tax benefits in a tax credit transaction or owner equity (including Deferred Developer Fee and General Partner advances);

(B) Reduced fees or donated labor from certain eligible contractors, subcontractors, architects, attorneys, engineers, excluding any contributions from a party related to the Developer or Owner;

(C) Net present value of yield foregone from a below market interest rate loan as described in HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) Notice 97-03;

(D) Waived or reduced fees or taxes from cities or counties not related to the Applicant in connection with the proposed Development; or

(E) Donated land or land sold by an unrelated third party at a price below market value, as evidenced by a third party appraisal.

**(11) NHTF**--National Housing Trust Fund.

**(12) NOFA**--Notice of Funding Availability.

**(13) NSP**--Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

**(14) Qualifying Unit**--means a Unit designated for Multifamily Direct Loan use and occupancy in compliance with State and federal regulations, as set forth in the Contract. Except if the Development is all-bills paid, Qualifying Units may not also have a Project-Based Voucher issued under 24 CFR Part 983, unless the Application contains permission from the Public and Indian Housing Division of HUD for the layered units to use a utility allowance that is not the Public Housing Utility Allowance, or the Applicant has received permission from the Community Planning and Development Division of HUD for the layered units to use the Public Housing Utility Allowance. If necessary, such permission must be submitted with the Application, and the Application will not be given an Application Acceptance Date until it is received.

**(15) Relocation Plan**--A residential anti-displacement and relocation assistance plan and budget in an Application that addresses residential and non-residential displacement and complies with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Act as implemented at 49 CFR Part 24, HUD Handbook 1378, and the TDHCA Relocation Handbook. Additionally, some HOME and NSP funded Developments must comply with Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (as amended), and 24 CFR Part 42 (as modified for NSP and HOME American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds), which requires a one-for-one replacement of occupied and vacant, occupiable low- and moderate-income dwelling units demolished or converted.

Guidance is on the Department's website at <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/multifamily/home/index.htm>. The Relocation Plan must be in form and substance consistent with requirements of the Department.

**(16) Section 234 Condominium Housing Basic Mortgage Limits (Section 234 Condo Limits)--**

The per-unit subsidy limits for all MFDL funding. These limits take into account whether or not a Development is elevator served and any local conditions that may make development of multifamily housing more or less expensive in a given metropolitan statistical area. If the high cost percentage adjustment applicable to the Section 234 Condo Limits for HUD's Fort Worth Multifamily Hub is applicable for all Developments that TDHCA finances through the MFDL Program, then confirmation of that applicability will be included in the applicable NOFA.

**(17) Site and Neighborhood Standards--**

HUD requirements for New Construction or reconstruction Developments funded by NHTF (24 CFR §93.150) or New Construction Developments funded by HOME (24 CFR §92.202). Proposed Developments must provide evidence that the Development will comply with these federal regulations in the Application. Guidance for successful submissions is provided on the Department website at <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/multifamily/apply-for-funds.htm>. Applications that are unable to comply with requirements in 24 CFR §983.57(e)(2) and (3) will not be eligible for HOME or NHTF.

**(18) State Affordability Period--**

The LURA Term as described in the MFDL contract and loan documents and as required by the Department in accordance with the Chapter 2306, Texas Gov't Code which may be an additional period after the Federal Affordability Period.

**(19) Surplus Cash--**

Except when the first lien mortgage is a federally insured HUD mortgage that is subject to HUD's surplus cash definition, Surplus Cash is any cash remaining:

(A) After the payment of:

(i) All sums due or currently required to be paid under the terms of any superior lien;

(ii) All amounts required to be deposited in the reserve funds for replacement;

(iii) Operating expenses actually incurred by the borrower for the Development during the period with an appropriate adjustment for an allocable share of property taxes and insurance premiums;

(iv) Recurring maintenance expenses actually incurred by the borrower for the Development during the period; and

(v) All other obligations of the Development approved by the Department; and

(B) After the segregation of an amount equal to the aggregate of all special funds required

to be maintained for the Development; and

(C) Excluding payment of:

(i) All sums due or currently required to be paid under the terms of any subordinate liens against the property;

(ii) Any development fees that are deferred including those in eligible basis; and

(iii) Any payments or obligations to the borrower, ownership entities of the borrower, related party entities; any payment to the management company exceeding 5% of the effective gross income; incentive management fee; asset management fees; or any other expenses or payments that shall be negotiated between the Department and borrower.

**(20) TCAP Repayment Funds**--(TCAP RF) the Tax Credit Assistance Payment program funds.

### §13.3. General Loan Requirements.

**(a) Funding Availability.** Direct Loan funds may be made available through a NOFA or other similar governing document that includes the method for applying for funds and funding requirements.

**(b) Oversourced Developments.** A Direct Loan request may be reduced or not recommended if the Department's Underwriting Report concludes the Development does not need all or part of the MFDL funds requested in the Application because it is oversourced, and for which a timely appeal has been completed, as provided in 10 TAC §1.7 of this title (relating to Appeals Process) or 10 TAC §11.902 of this title (relating to Appeals Process for Competitive HTC Applications), as applicable.

**(c) Funding Sources.** Direct Loan funds are composed of annual HOME and National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) allocations from HUD and associated Program Income, repayment of TCAP or TCAP RF loans, HOME Program Income, NSP Program Income (NSP PI or NSP), and any other similarly encumbered funding that may become available by Board action, except as otherwise noted in this chapter. Similar funds include any funds that are identified by the Board to be loaned or granted for the development of multifamily property and are not governed by another chapter in this title, with the exception of State funds appropriated for a specific purpose.

**(d) Eligible and Ineligible Activities.**

(1) Eligible Activities. Direct Loan funds may be used for the predevelopment, acquisition, New Construction, reconstruction, Adaptive Reuse, rehabilitation, or preservation of affordable housing with suitable amenities, including real property acquisition, site improvements, conversion, demolition, or operating cost reserves, subject to applicable HUD guidance. Other expenses, such as financing costs, relocation expenses of any displaced persons, families, businesses, or organizations may be included. MFDL funds may be used to assist Developments previously awarded by the Department when approved by specific action of the Board. Eligible Activities may have fund source restrictions or may be restricted by a NOFA.

(2) Ineligible Activities. Direct Loan funds may not be awarded to a Development:

(A) Subject to the requirements of 36 CFR 67, implementing Section 47 of the Internal Revenue Code (related to Historic Tax Credits), unless Part 2 of that Application, concerning a description of the proposed rehabilitation work, has been approved by the National Park Service and is submitted with the Application;

(B) Layered with Housing Tax Credits that have elected the income averaging election under Section 42(g)(1)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code that have more than 15% of the Units designated as Market Rate Units;

(C) In which the Applicant will not be directly leasing Units to residents, except as specifically described in the NOFA;

(D) Applicants applying for HOME or NSP funds may not commit any choice limiting activities as defined by HUD in 24 CFR Part 58 prior to obtaining environmental clearance, and will be subject to termination of the Direct Loan award if such action is undertaken. For an Applicant applying for NHTF funds, choice limiting activities prior to full execution of a Contract with the Department are not prohibited, but the eligibility of costs associated with these activities will be impacted in keeping with 24 CFR §93.201(h) and all applicable federal regulations. Furthermore, certain activities which prohibit environmental mitigation may cause the Development to be ineligible and will cause the termination of the Direct Loan award.

**(e) Ineligible Costs.** All costs associated with the Development and known by the Applicant must be disclosed as part of the Application. Other federal funds will be included in the Final Direct Loan Eligible Costs located in Table 1 of the Direct Loan Calculator as part of the required per-unit subsidy limit calculation. Costs ineligible for reimbursement with Direct Loan funds in accordance with 24 CFR Parts 91, 92, 93, and 570, and 2 CFR Part 200, as federally required or identified in the NOFA, include but are not limited to:

(1) Offsite costs;

(2) Stored Materials;



- (3) Site Amenities, such as swimming pools and decking, landscaping, playgrounds, and athletic courts;
- (4) The purchase of equipment required for construction;
- (5) Furnishings and Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) required for the Development;
- (6) Detached Community Buildings;
- (7) Carports and/or parking garages, unless attached as a feature of the Unit;
- (8) Commercial Space costs;
- (9) Personal Property Taxes;
- (10) TDHCA fees;
- (11) Syndication and organizational costs;
- (12) Reserve Accounts, except Initial Operating Deficit Reserve Accounts;
- (13) Delinquent fees, taxes, or charges;
- (14) Costs incurred more than 24 months prior to the effective date of the Direct Loan Contract, unless the Application is awarded TCAP RF, and if specifically allowed by the Board;
- (15) Costs that have been allocated to or paid by another fund source (except for soft costs that are attributable to the entire project as specifically identified in the applicable federal rule, or for TCAP RF if specifically allowed by the NOFA), including but not limited to, contingency, including soft cost contingency, and general partner loans and advances;
- (16) Deferred Developer Fee;
- (17) Texas Bond Review Board (BRB) fees;
- (18) Community Facility spaces that are not for the exclusive use of tenants and their guests;
- (19) The portion of soft costs that are allocated to support ineligible hard costs;
- (20) Other costs limited by Award or NOFA, or as established by the Board;
- (21) Interest on Construction Loans; and

(22) Acquisition that occurred before the Application Acceptance Date and environmental clearance for HOME and NSP projects. For NHTF, acquisition that occurred prior to Contract signing.

#### §13.4. Set-Asides, Regional Allocation, and NOFA Priorities.

**(a) Set-Asides.** Specific types of Activities or Developments for which a portion of MFDL funds may be reserved in a NOFA will be grouped in categories called Set-Asides. The Soft Repayment Set-Aside, CHDO Set-Aside, and General Set-Aside, as described below, are fixed Set-Asides that will be included in the annual NOFA (except when CHDO requirements are waived or reduced by HUD). The remaining Set-Asides described below are flexible Set-Asides and are applicable only if identified in a NOFA; flexible Set-Asides are not required to be programmed on an annual basis. The Board may approve Set-Asides not described in this section. The amount of a single award may be credited to multiple Set-Asides, in which case the credited portion of funds may be repositioned into an oversubscribed Set-Aside prior to a defined collapse deadline. Applications under any and all Set-Asides may or may not be layered with other Department Multifamily programs except as provided in this section or as determined by the Board to address unique circumstances not addressed by these rules.

##### (1) Fixed Set-Asides:

###### (A) General / Soft Repayment Set-Aside.

(i) Applicants seeking to qualify for NHTF under this set-aside must propose Developments in which all Units assisted with MFDL funds are available for households earning the greater of the poverty rate or 30% AMI, and have rents no higher than the rent limits for extremely low-income tenants in 24 CFR §93.302(b).

(ii) Applicants seeking to qualify for HOME under this set-aside must propose Developments in which all Units assisted with MFDL funds are available to households earning no more than 80% AMI and have rents no higher than the rent limits 24 CFR §92.2.

(iii) A portion of the General / Soft Repayment Set-Aside may be reallocated into the CHDO Set-Aside in order to fully fund a CHDO award that exceeds the remaining amount in the CHDO Set-Aside.

(B) CHDO Set-Aside. Unless waived or reduced by HUD, a portion of the Department's annual HOME allocation, will be set aside for eligible CHDOs meeting the requirements of the definition of Community Housing Development Organization in 24 CFR §92.2 and 10 TAC §13.2(2) of this chapter. Applicants under the CHDO Set-Aside must be proposing to develop housing on Development Sites located outside Participating Jurisdictions (PJ), unless the award is made within a Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Set-

Aside, or the requirement under Tex. Gov't Code §2306.111(c)(1) has been waived by the Governor. A grant for CHDO operating expenses may be awarded in conjunction with an award of MFDL funds under this Set-Aside, if no other CHDO operating grants have been awarded to the Applicant in the same Calendar year, in accordance with 24 CFR §92.208. Applications under the CHDO Set-Aside may not have a for profit special limited partner within the ownership organization chart.

(2) Flexible Set-Asides:

(A) 4% HTC and Bond Layered Set-Aside. The 4% and Bond Layered Set-Aside is reserved for Applications layered with 4% Housing Tax Credits and Tax-Exempt Bond funds where the Development Owner does not meet the definition of a CHDO, but that the Application does meet all other MFDL requirements.

(B) Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Set-Aside. The PWD Set-Aside is reserved for Developments restricting Units for residents who meet the requirements of Tex. Gov't Code §2306.111(c)(2) while not exceeding the number of Units limited by 10 TAC §1.15 of this title (relating to the Integrated Housing Rule). MFDL funds will be awarded in a NOFA for the PWD Set-Aside only if sufficient funds are available to award at least one Application within a Participating Jurisdiction under Tex. Gov't Code §2306.111(c)(1).

(C) Competitive HTC Layered Set-Aside. The Competitive HTC Layered Set-Aside is reserved for Applications that are layered with Competitive Housing Tax Credits that do not meet the definition of CHDO, but that do meet all other MFDL requirements. Awards under this Set-aside are dependent on the concurrent award of a Competitive HTC allocation; however, an allocation of Competitive HTC does not ensure that a sufficient amount of MFDL funds will be available for award.

(D) Additional Set-Asides may be developed, subject to Board approval, to meet the requirements of specific funds sources, or address Department priorities. To the extent such Set-Asides are developed, they will be reflected in a NOFA or other similar governing document.

**(b) Regional Allocation and Collapse.** All funds subject to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.111 or as described to HUD in planning documents will be allocated to regions and potentially subregions based on a Regional Allocation Formula (RAF) within the applicable Set-Asides (unless the funds have already been through a RAF of the annual NOFA and/or Special Purpose NOFA). The RAF methodology may differ by fund source. HOME funds will be allocated in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 2306. The end date and Application Acceptance Date for the regionally allocated funds will be identified in the NOFA, but in no instance shall it be less than 30 days from the date a link to the Board approved NOFA or NOFA Amendment is published on the Department's website.

(1) After funds have been made available regionally and the period for regional allocation

has expired, remaining funds within each respective Set-Aside may collapse and be pooled together on a date identified in the NOFA. All Applications received prior to these collapse dates will continue to hold their priority unless they are withdrawn, terminated, suspended, or funded.

(2) Funds remaining after expiration of the Set-Asides on the end date identified in the NOFA, which have not been requested in the form of a complete Application, may be collapsed and pooled together to be made available statewide on a first-come first-served basis to Applications submitted after the collapse dates, as further described in the NOFA.

(3) In instances where the RAF would result in regional or subregional allocations insufficient to fund an Application, the Department may use an alternative method of distribution, including an early collapse, revised formula or other methods as approved by the Board, and reflected in the NOFA.

**(c) Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).** MFDL funds will be distributed pursuant to the terms of a published NOFA that provides the specific collapse dates and deadlines as well as Set-Aside and RAF amounts applicable to each NOFA, along with scoring criteria, priorities, award limits, and other Application information. Set-asides, RAFs, and total funding amounts may increase or decrease in accordance with the provisions herein without further Board action as authorized by the Board.

**(d) Priorities for the Annual NOFA.** Complete Applications received during the period that funds are regionally made available (if a RAF is used in the Annual NOFA) will be prioritized for review and recommendation to the Board, if funds are available in the region or subregion (as applicable) and in the Set-Aside under which the Application is received. If insufficient funds are available in a region or subregion to fund all Applications then the scoring criteria in §13.6 of this Chapter will be applied if necessary and the Applications whose requests are in excess of the available funds will be evaluated only after the regional and/or Set-Aside collapse and in accordance with the additional priority levels in this subsection, unless an Application received earlier is withdrawn or terminated. If insufficient funds are available within a region, subregion, or Set-Aside, the Applicant may request to be considered under another Set-Aside if they qualify, prior to the collapse. Applications will be reviewed and recommended to the Board if funds are available in accordance with the order of prioritization described in paragraphs (1) - (3) of this subsection.

(1) Priority 1. Applications not layered with current year Competitive Housing Tax Credits (HTC) that are received prior to the Market Analysis Delivery Date as described in 10 TAC §11.2 of this title (relating to Program Calendar for Housing Tax Credits). Priority 1 Applications may be prioritized based on score within their respective Set-Aside for a certain time period, for certain populations, or for certain geographical areas, as further described in the NOFA.

(2) Priority 2. Applications layered with current year Competitive HTC will be prioritized

based on their recommendation status and score for their HTC allocation under the provisions of Chapter 11 of this title, the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP). All Priority 2 applications will be deemed received on the Market Analysis Delivery Date identified in Chapter 11 of this title, relating to the QAP. Priority 2 applications, if recommended, will be recommended for approval of the MFDL award at the same meeting when the Board approves the Competitive HTC allocations. Applications for Competitive HTC allocations are not guaranteed the availability of MFDL funds, as further provided in §13.5(e) of this chapter.

(3) Priority 3. Applications that are received after the Market Analysis Delivery Date identified in the QAP will be evaluated on a first come first served basis for any remaining funds, until the final deadline identified in the annual NOFA. However, the NOFA may describe additional prioritization periods for certain populations, or for certain geographical areas. Applications layered with Competitive HTC that are on the Competitive HTC waitlist after the Department's Board meeting at which final Competitive HTC awards are made will be considered Priority 3 Applications; if the Applicant receives an allocation of Competitive HTC later in the year, the MFDL Application Acceptance date will be the date the HTC Commitment Notice is issued, and MFDL funds are not guaranteed to be available.

**(e) Other Priorities.** The Board may set additional priorities for the annual NOFA, and for one time or special purpose NOFAs.

### §13.5. Application and Award Process.

**(a) Applications.** MFDL Applicants must follow the applicable requirements in 10 TAC Chapter 11, Subchapter C (relating to Application Submission Requirements, Ineligibility Criteria, Board Decisions and Waiver of Rules) and the Notice of Funding Availability for which the Application is submitted.

**(b) Application Acceptance Date.** Applications will be considered received on the business day of receipt, unless a different time period is described in the Department's rules or NOFA. If an Application is received after 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, it will be determined to have been received on the following business day. Applications received on a non-business day will be considered received on the next day the Department is open. Applications will be considered complete at the time all Application materials, required third party reports and application fee(s) are received by the Department. Within certain Set-Asides or priorities, the date of receipt may be fixed, regardless of the earlier actual date a complete Application is received, if so specified in the Department's rules or NOFA. If multiple Applications have the same Application Acceptance Date, in the same region or subregion (as applicable), and within the same Set-Aside, then score and tiebreaker factors, as described in §13.6 of this chapter (relating to Scoring Criteria) for MFDL or 10 TAC §11.7 and §11.9 of this title (relating to Tie Breaker Factors and Competitive HTC Selection Criteria, respectively) for Applications layered with Competitive HTC, will be used to determine the Application's rank.

**(c) Market Analysis.** Applications proposing Rehabilitation that request MFDL as the only source of Department funding may be exempted from the Market Analysis requirement in 10 TAC §11.205(2) (relating to Required Third Party Reports) if the Development's rent rolls for the most recent six months reflect occupancy of at least 80% of all Units.

**(d) Required Site Control Agreement Provisions.** All Applicants for MFDL funds must include the following provisions in the purchase contract or site control agreement if the subject property is not already owned by the Applicant:

(1) "Notwithstanding any other provision of this Contract, Purchaser shall have no obligation to purchase the Property, and no transfer of title to the Purchaser may occur, unless and until the Department has provided Purchaser and/or Seller with a written notification that: (A) It has completed a federally required environmental review and its request for release of federal funds has been approved and, subject to any other Contingencies in this Contract, (i) the purchase may proceed, or (ii) the purchase may proceed only if certain conditions to address issues in the environmental review shall be satisfied before or after the purchase of the property; or (B) It has determined that the purchase is exempt from federal environmental review and a request for release of funds is not required."; and

(2) "The Buyer does not have the power of eminent domain relating to the purchase and acquisition of the Property. The Buyer may use federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to complete this purchase. HUD will not use eminent domain authority to condemn the Property. All parties entered this transaction voluntarily and the Buyer has notified the Seller of what it believes the value of the Property to be in accordance with 49 CFR Part 24 Appendix A. If negotiations between both parties fail, Buyer will not take further action to acquire the Property."

**(e) Oversubscribed Funds for Competitive HTC-Layered Applications.** Should MFDL funds be oversubscribed in a Set-Aside or for a fund source that has geographic limitations within a Set-Aside, Applications concurrently requesting Competitive HTC will be notified and may amend their Application to accommodate another fund source and make changes that still meet threshold requirements in 10 TAC Chapters 11 and 13 of this title, if such changes do not impact scoring under 10 TAC §11.9 (relating to Competitive HTC Selection Criteria). The Department will provide notice to all impacted Applicants in the case of over-subscription, which will include a deadline by which the Applicant must respond to the Department. Multiple Applications from a single or affiliated Applicants do not constitute oversubscription, and the Applicant(s) will not be able to amend their Applications as described in this subsection. If MFDL funds become available between the Market Analysis Delivery Date, and the date of the Department's Board meeting at which final Competitive HTC awards are made, the MFDL funds will not be reserved for Competitive HTC-layered Applications, unless the reservation is described in the NOFA.

**(f) Availability of funds for Non-Competitive HTC-layered Applications.** If an Application requesting layered Non-Competitive HTC and Direct Loan funds is terminated under 10 TAC

§11.201(2)(E) (relating to Withdrawal of Certificate of Reservation), the Application will receive a new Application Acceptance Date for purposes of Direct Loan funds upon submission to the Department of the new Certificate of Reservation. Direct Loan funds will not be reserved for terminated Applications, and may not be available for the Application with a new Reservation.

**(g) Source of Direct Loan Funds.** To the extent that an Application is submitted under a Set-Aside where multiple sources of Direct Loan funds are available, the Department will select sources of funds for recommended Applications, as provided in paragraphs (1) - (4) of this subsection:

(1) The Department will generally select the recommended source of MFDL funds to award to an Application in the order described in subparagraphs (A) - (C) of this paragraph, which may be limited by the type of activity an Application is proposing or the proposed Development Site of an Application:

(A) Federal funds with commitment and expenditure deadlines will be selected first;

(B) Federal funds that do not have commitment and expenditure deadlines will be selected next; and

(C) Nonfederal funds that do not have commitment and expenditure deadlines will be selected last; however,

(2) The Department may also consider repayment risk or ease of compliance with other fund sources when assigning the source of funds to be recommended for award to an Application;

(3) The Department may move to the next fund source prior to exhausting another selection; and

(4) The Department will make the final decision regarding the fund source to be recommended for an award (within a Set-Aside that has multiple fund sources), and this recommendation may be not be appealed.

**(h) Eligibility Criteria and Determinations.** The Department will evaluate Applications received under a NOFA for eligibility and threshold pursuant to the requirements of this chapter and Chapter 11 of this title (relating to the Qualified Allocation Plan). The Department may terminate the Application if there are changes at any point prior to MFDL loan closing that would have had an adverse effect on the score and ranking order of the Application that would have resulted in the Application not being recommended for an award or being ranked below another Application received prior to the subject Application.

(1) Applicants requesting MFDL as the only source of Department funds must meet the Experience Requirement as provided in either subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph:

(A) The Experience Requirement as provided in 10 TAC §11.204(6) of this title (relating to Experience Requirement); or

(B) Alternatively by providing the acceptable documentation listed in §11.204(6) of this title evidencing the successful development, and at least five years of the successful operation, of a project or projects with at least twice as many affordability restricted Units as requested in the Application.

(2) The Executive Director or authorized designee must make eligibility determinations for Applications for Developments that meet the criteria in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph regardless of available fund sources:

(A) Received an award of funds or resources for the Development from the Department within 15 years preceding the Application Acceptance Date; or

(B) Started or completed construction, and are not proposing acquisition or rehabilitation.

(3) An Application that requires an eligibility determination in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection must identify that fact prior to, or in their Application so that an eligibility determination may be made subject to the Applicant's appeal rights under 10 TAC §11.902 or 10 TAC §1.7 of this title (both relating to Appeals), as applicable. A finding of eligibility under this paragraph does not guarantee an award. Applications requiring eligibility determinations generally will not be funded with HOME or NSP funds, unless a 24 CFR Part 58 review was done by another fund source.

(A) Requests under this paragraph will not be considered more than 60 calendar days prior to the first Application Acceptance Date published in the NOFA, for the Set-Aside in which the Applicant plans to apply.

(B) Criteria for consideration include clauses (i) - (iii) of this subparagraph:

(i) Evidence of circumstances beyond the Applicant's control that could not have been prevented with appropriate due diligence; or

(ii) Force Majeure events (not including weather events); and

(iii) Evidence that no further exceptional conditions exist that will delay or cause further cost increases.

(C) Criteria for consideration shall not include typical weather events, typical construction, or financing delays.

(D) Applications for Developments that previously received an award from the



Department within 15 years preceding the Application Acceptance Date will be evaluated at no more than the amount of Developer Fee underwritten the last time that the Department published an Underwriting Report. MFDL funds may not be used to fund increased Developer Fee, regardless of whether the increase is allowed under other Department rules.

(1) Proposed Developments must provide evidence that the Development will comply with Site and Neighborhood Standards, which can be in the form of narrative with supporting documentation, accompanied by required census data found in American Community Survey Table DP-05.

**(i) Request for Preliminary Determination.** Applicants considering a request for Direct Loan layered with a Competitive HTC Application may submit a Request for Preliminary Determination with the HTC Pre-Application. The results of evaluation of the request may be used as evidence of review of the Development and the Principals for purposes of scoring under 10 TAC §11.9(f)(1)(E). Submission of a Request for Preliminary Determination does not obligate the Applicant to request Multifamily Direct Loan funds with their full Application. The Preliminary Determination is based solely on the information provided in the request, and does not indicate that the full Application will be accepted. It is not a guarantee that Direct Loan funds will be available or awarded to the full Application.

**(j) Effective rules and contractual terms.** The contractual terms of an award will be governed by and reflect the rules in effect at the time of Application; however, any changes in federal requirements will be reflected in the contractual terms. Further provided, that if after award, but prior to execution of such Contract, there are new rules in effect, the Direct Loan awardee may elect to be governed by the new rules, provided the Application would continue to have been eligible for award under the rules and NOFA in effect at the time of Application.

### §13.6. Scoring Criteria.

The criteria identified in paragraphs (1) - (6) of this section will be used in the evaluation and ranking of Applications if other Applications have the same Application Acceptance Date, within the same Set-Aside, and having the same prioritization. There is no rounding of numbers in this section, unless rounding is explicitly indicated for that particular calculation or criteria. Changes to Applications where scoring is utilized under Chapter 13 will not be allowed between submission and award. The scoring items used to calculate the score for a Competitive HTC-Layered Application will be utilized for scoring for an MFDL Application, and evaluated in the same manner, except as specified below. Scoring criteria in Chapter 11 of this title (relating to the Qualified Allocation Plan) will always be superior to Scoring Criteria in this chapter if an MFDL Application is also concurrently requesting Competitive HTC.

**(1) Opportunity Index.** Applicants eligible for points under 10 TAC §11.9(c)(5) (relating to the Opportunity Index) (up to 7 points).

**(2) Resident Services.** Applicants eligible for points under 10 TAC §11.9(c)(3)(A) (relating to Resident Supportive Services) (10 points) and Applicants eligible for points under 10 TAC §11.9(c)(3)(B) (relating to community space and outreach for Resident Supportive Services) (1 point).

**(3) Underserved Area.** Applicants eligible for points under 10 TAC §11.9(c)(6) (relating to Underserved Area) (up to 5 points).

**(4) Subsidy per Unit.** An Application that caps the MFDL eligible cost per Unit subsidy limit below Section 234 Condo Limits or HUD 221(d)(4) statutory limits (as applicable) for all Direct Loan Units regardless of Unit size at:

(A) \$100,000 per MFDL eligible cost per Unit (4 points).

(B) \$80,000 per MFDL eligible cost per Unit (8 points).

(C) \$60,000 per MFDL eligible cost per Unit (10 points).

**(5) Rent Levels of Residents.** Except for Applications submitted under the Soft Repayment Set-Aside, an Application may qualify to receive up to 13 points for placing the following rent and income restrictions on the proposed Development for the Federal and State Affordability Periods. These Units must not be restricted to 30% or less of AMI by another fund source; however, layering on other HTC Units may be considered for scoring purposes. Scoring options include:

(A) At least 20% of all low-income Units at 30% or less of AMI (13 points);

(B) At least 10% of all low-income Units at 30% or less of AMI or, for a Development located in a Rural Area, 7.5% of all low-income Units at 30% or less of AMI (12 points); or

(C) At least 5% of all low-income Units at 30% or less of AMI (7 points).

**(6) Tiebreaker.** In the event that two or more Applications receive the same number of points based on the scoring criteria above, staff will recommend for award the Application that proposes the greatest percentage of 30% AMI MFDL Units within the Development that would convert to households at 15% AMI in the event of a tie as represented in the Tiebreaker Certification submitted at the time of Application.

### [§13.7. Maximum Funding Requests and Minimum Number of MFDL Units.](#)

**(a) Maximum Funding Request.** The maximum funding request for an Application will be identified in the NOFA, and may vary by development type, set-aside, or fund source.

**(b) Maximum New Construction or Reconstruction Per-Unit Subsidy Limits.** While more restrictive per-Unit subsidy caps are allowable and encouraged as point scoring items in 10 TAC §13.6 of this chapter (relating to Scoring Criteria), the per-Unit subsidy limit for a Development will be determined by the Department as the Section 234 Condo limits with the applicable high cost percentage adjustment in effect at the start date of the NOFA, which are the maximum MFDL eligible cost per-Unit subsidy limits that an Applicant may use to determine the amount of MFDL funds combined with other federal funds that may subsidize a Unit.

**(c) Maximum Rehabilitation Per-Unit Subsidy Limits.** The MFDL eligible cost per-Unit to rehabilitate a Development may not exceed the HUD 221(d)(4) statutory limits, subject to high cost factors as published in the NOFA.

**(d) Minimum Number of MFDL Units.** The minimum required number of MFDL Units will be determined by the MFDL per-Unit subsidy limits and the cost allocation analysis, which will ensure that the amount of MFDL Units as a percentage of total Units is equal to or greater than the percentage of MFDL funds requested as a percentage of total eligible MFDL Development costs. Applicants may be able to estimate the minimum number of MFDL Units by entering Application information into the Direct Loan Unit Calculator Tool available on the Department's website, but this tool may not cover the specific requirements of every Application. A larger number of MFDL Units may also be required if scoring is utilized.

### §13.8 Loan Structure and Underwriting Requirements

**(a) Loan Structures.** Loan structures must meet the criteria described in this section and as further described in a NOFA. The interest rate, amortization period, and term for the loan will be fixed by the Board at the time of award, and can only be amended prior to loan closing by the process in 10 TAC §13.12 (relating to Pre-Closing Amendments to Direct Loan Terms).

**(b) Criteria for Construction-to-Permanent Loans.** Direct Loans awarded through the Department must adhere to the criteria as identified in paragraphs (1) - (7) of this subsection if being requested as construction-to-permanent loans, for which the interest rate will be specified in the NOFA and approved by the Board:

(1) The construction term for MFDL loans shall be coterminous with any superior construction loan(s), but no greater than 36 months. In the event the MFDL loan is the only loan with a construction term or is the superior construction loan, the construction term shall be 24 months with one available six-month extension that may be approved for good cause by the Executive Director or his designee;

(2) No interest will accrue during the construction term;

(3) The loan term shall be no less than 15 years and no greater than 40 years and six months, and the amortization period shall be between 30 to 40 years and six months. The

Department's loan must mature at the same time or within six months of the shortest term of any senior debt, so long as neither exceeds 40 years and six months. The loan term commences following the end of the construction term;

4) Loans shall be secured with a deed of trust with a permanent lien position that is superior to any other sources for financing including hard repayment debt that is in an amount less than or equal to the Direct Loan amount and superior to any other sources that have soft repayment structures, non-amortizing notes, have deferred forgivable provisions, or in which the lender has an identity of interest with any member of the Development Team. Parity liens may only be considered with federal loan funds from USDA Rural Development;

(5) If the Direct Loan amounts are more than 50% of the Total Housing Development Cost, except for Developments also financed through the USDA §515 program, the Application must include documents identified in either subparagraphs (A) or (B) of this paragraph:

(A) A letter from a Third Party Certified Public Accountant verifying the capacity of the Applicant, Developer, or Development Owner to provide at least 10% of the Total Housing Development Cost as a short term loan for the Development; or

(B) Evidence of a line of credit or equivalent tool in the sole determination of the Department equal to at least 10% of the Total Housing Development Cost from a financial institution that is available for use during the proposed Development activities;

(6) If the Direct Loan is the only source of permanent Department funding for the Development, the Development Owner must provide all items required in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph:

(A) Equity in an amount not less than 10% of Total Housing Development Costs; however,

(i) An Applicant for Direct Loan funds may request Board approval to have an equity requirement of less than 10% that would not have to meet the waiver requirements in 10 TAC §11.207 of this title (relating to Waiver of Rules. The request must specify the proposed equity that will be provided and provide support for why that reduced level of equity will be sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that such owner will be able to complete construction and stabilization timely; and

(ii) "Sweat equity" or other forms of equity that cannot be readily accessed will not be allowed to count toward the equity requirement; and

(B) Evidence submitted with the Application must show the Direct Loan amount is not greater than 80% of the Total Housing Development Costs; and

(7) In general, up to 50% of the MFDL loan may be advanced at loan closing, should there be

sufficient eligible costs to reimburse that amount; however, this amount may be proportionally exceeded for a Development being awarded additional MFDL funds, if the Development is past 50% at loan closing, so long as the required Mid-Construction Inspection has been completed. In all cases, at least 10% of the funds will be reserved for the final Draw.

**(c) Criteria for Construction Only Loans.** MFDL Loans through the Department must adhere to the following criteria as identified in paragraphs (1) - (3) of this subsection if being requested as construction only loans:

(1) The term of the construction loan must be coterminous with any superior construction loan(s), but no greater than 36 months. In the event that the MFDL loan is the only construction loan or is the superior construction loan, the term may not exceed 24 months with available six-month extension that may be approved for good cause by the Executive Director or his designee;

(2) The interest rate may be as low as 0%; and

(3) Up to 50% of the loan may be advanced at loan closing, should there be sufficient costs to reimburse that amount.

**(d) Criteria for Permanent Refinance Loans.** If 90% of the Department's loan will repay existing debt, the first payment will be due the month after the month of loan closing; 90% of the loan may be advanced at loan closing, unless the Board approves another date.

**(e) Evaluations.** All Direct Loan Applicants in which third-party financing entities are part of the sources of funding must include a pro forma and lender approval letter evidencing review of the Development and the Principals, as described in 10 TAC §11.9(f)(1) of this title (relating to Competitive HTC Selection Criteria). Where no third-party financing exists, the Department reserves the right to procure a third-party evaluation which will be required to be prepaid by the Applicant.

**(f) Pass-Through Loans.** Department funds may not be used as pass-through financing. The Department's Borrower must be the Development Owner.

### §13.9. Construction Standards.

All Developments financed with Direct Loans will be required to meet at a minimum the applicable requirements in Chapter 11 of this title (relating to the Qualified Allocation Plan). In addition, Developments must meet all applicable state and local codes, ordinances, and standards; the 2021 International Existing Building Code (IEBC) or International Building Code (IBC), as applicable. Should IEBC be more restrictive than local codes, or should local codes not

exist, then the Development must meet the requirements imposed by IEBC or IBC, as applicable. Developments must also meet the requirements in paragraphs (1) - (5) of this section:

(1) Third-Party Recommendations. Recommendations made in the Environmental Site Assessment (§11.305 of this title) and any Scope of Work and Cost Review (§11.306 of this title) with respect to health and safety issues, life expectancy of major systems (structural support; roofing; cladding and weatherproofing; plumbing; electrical; and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) must be implemented;

(2) Lead and Asbestos Testing. For properties originally constructed prior to 1978, the Scope of Work and Cost Review must be provided to the party conducting the lead-based paint and/or asbestos testing, and the Development Owner must implement the mitigation recommendations of the testing report;

(3) Broadband Infrastructure. The broadband infrastructure requirements described in 24 CFR §92.251(a)(2)(vi) or (b)(1)(x) for HOME, NSP, or TCAP RF; or 24 CFR §93.301(a)(2)(vi) or 24 CFR §93.301(b)(2)(vi) for NHTF, as applicable;

(4) Properties in Catastrophe Areas. Developments located in the designated catastrophe areas specified in 28 TAC §5.4008 must comply with 28 TAC §5.4012 (relating to Applicable Building Code Standards in Designated Catastrophe Areas for Structures Constructed, Repaired or to Which Additions Are Made On and After April 1, 2020); and

(5) Minimum Construction Standards. Rehabilitation Developments funded with federal sources may also be required to meet Minimum Rehabilitation Standards, as required by HUD. Rehabilitation Developments funded by the national Housing Trust Fund are required to meet the Multifamily Minimum Rehabilitation Standards approved by HUD, as posted on the Department's website at <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/multifamily/home/index.htm>, in addition to the Department's rules and NOFA requirements.

### §13.10. Development and Unit Requirements.

**(a) Proportionality.** The bedroom/bathroom/amenities and square footages for Direct Loan Units must be comparable to the bedroom/bathroom/amenities and square footages for the total number of Units in the Development based on the amount of Direct Loan funds requested as a percentage of total MFDL eligible costs. As a result of this requirement, the Department will use the Proration Method as the Cost Allocation Method in accordance with HUD CPD Notice 16-15, except as described in subsection (b) of this section. Additionally, the amount of Direct Loan funds requested cannot exceed the per-unit subsidy limit described in this chapter or in the applicable NOFA. Direct Loan Units must be provided as a percentage of each Unit Type, in proportion to the percentage of total costs included in the Direct Loan.

**(b) Floating Units.** Floating Direct Loan Units may only float among the Units as described in the Direct Loan Contract and Direct Loan LURA.

(1) For HOME, NSP, and TCAP RF, Direct Loan Units must float throughout the Development unless the Development also contains public housing Units that will receive Operating Fund or Capital Fund assistance under Section 9 of the 1937 Act as defined in 24 CFR §5.100.

(2) For NHTF, Direct Loan Units must float throughout the Development, except as prohibited by 24 CFR §93.203, concerning public housing units.

**(c) Unit Match Requirements.**

(1) For a Development funded with NSP and/or NHTF, a required matching contribution will result in at least one HOME Match-Eligible Unit, in addition to the NSP and/or NHTF Units.

(2) For a Development funded with HOME, a required matching contribution may or may not result in a HOME Match-Eligible Unit, beyond the Department's HOME assisted Units.

(3) For a Development funded with TCAP RF in the annual NOFA, a matching contribution in addition to the Match that the Department counts from the TCAP RF investment will result in some amount of TCAP RF assisted Units being considered HOME Match-Eligible Units.

**(d) Minimum Affordability Period.** The minimum affordability period for all Direct Loan Units awarded under a NOFA will match the greater of the term of the loan, or 30 years unless a lesser period is approved by the Board. The Department reserves the right to extend the Affordability Period for Developments that fail to meet Program requirements.

**(e) Restricted Units.** If the Department is the only source of permanent funding for the Development by virtue of equity from HTC and MFDL funding, all Units must be income and rent restricted under a combination of HTC and Direct Loan LURAs, regardless of the amount of deferred Developer Fee as a permanent source. If the MFDL funding is the only source of permanent funding for the Development, all Units must be income and rent restricted by the Direct Loan LURA, and all costs must be MFDL eligible, regardless of the amount of deferred Developer Fee as a permanent source.

**(f) Income Levels Committed at Time of Application.** If the Direct Loan funds are used in a Competitive or non-Competitive HTC-Layered Development that is electing Income Averaging to qualify under IRC §42, the Direct Loan Units required by the LURA must continue to be provided at the income levels committed at the time of Application. Direct Loan Unit designations may not change to meet Income Averaging requirements.

**(g) Mandatory Development Features.** Development features described under 10 TAC §11.101(b)(4) (relating to Mandatory Development Amenities) may be selected to meet federal or state requirements, without a change to the number or description of features (e.g. selection

of Broadband).

### §13.11. Post-Award Requirements.

**(a) Direct Loan awardees** must satisfactorily complete the Post-Award Requirements identified in this section after the Board approval date.

**(b) If a Direct Loan award is declined** by the Direct Loan awardee and returned after Board approval, or if the Direct Loan awardee or Affiliates fail to timely enter into the Contract, close the loan, begin and complete construction, or leave a portion of the Direct Loan award unexpended, penalties may apply under 10 TAC §11.9(f) (relating to Competitive HTC Selection Criteria), and/or the Department may prohibit the Applicant and all Affiliates from applying for MFDL funds for a period of two years.

**(c) Benchmarks.** Extensions to the benchmarks in paragraphs (1) - (8) of this subsection may only be approved by the Executive Director or authorized designee in accordance with §13.12 or §13.13 of this chapter (relating to Pre-Closing and Post-Closing Amendments), as applicable.

(1) Award Letter. If provided, Direct Loan awardees must execute and return to the Department an Award Letter, provided by the Department, within 15 calendar days after receipt. The Award Letter will be conditional in nature, and provide a basic outline of the terms and conditions approved by the Board.

(2) Environmental Clearance. In order to obtain environmental clearance required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other related Federal and state environmental laws (if applicable), Direct Loan Applicants, including those previously awarded HTC, must submit a fully completed environmental review, including any applicable reports to the Department, within 30 calendar days of the Board approval date. If the awardee was contemporaneously awarded 9% HTC and selected Readiness to Proceed points under 10 TAC §11.9(c)(8), this period is within 14 calendar days of the Board approval date. If the awardee receives an allocation of 9% HTC from the waitlist after the July Board meeting, the fully completed environmental review must be submitted within 30 calendar days of receipt of the Carryover Allocation Agreement. (3) Contract Execution. After a Development receives environmental clearance (if applicable), the Department will draft a Contract to be emailed to the Direct Loan awardee. Direct Loan awardees must execute and return a Contract to the Department within 30 calendar days after receipt of the Contract.

(4) Loan Closing and Construction Commencement. Loan closing must occur and construction must begin on or before the dates described in the Contract. If construction has not commenced within 12 months of the Contract Effective Date, the award may be terminated.

(5) Loan Closing. In preparation for closing any Direct Loan, the Development Owner must



submit the items described in subparagraphs (A) - (F) of this paragraph. Providing incomplete documents, or not responding timely to subsequent Department requests for materials needed to facilitate closing, may significantly inhibit the Department's ability to meet closing timelines. Any request to change the financing structure of the Development, or the ownership structure, will in most cases extend the amount of time it will take for the Department to meet closing timelines, and may move prioritization of the closing below that of other Developments.

(A) Documentation of the prior closing or concurrent closing with all sources of funds necessary for the long-term financial feasibility of the Development.

(B) Due diligence items determined by the Department to be prudent and necessary to meet the Department's rules and to secure the interests of the Department, as requested by Staff.

(C) When Department funds have a first lien position during the construction term, or if the Development is a public work under state law assurance of completion of the Development in the form of payment and performance bonds in the full amount of the construction contract or equivalent guarantee as allowable under state law in the sole determination of the Department is required. Development Owners utilizing the USDA §515 program for a Development that is not a public work are exempt from this requirement, but must meet the alternative requirements set forth by USDA.

(D) Documentation required for preparation of closing loan documents includes, but is not limited to:

(i) Substantially final information necessary for REA staff to reevaluate the transaction prior to loan closing, including but not limited to a substantially final development cost schedule, sources and uses, operating pro forma, annual operating expenses, rent schedule, updated written financial commitments or term sheets, and any additional financing exhibits that have changed since the time of Application;

(ii) Substantially final Draft Owner/General Contractor agreement and draft Owner/Architect agreement prior to closing with final executed copies required by the day of closing;

(iii) Survey of the Property that includes a certification to the Department, Development Owner, Title Company, and other lenders;

(iv) Plans and specifications for review by the Department's inspection staff. Inspection staff will issue a plan review letter that is intended to assist in identifying early concerns associated with the Department's final construction requirements; and

(v) If layered with Housing Tax Credits, a substantially final draft limited partnership agreement between the General Partner and the tax credit investor entity.

(E) If required by the fund source, prior to Contract Execution unless an earlier period is described in Chapters 10, 11, or 12 of this title, the Development Owner must provide verification of:

(i) Environmental clearance from the Department or HUD, as applicable;

(ii) Site and Neighborhood clearance from the Department;

(iii) Documentation necessary to show compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Property Act and any other relocation requirements that may apply;

(iv) Title Insurance Commitment or Policy showing the Department as Lender, with copies of all Schedule B documents; and

(v) Any other documentation that is necessary or prudent to meet program requirements or state or federal law in the sole determination of the Department.

(F) The Direct Loan Contract as executed, which will be drafted by the Department's counsel or its designee for the Department. No changes proposed by the Developer or Developer's counsel will be accepted unless approved by the Department's Legal Division or its designee.

(6) Loan Documents. The Development Owner is required to execute all loan closing documents required by and in the form and substance acceptable to the Department's Legal Division.

(A) Loan closing documents include but are not limited to a promissory note, deed of trust, construction loan agreement (if the proceeds of the loan are to be used for construction), LURA, Architect and/or licensed engineer certification of understanding to complete environmental mitigation if such mitigation is identified in HUD's environmental clearance or the Underwriting Report and assignment and security instruments whereby the Developer, the Development Owner, and/or any Affiliates (if applicable) grants the Department their respective right, title, and interest in and to other collateral, including without limitation the Owner/Architect agreement and the Owner/General Contractor agreement, to secure the payment and performance of the Development Owner's obligations under the loan documents. Additional loan terms and conditions may be imposed by the loan closing documents.

(B) Loan terms and conditions may vary based on the type of Development, Real Estate Analysis Underwriting Report, and the Set-Aside under which the award was made.

(7) Quarterly Construction Status Reports. The Development Owner is required to submit quarterly Construction Status Reports to the Asset Management Division as described and by the deadlines specified in 10 TAC §10.401(e) of this title (relating to Construction Status Report).

(8) Mid-Construction Development Inspection Letter. In addition to any other obligations required as the result of any other Department funding sources, the Development Owner must submit a Mid-Construction Development Inspection Request once the Development has met at least 25% construction completion as indicated on the G703 Continuation Sheet or HUD equivalent form. Department inspection staff will issue a Mid-Construction Development Inspection Letter that confirms work is being done in accordance with the applicable codes, the construction contract, and construction documents. Regardless of how Direct Loan funds are allocated among acquisition, Hard, and Soft costs, up to 50% of the Direct Loan award may be released prior to issuance of the Mid-Construction Development Inspection Letter, with the remaining 50% available for disbursement in accordance with the percentage of Construction Completion.

(9) Construction Completion. Construction must be completed, as reflected by the Development's certificate(s) of occupancy (if new construction and/or reconstruction) and Certificate of Substantial Completion (AIA Form G704) or Form HUD-92485 for instances in which a federally insured HUD loan is being utilized, within the construction term of any superior construction loan(s) or 24 months of the actual loan closing date if no superior construction loan(s) exists.

(10) Closed Final Development Inspection Letter. The Closed Final Development Inspection Letter must be issued by the Department within 36 months of loan closing. This letter will verify committed amenities have been provided and confirm compliance with all applicable accessibility requirements; this letter may include deficiencies that require resolution. The Closed Final Development Inspection may be conducted concurrently with a Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) inspection. However, any letters associated with a UPCS inspection will not satisfy the Closed Final Development Inspection Letter required by this subsection.

(11) Initial Occupancy. Initial occupancy of all MFDL assisted Units by eligible households shall occur within six months of the final Direct Loan draw. Requests to extend the initial occupancy period must be accompanied by documentation of marketing efforts and a marketing plan. The marketing plan may be submitted to HUD for final approval, if required by the MFDL fund source.

(12) Per Unit Repayment. Repayment may be required on a per Unit basis for Units that have not been rented to eligible households within 18 months of the final Direct Loan draw.

(13) Termination and Repayment for Failure to Complete. Termination of the Direct Loan award and repayment of all disbursed funds will be required for any Development that is

not completed within four years of the effective date of a Direct Loan Contract.

(14) Disbursement of Funds. The Borrower must comply with the requirements in subparagraphs (A) - (K) of this paragraph in order to receive a disbursement of funds to reimburse eligible costs incurred. Submission of documentation related to the Borrower's compliance with these requirements is required with a request for disbursement:

(A) All requests for disbursement must be submitted through the Department's Housing Contract System, using the MFDL draw workbook or such other format as the Department may require;

(B) Documentation of the total construction costs incurred and costs incurred since the last disbursement of funds must be submitted. Such documentation must be signed by the General Contractor and certified by the Development architect and is generally in the form of an AIA Form G702/ G703 or HUD equivalent form;

(C) Disbursement requests must include a down-date endorsement to the Direct Loan (mortgagee) title policy or Nothing Further Certificate that includes a title search through the date of the Architect's signature on AIA form G702 or HUD equivalent form. For release of retainage, the down-date endorsement to the Direct Loan title policy or Nothing Further Certificate must be dated at least 30 calendar days after the date of the completion as certified on the Certificate of Substantial Completion (AIA Form G704) with \$0 as the work remaining to be completed. If AIA Form G704 or HUD equivalent form indicates an amount of work remaining to be completed, the Architect must provide confirmation that all work has been completed. Disbursement requests for acquisition and closing costs are exempt from this requirement;

(D) Table Funding (the wiring of Direct Loan funds to the title company at loan closing) may be permitted at the time of closing, for disbursement of funds related to eligible acquisition costs and eligible softs costs incurred, and in an amount not to exceed 50% of the total funds. Table Funding must be requested in writing at least 30 calendar days prior to the anticipated closing date, and will not be considered unless the Direct Loan Contract has been executed and all necessary documentation has been submitted to and accepted by the Department at least 10 calendar days prior to the anticipated closing date;

(E) At least 50% of Direct Loan funds (except as otherwise allowed for Permanent Refinance Loans described in 10 TAC §13.8(e)) will be withheld from the initial disbursement of loan funds to allow for periodic disbursements;

(F) The initial draw request for the Development (excluding Table Funding) must be entered into the Department's Housing Contract System no later than 180 days after loan closing, and may not be submitted prior to submission of all architectural drawings;

(G) Up to 75% of Direct Loan funds may be drawn before providing evidence of Match. Thereafter, the Borrower must provide evidence of Match being credited to the Development prior to release of the final 25% of funds;

(H) Developer Fee disbursement shall be limited by subparagraph (I) of this paragraph and is further conditioned upon clauses (i) - (iii), as applicable:

(i) For Developments in which the loan is secured by a first lien deed of trust against the Property, 75% shall be disbursed in accordance with percent of construction completed. 75% of the total allowable fee will be multiplied by the percent completion, as documented by the construction contract and as may be verified by an inspection by the Department. The remaining 25% shall be disbursed at the time of release of retainage; or

(ii) For Developments in which the loan is not secured by a first lien deed of trust or the Development is also utilizing Housing Tax Credits, Developer Fees will not be reimbursed by the Department, except as follows. If all other lenders and syndicator in a Housing Tax Credit Development (if applicable) provide written confirmation that they do not have an existing or planned agreement to govern the disbursement of Developer Fees and expect that Department funds shall be used to fund Developer Fees, they shall be reimbursed in the same manner as described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; and

(iii) The Department may reasonably withhold any disbursement in accordance with the Loan Documents and if it is determined that the Development is not progressing as reasonably necessary to meet the benchmarks for the timely completion of construction of the Development as set forth in the loan documents, or that cost overruns have put the Development Owner's ability to repay its Direct Loan or complete the construction at risk in accordance with the terms of the loan documents and within budget. If disbursement has been withheld under this subsection, the Development Owner must provide evidence to the satisfaction of the Department that the Development will be timely completed and occupied in order to continue receiving funds. If disbursement is withheld for any reason, disbursement of any remaining Developer Fee will be made only after construction of the Development has been completed, and all requirements for expenditure and occupancy have been met;

(I) Expenditures must be allowable and reasonable in accordance with federal and state rules and regulations. The Department shall review each expenditure requested for reasonableness. The Department may request the Development Owner make modifications to the disbursement request and is authorized to modify the disbursement procedures set forth herein and to establish such additional requirements for payment of Department funds to Development Owner as may be necessary or advisable for compliance with all program requirements;

(J) Following 50% construction completion, any funds will be released in accordance with the percentage of construction completion as documented on AIA Form G702/703 or HUD equivalent form. 10% of requested Hard Costs will be retained and will not be released until the final draw request. If the Development is receiving funds from more than one MFDL source, the retainage requirement will apply to each fund source individually. All of the items described in clauses (i) - (viii) of this subparagraph are required in order to approve the final draw request:

(i) Fully executed Certificate of Substantial Completion (AIA Form G704) or Form HUD-92485 (for instances in which a federally insured HUD loan is being utilized) with \$0 as the cost estimate of work that is incomplete. If AIA Form G704 or Form HUD-92485 indicates an amount of work remaining to be completed, the Architect must provide confirmation that all work has been completed;

(ii) A down date endorsement to the Direct Loan title policy or Nothing Further Certificate dated at least 30 calendar days after the date of completion as certified on the Certificate of Substantial Completion (AIA Form G704) or Form HUD-92485;

(iii) For Developments not layered with Housing Tax Credits, a Closed Final Development Inspection Letter from the Department;

(iv) For NHTF Developments layered with HTCs, a separate, additional cost certification form completed by an independent, licensed, certified public accountant of all Development costs (including project costs), subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in the executed Direct Loan Contract, commonly known as a cost certification;

(v) For Developments subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, evidence from the Department's Senior Labor Standards Specialist that the Department's Notice to Proceed that serves to lock in the Department of Labor's worker prevailing wage mandates at the development and authorizes start of construction was sent and final wage compliance report was received and approved or confirmation that HUD or other entity maintains Davis-Bacon oversight;

(vi) Certificate(s) of Occupancy (for New Construction or Reconstruction Units);

(vii) Development completion reports, which includes, but is not limited to, documentation of full compliance with the Uniform Relocation Act/104(d), Match Documentation requirements, and Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as applicable to the Development, and any other applicable requirement; and

(viii) If applicable to the Development, certification from Architect or a licensed engineer that all HUD environmental mitigation conditions have been met;

(K) No disbursement of funds will be approved without receipt of all closing documents in the form and substance required by the Department's Legal Division;

(L) The final draw request must be submitted within the construction term as determined in accordance with 10 TAC §13.8(c)(1) or (d)(1) as applicable, unless the construction term has been extended in accordance with 10 TAC §13.12 or 10 TAC §13.13 of this chapter, as applicable; and

(M) Annually, Borrowers must submit at least one draw, and may not submit more than four draws, unless previously approved by the Executive Director or designee.

(15) Annual Audits and Cost Certifications under 24 CFR §93.406(b).

(A) Annual Audits under 24 CFR §93.406(b). Unless otherwise directed by the Department, the Development Owner shall arrange for the performance of an annual financial and compliance audit of funds received and performances rendered under the Direct Loan Contract, subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in the executed Direct Loan Contract. All approved audit reports will be made available for public inspection within 30 days after completion of the audit.

(B) Cost Certifications under 24 CFR §93.406(b).

(i) Non-HTC-Layered Developments. Within 180 calendar days of the later of all title transfer requirements and construction work having been performed, as reflected by the Development's Certificate(s) of Occupancy (if New Construction) or Certificate of Substantial Completion (AIA Form G704 or HUD equivalent form), or when all modifications required as a result of the Department's Final Construction Inspection are cleared as evidenced by receipt of the Closed Final Development Inspection Letter, the Development Owner will submit to the Department a cost certification done by an independent licensed certified public accountant of all Development costs (including project NHTF eligible costs), subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in the executed Direct Loan Contract.

(ii) HTC-Layered Developments. With the Cost Certification required by the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program, the Development Owner must submit to the Department a cost certification completed by an independent licensed certified public accountant of all Development costs (including NHTF project eligible costs), subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in the executed Direct Loan Contract.

## §13.12. Pre-Closing Amendments to Direct Loan Terms.

**(a) Closing Memo to Underwriting Report.** Any changes to the total development cost, expenses, income, and/or other sources of funds from time of the publication of the initial Underwriting Report at the time of award to the time of loan closing, must be reevaluated by Real Estate Analysis staff, who will typically publish a Closing Memo to the Underwriting Report. The Report may recommend changes to the principal amount and/or the repayment structure for the Multifamily Direct Loan pursuant to §11.302 of this title (relating to Underwriting Rules and Guidelines), except that the change must have been an available option in the rule or NOFA (as applicable), and may not be made to awards that were competitively scored to the extent that change would have caused the Development to lose points. This will allow the Department to uphold the competitive process, mitigate any increased risk, and to ensure that the Development is not oversubsidized. Where the Department determines such risk is not adequately mitigated, the award may be terminated or reconsidered by the Board. Increases in the principal amount or scheduled payment amounts of any superior loans that cause the total Debt Coverage Ratio (DCR) to decrease by more than .05 require approval by the Board. If the changes cause the total DCR to no longer comply with 10 TAC §11.302 of this title (relating to Underwriting Rules and Guidelines), the award may be subject to termination. The Department may require the Closing Memo to be completed before providing a Contract to the Development Owner.

**(b) Executive Approval Required Pre-Closing.** The Executive Director or authorized designee may approve amendments to loan terms prior to closing as described in paragraphs (1) - (6) of this subsection.

(1) Extensions of up to six months to the loan closing date required in 10 TAC §13.11(c)(4) of this chapter (relating to Post-Award Requirements) may be approved prior to closing. An Applicant must submit sufficient evidence documenting good cause, including but not limited to, documented delays caused by circumstances outside the control of the applicant or constraints in arranging a multiple fund source closing. An extension will not be available if an Applicant has:

(A) Failed to timely begin or complete a process required to close; including, but not limited to:

(i) The process of finalizing all equity and debt financing;

(ii) The environmental clearance process; or

(iii) The due diligence processing requirements; or

(B) Made changes to the Development that require significant additional underwriting by the Department without at least 45 days to complete the review.



(2) Changes to the construction term and/or loan maturity date to accommodate the requirements of other lenders or to maintain parity of term may be approved prior to closing.

(3) Extensions of up to 12 months to the Construction Completion date or date of receipt of a Closed Final Development Inspection Letter required in 10 TAC §13.11(c)(8) of this chapter may be requested but generally are not approved prior to initial loan closing. Extensions under this paragraph are determined based on documentation that the extension is necessary to complete construction and that there is good cause for the extension.

(4) Only to the extent determined necessary by Real Estate Analysis to maintain financial feasibility, changes to the amortization period (not to exceed 40 years) or interest rate (to not less than the minimum specified in rule or NOFA) that cause the annual repayment amount to decrease less than 20%, or any changes to the amortization or interest rate that increase the annual repayment amount up to 20%.

(5) Decreases in the Direct Loan amount, provided the decrease does not jeopardize the financial viability of the Development in the determination of Real Estate Analysis may be approved prior to closing, though the Development Owner may be subject to penalties as further described in 10 TAC §13.11 of this chapter (relating to Post-Award Requirements). Increases will not be approved unless the Applicant applies for the additional funding under an open NOFA.

(6) Changes to other loan terms or requirements that would not require a waiver or change in scoring items, as necessary to facilitate the loan closing without exposing the Department to undue financial risk.

**(c) Board Approval Required Pre-Closing.** Board approval is necessary for any other changes prior to closing.

### §13.13. Post-Closing Amendments to Direct Loan Terms.

**(a) Good Cause Extensions.** The Executive Director or authorized designee may approve extensions of up to 12 months under 10 TAC §13.11(c)(7) - (8) or (14)(L) of this chapter (relating to Post-Award Requirements) based on documentation that there is good cause for the extension.

**(b) Amendments to MFDL Awards.** Except in cases of Force Majeure, changes to terms of awards subject to mandatory HUD reporting requirements will only be processed after the Construction Completion is reported to the federal oversight entity as completed, and the last of the MFDL funds have been drawn.

**(c) Executive Amendments.** The Executive Director or authorized designee may approve amendments to loan terms post-closing as described in paragraphs (1) - (3) of this subsection. Board approval is necessary for any other changes post-closing.

(1) Changes in Terms. Changes to the amortization or maturity date to accommodate the requirements of other lenders or maintain parity of term may be approved post-closing, provided the changes result in the Direct Loan continuing to meet the requirements of 10 TAC §13.8(c)(1) and (3) of this chapter (relating to Loan Structure and Underwriting Requirements), and NOFA requirements.

(2) Post-Closing Subordinations or Re-subordinations of MFDL Liens. Re-subordination of the Direct Loan in conjunction with refinancing may be approved post-closing, provided the conditions in subparagraphs (A) - (E) of this paragraph are met:

(A) The Borrower is current with loan payments to the Department, and no notice has been given of any Event of Default on any MFDL loan. Histories of late or non-payment on any other MFDL loan may result in denial of the request;

(B) The refinance does not propose payment to any of the Development Owner or Developer parties (including the Limited Partners);

(C) A proposal for partial repayment of the MFDL lien is made with the request;

(D) The new superior lien is in an amount that is equal to or less than the original senior lien and does not negatively affect the financial feasibility of the Development.

(i) For purposes of this section, a negative effect on the financial feasibility of the Development shall mean a reduction in the total Debt Coverage Ratio (DCR) of more than 0.05, or if the DCR no longer meets the requirements of 10 TAC §11.302 of this title; and

(ii) Changes to accommodate refinancing with a new superior lien that is in an amount that exceeds the original senior lien and which will be directly applied to property improvements, as evidenced by the loan or security agreements (exclusive of fees associated with the refinance and any required reserves), will be considered on a case by case basis; and

(E) The subordination or re-subordination request does not include a request to subordinate or resubordinate any MFDL LURA, with the exception of partial subordination or re-subordination of receivership rights (subject to the proposed receiver entity or Affiliate not having been Debarred by the Department or on the Federal Suspended or Debarred Listing).

(3) Workout Arrangements. Changes required to the Department's loan terms or amounts

that are part of an approved Asset Management Division work out arrangement may be approved after Construction Completion.

**(d) Contract Assignments and Assumptions of MFDL Liens.** The Executive Director or authorized designee may approve the Contract Assignment and Assumption of MFDL Liens following approval of an Ownership Transfer request if the conditions in paragraphs (1) - (3) of this subsection are met:

(1) The assignment or assumption is not prohibited by the Contract, Loan Documents, or regulations;

(2) The assignment or assumption request is based on either subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph:

(A) There are insufficient funds available in the transaction to fully repay the Direct Loan at the time of acquisition, for which Deferred Developer Fee, Development Owner or Affiliate Contributions, or other similar liabilities will not be considered in determining whether the Direct Loan could be repaid at the time of acquisition; or

(B) The new superior lien will be directly applied to property improvements as evidenced by the loan or security agreements, exclusive of fees association with the new financing and any required reserves; and

(3) The corresponding Ownership Transfer has been approved in accordance with all requirements in 10 TAC §10.406 of this title (relating to Ownership Transfers), and no prospective Owner including person, or affiliate, as those terms are defined in 2 CFR Part 180 and 2 CFR Part 2424, Subpart I, has been subject to state Debarment or are on the Federal Suspended or Debarred Listing. This includes Board Members and Limited Partners.