

**Contact Information** 

Mailing Address:

TDHCA PO Box 13941 Austin, TX 78711-3941 **Physical Address:** 

TDHCA 221 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street Austin, TX 78701

Website: https://www.tdhca.texas.gov

**Division Phone Number:** (512) 305-8869 or (800) 525-0657 (toll free in Texas only)

#### **Announcements**

#### Schedule:

- The training will run from 9:00 am until approximately 12:00 pm
- We will take a break mid-morning, if needed
- Staff will be present to answer any questions

#### Housekeeping:

- Certificates will not be emailed but you will receive an email confirming your attendance, usually within 24-hours in an email from the GoTo Platform, please check your "junk" folders as we cannot reissue these emails
  - If you did not use your emailed link for the training from your registration you will not receive a follow-up email or show as having attended the webinar
- We suggest you silence your phones and put an "out of office" email response to help avoid distractions during the training
- Please pose guestions and comments to the "Questions Box"



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## **Department Resources**

- Compliance Forms
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-forms
- Manuals and Rules
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-manuals-and-rules
- Income and Rent Limits
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/income-and-rent-limits
- Training and Presentations
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-training
  - https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-program-training-presentations
- Contact List
  - $\bullet \ \ https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-division-staff$

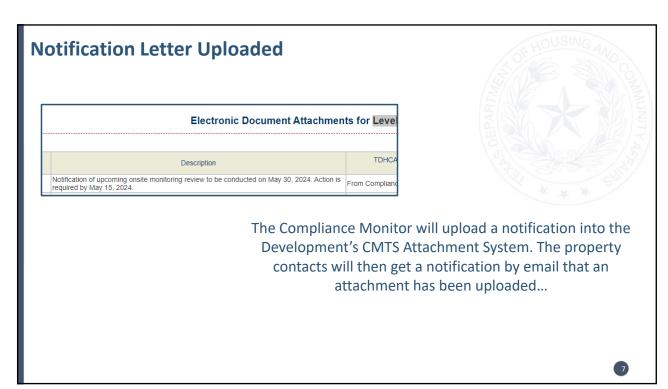


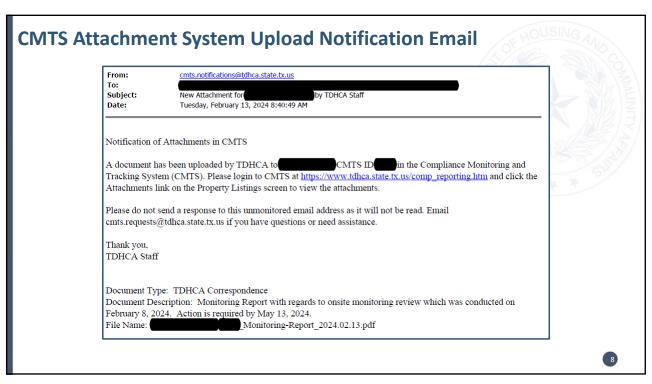


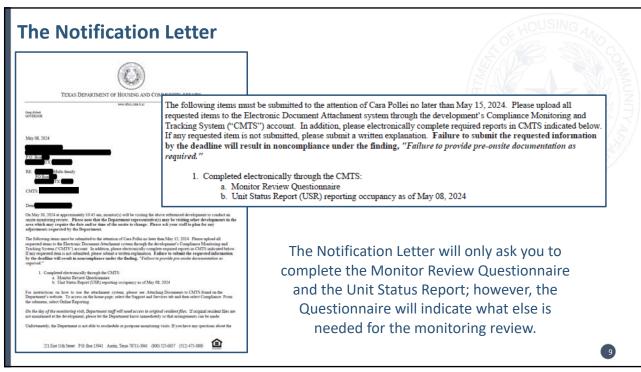
# **CMTS: Contact Information and Why it Matters**

- Notification of on-site reviews are <u>ONLY</u> uploaded to the Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System (CMTS).
- Management should be checking CMTS attachments regularly, but also need to (1) verify in CMTS to ensure that all of the contact information entered there is correct (particularly the email addresses), and (2) ensure that the "owner" contact is an owner contact and not property management or management company contact.
- Management needs to receive the automated email notices, however, it is vital for the owner to also receive notices since the owners are ultimately responsible for any noncompliance.
- The owner is the one who would be subject to administrative penalties and/or debarment for noncompliance, so they need to receive and review notices, and supervise corrections by management.

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Online Reporting

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## **Terms and Definitions**

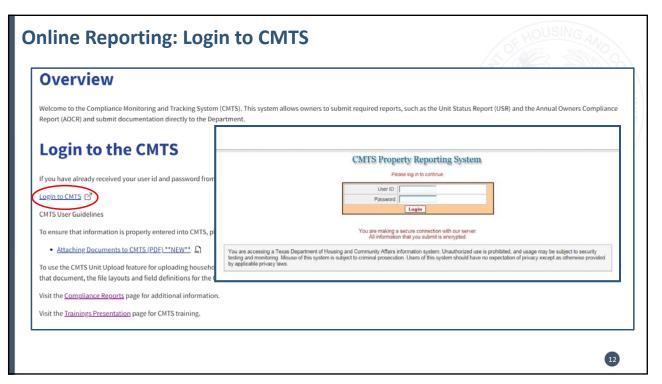
- Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System (CMTS)
- Unit Status Report (USR)
- Monitor Review Questionnaire (MRQ)

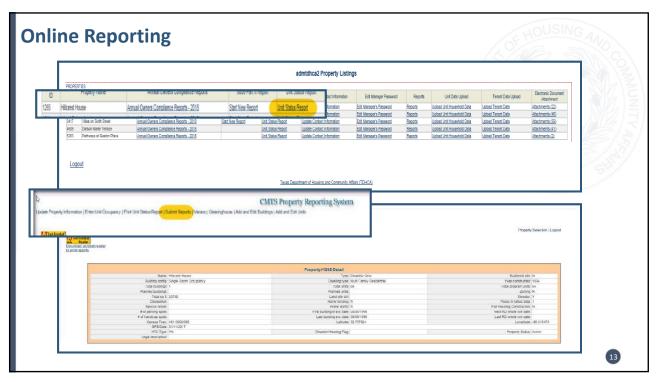


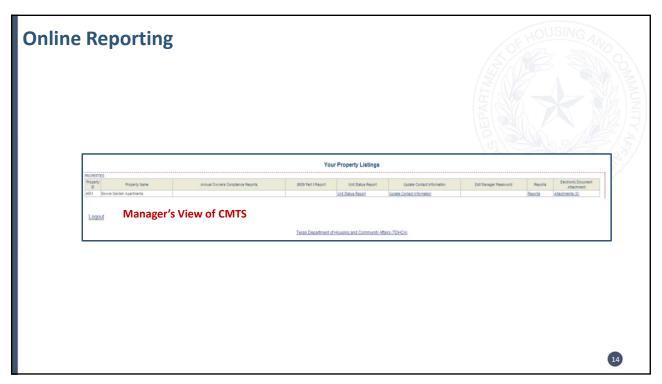
We conducted a detailed webinar for the above reporting items along with the annual and quarterly reports required. The recorded webinar is available online; https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/compliance-program-training-presentations.

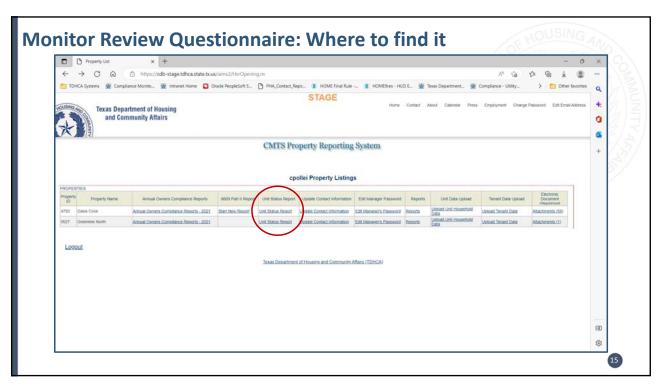
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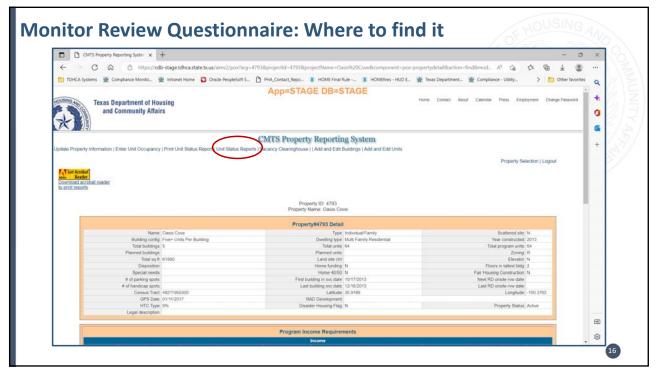
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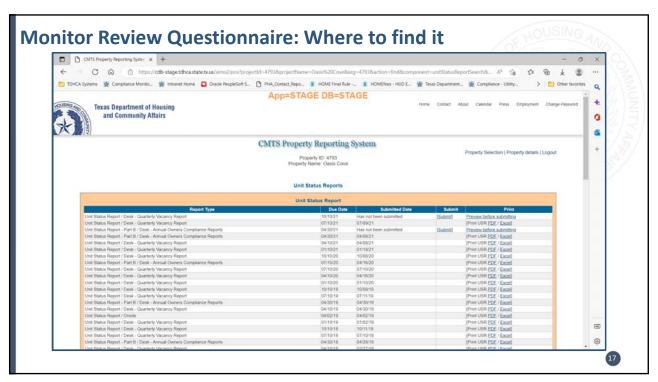


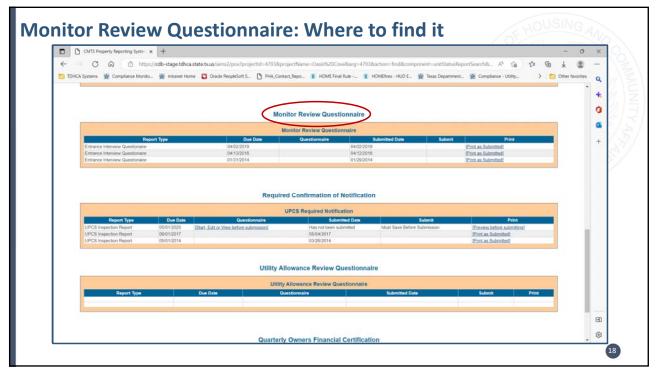


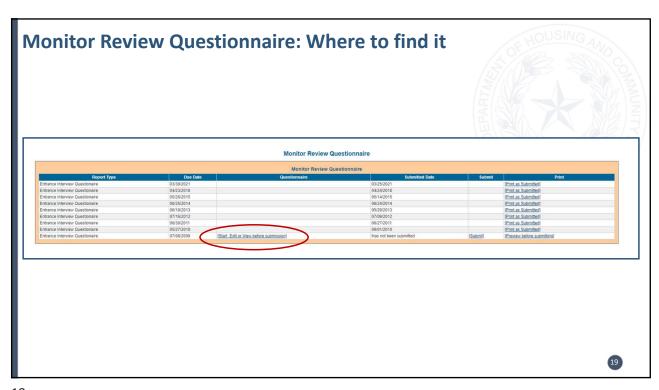


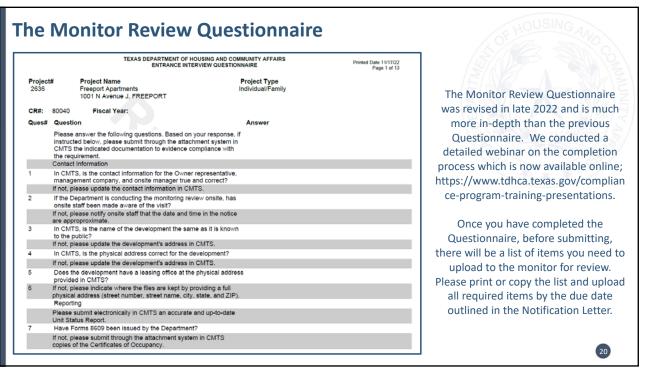












# **Example: Monitor Review Questionnaire**

	Social Services	
87	Does a LURA for the development require the provision of supportive services to tenants?	Yes
	If so, please answer questions lines between 88 through 120.	
	If not, please skip questions lines between 88 through 120.	
88	If this is the development's first monitoring review and not all services can be provided at this time, does the development have a plan to provide services with specific dates?	N/A
89	If so, please submit through the attachment system in CMTS the plan.	
90	Does a LURA for the development require an onsite Notary Public?	No
	If so, please submit through the attachment system in CMTS evidence of the Notary Public.	
91	Does a LURA for the development require the community to make available on a regularly-schedule basis, to a local nonprofit or government provider of services, space to provide outreach services and education to tenants regarding their health and well-being?	No
92	If so, please submit evidence through the attachment system in CMTS.	



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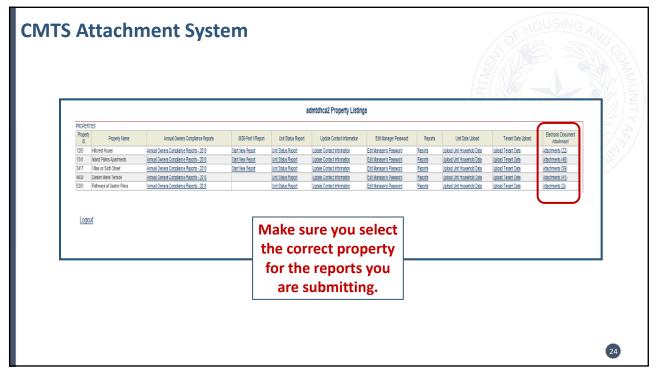
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# **Example: Monitor Review Questionnaire**



93	Does a LURA for the development require a per-unit cost that the Owner must expend monthly?	No
94	If so, how much is expended by the development on a monthly basis?	
	If so, please provide through the attachment system in CMTS evidence of those costs.	
	Please provide information on supportive services as required per a LURA for the development, including required providers. For each services, please submit through the attachment system in CMTS sufficient documentation to evidence the required frequency and scope as indicated in a LURA.	
	Service 1	
95	Provide the name of the service as listed in the LURA.	Credit Counseling
96	What events are being provided?	Credit Counseling vs Debt Settlement; How to get a copy of your credit report; Side effects of bad credit; 5 sneaky way to improve your credit score;
	Service 2	
97	Provide the name of the service as listed in the LURA.	Financial Planning
98	What events are being provided?	Estate Planning; What is zero-based budget? How to stop living paycheck to paycheck
	Service 3	
99	Provide the name of the service as listed in the LURA.	Health and Nutrition Courses
100	What events are being provided?	Preventing High Cholesterol; Arthritis class; How to avoid portion pitfalls
	Service 4	





# **CMTS Attachment System: Uploaded Documentation**



The monitor will receive an alert that documentation was uploaded to their attention, they will then download the documentation and utilize it to prepare for the monitoring review. Documentation can be uploaded in multiple attachments or in a compressed (.zip) file.



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# The Monitoring Review: Pre-Review

- The notification letter will provide a deadline to submit pre-onsite documentation; the due date is incredibly important because of the 15day notification window.
- Once submitted, the monitor will prepare for the review using the documentation submitted, along with the Land Use Restriction Agreement (LURA) and other available items.
- The monitor(s) will arrive at the property for the monitoring review, or the monitor will upload a file request list into the CMTS Attachment System and provide on-site staff with a file list for the review.
  - If the review is being conducted as a desk monitoring review, the number of files expected to be uploaded will be given in the letter, if the upload cannot be completed within 24 hours of the notification, the monitor must be notified to make plans to split up the file list to allow the upload to be completed timely.





# The Monitoring Review: The Actual Review

- If this is a Desk Monitoring Review, the development will have 24 hours from the time of the file request to upload the tenant files. The monitor will review the files timely from their computer rather than at the property.
- The monitor(s) will need a space to set up their laptops, near electrical outlets, and review the files. The lead monitor will provide the file request at this time.
- While the monitor(s) are setting up, the on-site staff should pull tenant files and take them to the monitor(s) so that the review can begin and end timely.
- The monitor(s) will review the tenant files provided and any additional documents requested at the time of the review.
- The lead monitor may conduct an Exit Interview. The Exit Interview will not include specific issues of noncompliance; however, the monitor will go over the general strengths and weaknesses of the files.





## The Monitoring Review: After the Review

- A final review of all the documents and checklists will be conducted. This
  review includes any pre-onsite area that was not fully reviewed prior to the
  actual monitoring review, a review of the tenant checklists and any area of
  identified noncompliance to ensure accuracy.
- The lead monitor will write a Monitoring Report to address any noncompliance found during the review. This letter may also offer Technical Assistance that will be helpful in avoiding future noncompliance.
- If the owner or owner's representative has questions about the Monitoring Report, please reach out to the monitor sooner, rather than later, to get any questions answered. If the development staff would like a detailed Exit Interview (after reading the full Monitoring Report and Detailed Noncompliance Report), this would be the time to ask for it.



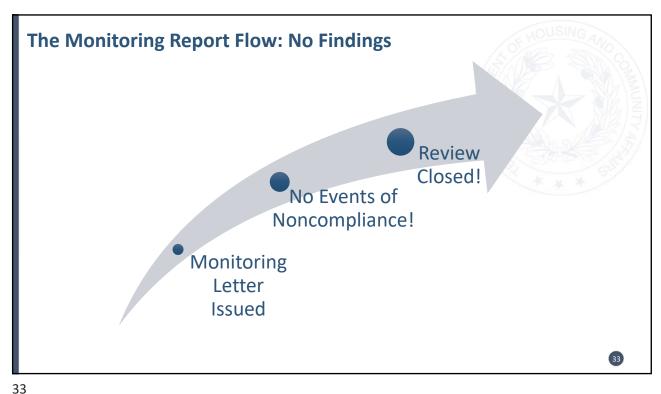
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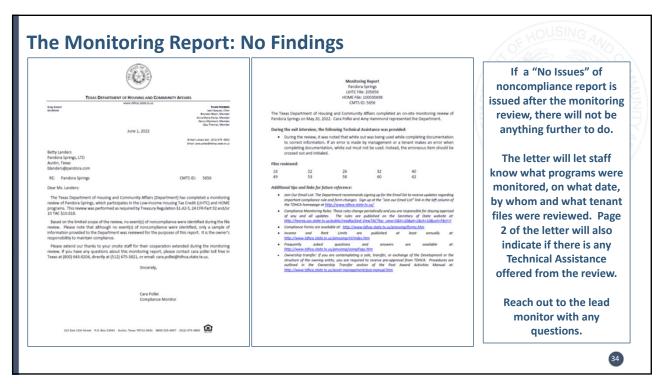
# **The Monitoring Report**

**Types of Monitoring Reports** 

- No Issues of Noncompliance and No Technical Assistance: this type of report indicates that the monitors did not identify any area of noncompliance during the review.
- No Issues of Noncompliance with Technical Assistance: this type of report indicates that the monitors did not identify any area of noncompliance during the review, but did note items that could become future areas of noncompliance if they are not addressed.
- Events of Noncompliance and Technical Assistance: this means that there were issues of noncompliance identified during the review, along with some noted items that the monitor wanted to further address. This letter will come with a Detailed Noncompliance Report to explain what the issue is and how to correct the issue.





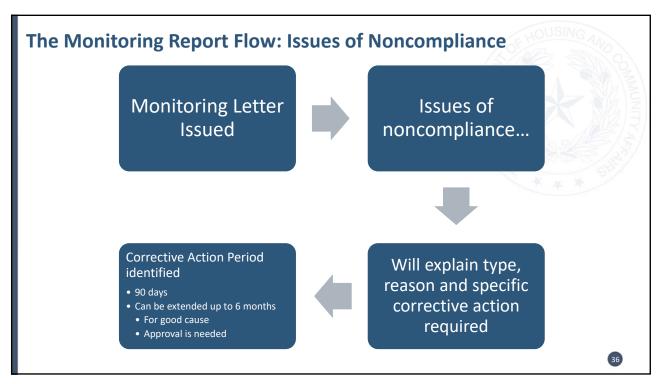


## The Monitoring Report: Technical Assistance

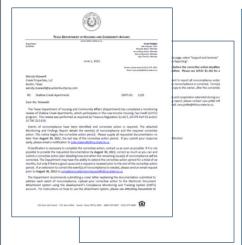
Reasons for Technical Assistance (TA):

- Changes to the program rules/requirements that are being noted in TA
- Issues that could become future areas of noncompliance if they are not addressed
  - If these items are still an issue at the next review they will most likely be cited as noncompliance, please make adjustments when needed based on TA
- Imperfect documentation
  - If the monitor is able to determine that the household is eligible, but imperfect documentation was used, i.e. activity print outs instead of bank statements, to qualify the household but the file contains enough information to determine eligibility that the monitor did not cite noncompliance.
- Details that will further explain the issues of noncompliance on the Detail Noncompliance Report
- Anything else the monitor wants to make the owner aware of from the review

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# The Monitoring Report: Issues of Noncompliance, Pages 1 & 2



If the monitor issues a report that indicates there are issues of noncompliance after the monitoring review, then there will be more steps to complete. Pages 1 & 2 of this letter are informational in content and should be reviewed.

- Please supply all requested documentation no later than the specified Corrective Action Due Date, which is the last day of the corrective action period.
- If an extension to correct the event(s) of noncompliance is needed, please send an email request prior to the end of the Corrective Action period outlining the extension and reason to compliance.extensionrequest@tdhca.texas.gov.
- The Department recommends submitting a cover letter explaining the documentation submitted to address each event of noncompliance. Upload the corrective action to the Electronic Document Attachment system using the development's Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System (CMTS) account.
- Any Outstanding Noncompliance issues from past reviews will be outlined and the findings report from that review will also be attached to this letter.

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# The Monitoring Report: Issues of Noncompliance, Pages 3+

Monitoring Report

Diallow Creek Apartments
LHTC Fer. 17815

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs completed an on-site monitoring review of Shallow Creek Apartments on May 25, 2022. Case 7 piles and Timba Senth represented the Department.

The review resulted is two (2) events of encorongalance:

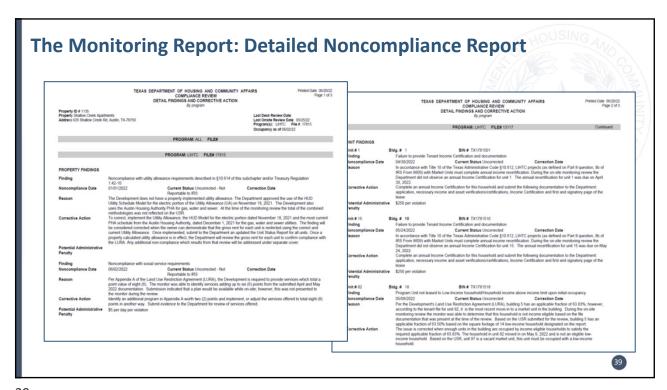
1. Noocompliance with utility allowance requirements described in \$10.614 of this subchapter regiment with the community allowance requirements described in \$10.614 of this subchapter regiment with the community of the subchapter regiment with the community of the subchapter regiment with the community of the community of the subchapter install occupancy affecting unit \$15

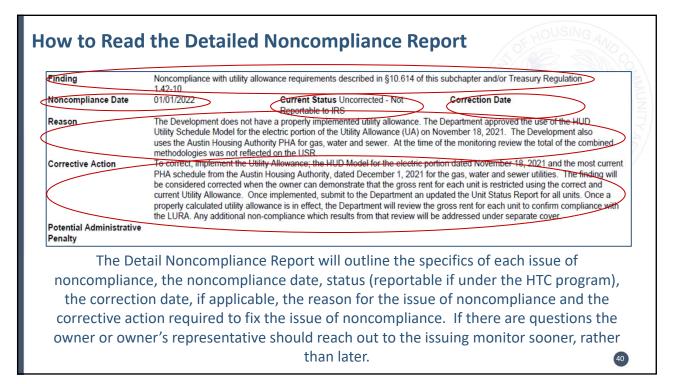
The following the reviews, it was noted that white out was being used white completing documentation to correct information. In an error is made by immagnment or a term through our extensive the consideration of the community of the

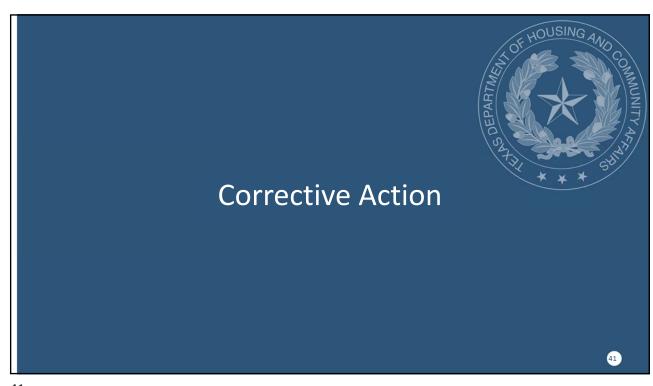
If the monitor issues a report that indicates there are issues of noncompliance after the monitoring review, pages 3+ (length of letter will depend on the number of findings and any Technical Assistance offered):

- This will tell the owner when the review was conducted, and the names of the monitors that were present for the review.
- In this section, events of noncompliance cited will be listed and, if any, what units were affected by the issues.
- This section will outline and detail technical assistance, if any, that
  the monitor identified during the review. This is also some of the
  information that might be provided during an on-site Exit Interview.
- The files reviewed will be listed.
- The last section offers some additional resources and links that are useful to all parties in connection with the Affordable Housing Programs that are monitored by the Department.
- The pages following this will detail the findings listed in the Report.









#### **Corrective Action**

The Monitoring Report will indicate a Corrective Action Period of 90 days from the date of the Monitoring Report.

- Please supply all requested documentation no later than said date, which is the last day of the corrective action period.
- If clarification is necessary to complete the corrective action contact the issuing monitor as soon as possible.
- The Department may have the ability to extend the corrective action period for a total of six months, but only if there is good cause and a request is received prior to the end of the corrective action period. If an extension to correct the event(s) of noncompliance is needed, please send an email request prior to said date to compliance.extensionrequest@tdhca.texas.gov.
- The Department recommends submitting a cover letter explaining the documentation submitted to address each event of noncompliance.

#### **Corrective Action: How to Submit CA**

How to submit Corrective Action:

- Upload the corrective action to the Electronic Document Attachment system using the development's Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System (CMTS) account.
  - This must be completed before the end of the 90-day Corrective Action Period, or by the deadline in the extension, if one is granted.
  - For instructions on how to use the attachment system, please see Attaching Documents to CMTS found on the Department's website. To access, on the home page, select "Support and Services" tab; then select "Compliance". From the submenu, select "Online Reporting".
- Failure to submit complete and satisfactory corrections on or before the corrective action deadline will result in a referral to the Department's Enforcement Committee.

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## Corrective Action: What if 90 days is not enough?

What if 90 days and an extension are not enough time to correct?

- Upload a detailed corrective action plan to the Electronic Document Attachment system using the development's Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System (CMTS) account.
  - This must be completed before the end of the 90 day Corrective Action Period, or by the deadline in the extension, if one is granted.
- The detailed corrective action plan should include what will be done to correct the issue of noncompliance, how long will it take and when the owner anticipates completion of the corrective action and submission of the documentation to evidence completion.
- While a corrective action plan will prevent the referral it will not prevent the issuance of the 8823s for Housing Tax Credit communities.



#### **Corrective Action: CA Review**

How the Department will review Corrective Action:

- The Department will review the submission of CA and issue a response accordingly.
  - If all issues of noncompliance are corrected by the submission, a close-out letter will be issued, and no further action is required.
  - If all issues of noncompliance are addressed, but not corrected, by the submission, the Department will issue a 10-day letter, allowing the development an additional window of time to completely correct the issues of noncompliance.
    - If the submission does not address an issue of noncompliance, a 10-day allowance cannot be given.
  - If no response is received, the Department will issue a letter referring the development to the Enforcement Committee.
  - If the CA submission, either initially or within the 10-day window, does not fully correct the issues of noncompliance cited under the monitoring review, the Development will be referred to the Enforcement Committee.

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# **Corrective Action: CA Hot Topics**

There are some CA items that we want to expand on:

- 1. Qualifying under current circumstances
- 2. When the noncompliant household moves out
- 3. Any noncompliance triggered by the Utility Allowance



#### **Corrective Action: Enforcement Action**

Suggestions to help avoid Enforcement Action:

- Make sure that the development is meeting all calendar reporting deadlines:
  - Quarterly Vacancy Reporting due the 10<sup>th</sup> of every January, April, July, October
  - Annual Owners Compliance Report due every April 30<sup>th</sup> for the year prior
- Check CMTS regularly to ensure that TDHCA correspondence is not accidentally missed, and that any file or physical inspection deadlines are calendared and adhered to.
- Failure to resolve noncompliance within the corrective action period will result in referral for an administrative penalty and/or debarment, per 10 TAC Chapter 2.
- IMPORTANT NOTE: Responsible Parties in Control who have a referral ratio of 50% or more of Actively Monitored Developments being referred to the Enforcement Committee within the last three years will be referred for debarment in accordance with 10 TAC 2.401(e)(2)(A).



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#### **Corrective Action: Enforcement Action cont.**

If a property is referred to the Enforcement Committee, Owners shouldn't ignore the referral or wait for legal to contact them. The best thing for the Owner to do after getting notice of penalty referral is to immediately talk to the management/compliance company:

- Contact the referring monitor and Ysella Kaseman at ysella.kaseman@tdhca.texas.gov via email to explain what happened,
- Upload complete corrections into CMTS,
- Complete the "Owner Acknowledgment of Referral" that will be uploaded as a separate line item in CMTS with the referral letter. This must be completed by the Owner and not an owner representative, and
- Adjust internal management policies to ensure that similar referrals do not occur again.

Taking these steps immediately could help the owner avoid penalty action in many cases.



# **Enforcement Action: Owner's Acknowledgement**

The Owner's Acknowledgement of Referral is required as part of any referral for file monitoring, physical inspections, affirmative marketing, or written policies and procedures:

- The "Owner Acknowledgment of Referral" will be uploaded as a separate line item in CMTS with the referral letter.
- This form must be completed by the Owner and not an owner representative.
- This form is required as a result of the requirement for debarment for an entity with a referral ratio of 50% or more.
- CMTS must be current and correct with the ownership entity contact information, this will allow the group to be notified of any correspondence from the Department.

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#### **Corrective Action: Debarment**

Tips for avoiding penalties or debarment

- Technical Support for Avoiding Administrative Penalty Referrals has been compiled to help owners avoid an administrative penalty or debarment referral. It includes useful tips and guidance to help maintain compliance. It is not all-inclusive and it remains the owner's responsibility to be aware of all applicable TDHCA statutes, TDHCA rules, and LURA terms.
  - The Technical Support document can be found online at https://www.tdhca.texas.gov/sites/default/files/pmcdocs/24-TechSupport-AvoidAdminPenaltyRefs.pdf.
- It is vital that owners and management groups proactively edit their internal management policies and take all necessary actions to ensure complete and timely compliance since failure to do so could cause the owner to be debarred if too many (a referral ratio of 50% or more) properties in the portfolio are referred. The above link should help with this.
- There are levels of debarment, Compliance does not have any control over this, debarment is handled by the Enforcement Committee.



## **Corrective Action: Previous Participation Review (PPR)**

- If anyone affiliated with the development submits an application for a new award/funds/or transfer a PPR will be conducted in accordance with §1.301 (for MF & Proposed Transfers requests) or §1.302 (for SF and CA funds).
- If there is a monitoring review open at the time a PPR is conducted that has reached
  the end of the designated corrective action period, the Department will review any
  CA submission uploaded to CMTS. A response will be issued to the development
  and the outcome taken into consideration by the PPR contact in their assessment.
  - There is typically a seven (7) day period for this review, so timely submissions and communication are essential.
- Noncompliance that was corrected after the applicable corrective action period and noncompliance that has not been corrected will be taken into consideration when conducting a PPR for a three (3) year period (starting on the date of correction).
- Monitoring reviews with Noncompliance corrected after the CAP will result in Events of Noncompliance during a PPR assessment; however, failure to submit any type of corrective action/response during the designated corrective action period (unresponsiveness) also plays a significant role in the PPR assessment.



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#### **Notes for Success**

- Communication is key!
  - Make sure that CMTS has current and correct contact information for all parties!
  - Ask questions when given the opportunity while the monitor is on-site, after the Monitoring Review has been completed.
  - Contact the monitor when the Monitoring Report is received after a review has been conducted if there are any questions. Contact the monitor as soon as the letter is reviewed so that there are not any unnecessary delays.
- Read the Monitoring Report and Detailed Noncompliance Report carefully and completely. They may all look the same, but the information does change based on the development and the review, so reading the report fully is necessary.
- Respond to Monitoring Reports as required in order to avoid being referred unnecessarily.
  - As soon as the Monitoring Report is uploaded into CMTS, review the report internally and ask questions early-on so that you have the full 90 days to work on the Corrective Action response.
- Conduct a review of the Corrective Action response before submission. If the on-site staff puts together a response that is not reviewed by the owner and management group, it may result in undue delays in correcting the issues and an unnecessary referral.



