

## **City of Dallas Policy for Supporting Housing Developments Seeking Housing Tax Credits**

The City of Dallas ("City") has developed the following policy to outline its approach regarding requests from developers of projects seeking Housing Tax Credits ("HTC") from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs ("TDHCA") for Resolutions of No Objection (sometimes referred to as "No Objection") or Resolutions of Support (sometimes referred to as "Support") from the City.

### **Background on Housing Tax Credits in Texas**

In 1986, Congress, through the Tax Reform Act, enacted Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code ("Section 42"). Section 42 created Low Income Housing Tax Credits that may be awarded to owners of multi-family rental housing that meet certain income and rent restrictions and other program requirements. At the Federal level, the HTC program has very few requirements but does require that states designate an agency to administer the HTC program and develop a Qualified Allocation Plan ("QAP") outlining how HTC will be allocated and administered. For Texas, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs has been designated as that agency, and the QAP is updated annually.

There are two forms of the HTC: 9% HTC and 4% HTC.

9% HTC are considered to be "competitive." The State receives a per capita allocation of HTC to award each year, and applications are scored and are awarded by TDHCA only once per year. 4% HTC, on the other hand, are "automatically" awarded to projects using eligible tax-exempt debt. As a result, 4% HTC are considered to be "non-competitive" since applications are not competitively scored and are awarded by TDHCA multiple times throughout the year.

Under the 9% HTC, a Proposer may receive points for local government support. To receive points, the application must include a Resolution of Support or No Objection from the governing body of the municipality in which the proposed development site is to be located.

Although 4% HTC applications are not competitively scored, the Proposer must obtain a Resolution of No Objection from the governing body of the municipality in which the proposed development site is to be located. This is a threshold requirement for 4% credit awards. Applications that do not include a Resolution of No Objection cannot proceed.

### **Overview**

This HTC policy seeks support the broad goals of the Comprehensive Housing Policy to do the following:

- Create and maintain affordable housing throughout Dallas,
- Promote greater fair housing choices, and
- Overcome patterns of segregation and concentrations of poverty through incentives and requirements.

The decision to provide a Resolution of No Objection or Support must be aligned with these goals. Unlike other City programs that directly invest in specific projects or provide direct incentives, such as fee waivers or tax abatements, the resolutions are an indirect way for the City to support the proposed development. Because of the points allocation for a Resolution of No Objection or Support for 9% HTC and the threshold requirement of a Resolution of No Objection for 4% HTC, the City's position regarding a proposed development can greatly affect whether the proposed

development is awarded HTC by TDHCA.

Given the substantial need for affordable housing across the City and that TDHCA administers the process for awarding HTC, the City has an interest in broadly supporting quality and responsible HTC proposals across the City. As such, the City will be supportive of maximizing production using HTC.

**Definitions:**

**Affordability Period** has the same meaning as the term is defined in the Qualified Allocation Plan, as amended.

**Development** has the same meaning as the term is defined in the Qualified Allocation Plan, as amended.

**Development Site** has the same meaning as the term is defined in the Qualified Allocation Plan, as amended.

**Historically Underutilized Business** has the same meaning as the term is defined in the Qualified Allocation Plan, as amended.

**Market Analysis** has the same meaning as the term is defined in the Qualified Allocation Plan, as amended.

**Market Rate Housing Units** means units for which the rent may be adjusted by the Owner, as defined in the Qualified Allocation Plan, as amended, subject only to the terms of the lease. Housing units are not considered Market Rate Housing Units if the rent that may be charged and/or the tenant(s) who may occupy the units are limited by a: (1) a Land Use Restrictive Agreement (LURA) or other restrictive covenants, or (2) any other contractual agreement.

**Plan and Cost Review** means an analysis, usually conducted by a third-party consultant on behalf of a lender prior to approval of a construction loan or of construction-related information and documents that is intended to evaluate whether costs are appropriate, the construction plan is well-designed and there are appropriate allowances for contingencies.

**Proposer** means the Proposer, Developer, Development Owner, Development Team, and Owner as those terms are defined in the Qualified Allocation Plan, as amended.

**Qualified Non-Profit Organization** has the same meaning as the term is defined in the Qualified Allocation Plan, as amended.

**Registered Neighborhood Organizations** means an organization that has registered with and provided its boundaries to the City of Dallas Department of Planning and Urban Design.

**Calendar**

Proposers may submit a proposal in response to this policy regarding HTC at any time during the year. However, City staff will only review applications and schedule proposals for City Council consideration four times per year. This calendar will be updated and published annually to align with the TDHCA timeline by the City Manager or his/her designee.

The calendar for 2019 is as follows:

Application deadline	City Council Consideration
January 11, 2019	February
April 12, 2019	May
July 12, 2019	August
October 11, 2019	November

### **Review & Recommendation Process**

1. City staff will review all applications. For both 4% and 9% HTC applications, City staff will recommend a Resolution of No Objection to City Council if City staff has determined, in its sole discretion, that the threshold requirements, as outlined below, have been met.
2. For 9% HTC applications that have met the threshold requirements, as outlined below, and address Priority Housing Needs Developments, as described below, City staff may designate these applications as "Priority Housing Needs Developments" and will recommend a Resolution of Support and a \$500.00 funding commitment to City Council if City staff has determined, in its sole discretion, that the threshold requirements and Priority Housing Needs Developments criteria have been met.
3. For 9% HTC applications that have met the threshold requirements, as outlined below, and obtain a minimum score of 50 points under the Scoring Factors for Other 9% HTC Applications section, and do not qualify as a "Priority Housing Needs Development", City staff will recommend a Resolution of Support and a \$500.00 funding commitment to City Council if City staff determines, in its sole discretion, that the threshold requirements have been met and that the application has scored at least 50 points.

### **4% and 9% HTC Applications Threshold Requirements**

#### **1. Applicable to All Applications**

- Submission of a complete application to the City;
- The Proposer must have site control (e.g. purchase option);
- If not currently zoned for the intended use, the Proposer must have completed a formal consultation with City Planning staff outlining the process and requirements for rezoning the site;
- The Development must meet TDHCA minimum site and development requirements. If undesirable site features exist, the Proposer must submit a mitigation plan that sufficiently mitigates undesirable site features and supports site eligibility pursuant to TDHCA standards;
- The Development must meet TDHCA underwriting standards;
- The Development must contribute to the City's obligations to affirmatively further fair housing;
- The Proposer must notify existing tenants living at the Development Site at least 45 days prior to submitting the proposal;
- For any Development that is occupied by existing tenants that is not otherwise subject to the Uniform Relocation Act (URA), the development proposal must include a City-approved relocation plan that:
  - Minimizes permanent displacement from the Development. In the event of permanent displacement, Proposers will be required to provide compensation to affected tenants that is otherwise in alignment with URA requirements;
  - Must provide reasonable notice to affected tenants prior to any temporary relocation and covers all reasonable out of pocket costs incurred by tenants as a result of moving from one unit to another within the Development or temporarily vacating their units to allow rehabilitation work to proceed; and
  - Proposer must meet all applicable state, federal, or local laws relating to displacement of tenants.
- For any Development involving rehabilitation or adaptive reuse (i.e. conversion of space originally designed and built for other than residential purposes), the Proposer must submit

a Plan and Cost Review for the Development including all supporting documentation that formed the basis of the review;

- For any Development located in a census tract with a poverty rate of 40% or higher, the Development must achieve a minimum score under Resident Services element of the scoring factors below of:
  - 17 points for elderly developments;
  - 23 points for family developments; or
  - 22 points for permanent supportive housing developments; and
- The Proposer must be eligible pursuant to TDHCA standards and City standards:
  - A proposer is not eligible for any resolution if the Proposer i) is in debt to the City or delinquent in any payment owed to the City, in accordance with Dallas City Code Section 2-36, as amended; ii) is currently in litigation with the City, either as a defendant or plaintiff; or iii) within the last 10 years has been found liable of violating Chapter 20A (Fair Housing) or Chapter 46 (Human Rights and Sexual Orientation) of the Dallas City Code.

## 2. Developments Involving Rehabilitation of Existing Housing

- The proposed scope of work must be informed by a capital needs assessment (CNA), prepared by a qualified third-party professional that is independent from the Development's architect or engineer, builder/general contractor, or other member of the Development Team. The City will review the CNA and conduct a site visit. The CNA must demonstrate to the City's satisfaction that the initial scope of work is sufficient to address all City code violations (whether formally cited or not). Further, the scope of work, combined with planned replacement reserve funding, must be determined sufficient to address all projected repairs or replacements of the following items through the entire term of the Development's affordability period:
  - All major systems including roof, foundation, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing;
  - Interior and exterior windows and doors;
  - The interiors of all units including the kitchen and bathroom and all major appliances;
  - The exterior of the development, including balconies, walkways, railings, and stairs;
  - Communal facilities such as community rooms, fitness centers, business centers, etc.; and
  - Security features including gates and security cameras.
  - Accessibility

### **Priority Housing Needs Developments (applicable to only 9% HTC Applications)**

A 9% HTC application that meets any of the following criteria may be designated by City staff as a "Priority Housing Needs Development" and recommended for a Resolution of Support and \$500.00 funding commitment to City Council, if City staff has determined, in its sole discretion, that the threshold requirements and Priority Housing Needs Developments criteria have been met:

1. The development proposal has been selected within the past three years to receive City funding (including federal funds such as HOME, CDBG, etc. or local funding such as General Obligation Bond funding) under a competitive application process administered by the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization and otherwise remains in compliance with all funding requirements;

2. The proposal includes participation by the Dallas Housing Finance Corporation or City of Dallas Public Facilities Corporation applicable to housing (if created). Such participation must include ownership of the underlying development site by the entity and/or stake in the ownership structure of the development;
3. The proposal involves the redevelopment of public housing owned by the Dallas Housing Authority under the Choice Neighborhoods, Rental Assistance Demonstration, HOPE VI, or other similar HUD programs that may be created;
4. The development proposal is located in a census tract with a poverty rate below 20%;
5. The development proposal is within any area designated as a Redevelopment Reinvestment Strategy Area (RSA) or a Stabilization RSA in this Comprehensive Housing Policy; or
6. Developments with at least 50 units for which the Owner must enter into an MOU with the lead entity of the Continuum of Care by which the project will prioritize at least 20% of units for tenants referred from the Continuum of Care Housing Priority List.

#### **Scoring Factors for Other 9% HTC Applications**

For 9% HTC Applications that do not qualify as a Priority Housing Needs Development, the application must achieve a minimum score of 50 within this section, **Scoring Factors for Other 9% HTC Applications**, to be recommended by City staff for a Resolution of Support and \$500.00 funding commitment to City Council, if City staff has determined, in its sole discretion, that the threshold requirements have been met and the application scores a minimum of 50 points under this section.

#### ***Mixed-Income Projects (Maximum of 20 points)***

Proposals including market rate units (i.e. those without income/rent restrictions) as follows:

Percentage of Market-Rate Units	Points
At least 5% but less than 10% market rate units	5
At least 10% but less than 15% market rate units	10
At least 15% but less than 20% market rate units	15
At least 20% market rate units	20

#### ***Qualified Nonprofit or Historically Underutilized Business on Development Team (5 points)***

To receive these points, the development team must include a Qualified Nonprofit Organization or Historically Underutilized Business ("HUB") that has a controlling interest in the development. If ownership is a limited partnership, the Qualified Nonprofit Organization/HUB must be the Managing General Partner with greater than 50% ownership in the General Partner. If ownership is a limited liability company, the Qualified Nonprofit Organization/HUB must be the controlling Managing Member with greater than 50% ownership in the Managing member. Additionally, the Qualified Nonprofit Organization/HUB or its affiliate or subsidiary must be the developer or a codeveloper of the Development.

**Proximity of Amenities to Development Site (Maximum of 25 points)**

The following matrix shall be used in scoring the Development under this category:

Amenity	1/4 mile or less	>1/4 mile and < 1/2 mile	1/2 mile and up to 1 mile
High Frequency Transit	5	3	1
Public Park	5	3	1
Full Scale Grocery Store	5	3	1
Community/Senior Center or Library	5	3	1
Licensed Day Care	5	3	1
Amenity	1/2 mile or less	>1/2 mile and < 1 mile	1 mile and up to 2 miles
Qualifying Medical Clinic or Hospital	5	2	1
Amenity	20 minutes or less	>20 min. and < 40 min.	More than 40 min.
Transit time to Major Employment Center	5	2	0

**Resident Services (Maximum of 25 points)**

*Note: The list of potential resident services is derived from, but not identical to, the QAP, as amended. The services outlined in the table below are shorthand descriptions, but the City will use the same definitions and requirements for each service as outlined in the QAP, as amended. For purposes of this section, however, the City will use its own scoring criteria to award points. In some cases, the points available may vary from those awarded under the QAP, as amended. Additionally, the total points available are not capped in the City's scoring rubric in the same manner as they are for the QAP, as amended. City Manager or designee may amend the service descriptions categories and point allocations on an annual basis based on the annually updated QAP. The maximum points allocated to Resident Services will remain the same (25 points).*

Service Description	Reference within the 2019 QAP §11.101(b)(7)	Points for City Scoring
<b>Transportation Services</b>		
Min. 3x/week shuttle to grocery/pharmacy or big-box retail; OR daily shuttle during school year to nearby schools not served by school bus system	(A)(i)	3.5
Monthly transportation to community/social events	(A)(ii)	1
<b>Children Services</b>		
High quality PreK program with dedicated space on-site	(B)(i)	4
Min. 12 hours/week organized on-site K-12 programming (e.g. tutoring, after school and summer care, etc.)	(B)(ii)	3.5
<b>Adult Services</b>		
Min. 4 hours/week organized onsite classes for adults (e.g. GED, ESL, financial literacy, etc.)	(C)(i)	3.5
Annual income tax preparation	(C)(ii)	1
Contracted career training and placement partnerships with local employers	(C)(iii)	2
Weekly substance abuse meetings at project site	(C)(iv)	1
<b>Health Services</b>		
Food pantry accessible to residents (on site or via on-request transportation)	(D)(i)	2
Annual health fair	(D)(ii)	1
Weekly exercise classes	(D)(iii)	2
Contracted on-site occupational or physical therapy for elderly or disabled tenants	(D)(iv)	2
<b>Community Services</b>		
Partnership with local law enforcement to provide quarterly activities with tenants	(E)(i)	2
Notary services for tenants	(E)(ii)	1
Min 2x/month arts, crafts, or other recreational activities (e.g. book club)	(E)(iii)	1
Min 2x/month on-site social events (e.g. potlucks, holiday celebrations, etc.)	(E)(iv)	1
Case management for elderly, disabled, or special needs tenants	(E)(v)	3
Weekly home chore and quarterly preventative maintenance for elderly or disabled tenants	(E)(vi)	2
Social Security Act Title IV-A programming	(E)(vii)	1
Part-time resident services coordinator (min. 15 hours/week) or contract for same through local provider	(E)(viii)	2
Education/tuition savings match or scholarship program for residents	(E)(ix)	2