

# **Arkansas Development Finance Authority**

## **Housing Credit Program 2005 Qualified Allocation Plan**

**Adopted by the Board of Directors  
August 19, 2004**



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## **I. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN.**

The Arkansas Development Finance Authority (“ADFA” or the “Authority”) is charged with the responsibility of administering federal low-income housing tax credits (“Housing Credits”) for the State of Arkansas (the “State”). ADFA is also charged with the responsibility of promulgating rules and regulations concerning the allocation of the Arkansas low-income housing tax credit (the “State Housing Credits”) pursuant to ARK. CODE ANN. § 26-51-1701 *et seq.* The Tax Reform Act of 1986 created the Housing Credit to encourage the private sector to invest in the construction and rehabilitation of housing for low and moderate-income individuals and families. Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (“IRC” or the “Code”), mandates that housing credit agencies adopt a Qualified Allocation Plan for allocation of the Housing Credit to low-income rental developments throughout their respective states. Low-income housing tax credits shall be allocated in accordance with this plan or any amendments thereto.

## **II. LIMITS ON ALLOCATION OF CREDITS.**

The Code requires that ADFA determine “the [Housing Credit] dollar amount allocated to the development will not exceed the amount the housing credit agency determines is necessary for the financial feasibility of the development and its viability as a qualified low-income housing development throughout the credit period.” Housing Credits will be limited to the amount the Authority, in its sole discretion, deems necessary. Housing Credits are not intended to provide the primary or principal source of financing for a development, but are intended to provide financial incentives sufficient to fill “gaps” which would otherwise exist in developing affordable rental housing for low-income households.

## **III. HOUSING CREDIT ALLOCATION STANDARDS.**

### **A. AMOUNT**

The base amount of annual credit authority is currently calculated at \$1.80 per capita. This per capita amount is based upon population estimates released each year by the Internal Revenue Service.

The maximum amount of Housing Credits that may be reserved for allocation to one individual development shall be no more than **\$400,000** of the annual Housing Credits available in the calendar year. **HOWEVER**, the maximum amount of Housing Credits that may be reserved for allocation to one individual development located in a Designated Low-Income County as defined in the 2000-2005 State Consolidated Plan, or projects

with a commitment letter for funding from USDA Rural Development, shall be no more than **\$425,000** of the annual Housing Credits available in the calendar year.

**B. SET-ASIDES.**

1. **Non-Profit Set-Aside.** Not less than ten percent (10%) of the Housing Credits will be set aside for developments involving any qualified non-profit organization that meets the standards set forth in IRC § 42(h)(5)(C). The organization must be a qualified non-profit organization, as defined in IRC § 501(c)(3) or § 501(c)(4), which is not affiliated with or controlled by a for-profit organization and has included, as one of its tax-exempt purposes, the fostering of low-income housing. **Section XXV of the Multi-Family Housing Application (NON-PROFIT DETERMINATION)** must be completed and copies of the non-profit organization's Articles of Incorporation and Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") documentation determining the organization exempt from federal income tax under IRC § 501(a) must be included with the application.

2. **ADFA HOME and Rural Development Set-Aside.** Approximately twenty percent (20%) of the Housing Credits will be set-aside for successful HOME and Rural Development ("RD") Program applicants. To be considered for HOME Program funds, applicants must request HOME funds by completing the appropriate sections in the 2005 Multi-Family Housing Application when submitted by the APPLICATION DEADLINE. Rural Development applicants must submit a copy of the Rural Development commitment letter with their Application. ADFA has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with Rural Development, and has agreed to engage in cooperative efforts to enable ADFA and Rural Development to effectively evaluate Housing Credit requests of Rural Development applicants. The MOU will be considered by ADFA when reviewing Rural Development applications for Housing Credits.

3. **Assisted Living Set-Aside.** A maximum of \$400,000 of the Housing Credits will be set aside for qualified assisted living developments. The applicant is required to submit a copy of the Certificate of Need or Permit of Approval from the State of Arkansas at the time the application is submitted to ADFA.

**IV. ALLOCATION OF STATE HOUSING CREDITS.**

ARK. CODE ANN. § 26-51-1702 provides that a taxpayer owning an interest in a low-income development qualifying for Housing Credits will be eligible for State Housing Credits equal to twenty percent (20%) of the allocated federal amount. The State statute limits the allocation of State Housing Credits to \$250,000 in any one taxable year. Recognizing the limited availability of the State Housing Credits and with a desire to

assign those credits where they are most needed, the applicant must demonstrate need on the Housing Credit application. Based on demonstrated need in the application, the Authority will give a priority allocation of State Housing Credits to those developments that are in designated low-income counties under the State's Consolidated Plan submitted to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The list of these counties is contained in Selection Criterion #1 of this Qualified Allocation Plan. The allocation of State Housing Credits will be as follows:

1. Developments receiving an allocation of Housing Credits that are to be located entirely in any one of the low-income counties designated in the State Consolidated Plan will be allocated State Housing Credits equal to twenty percent (20%) of the applicable Housing Credits.
2. In the event of a shortage of State Housing Credits for eligible developments in low-income counties designated in the Consolidated Plan, priority will be given to those developments that have the highest aggregate score under the scoring system set forth in this Qualified Allocation Plan.
3. To the extent that there are remaining State Housing Credits after the allocation to eligible developments in low-income counties, then the State Housing Credits will be allocated (at 20% of the applicable Housing Credits) to remaining qualified developments until such time as the available State Housing Credits are exhausted, with priority given to those developments with the highest scores.
4. The Authority expects to allocate no less than ten percent (10%) of State Housing Credits to non-profit organizations.
5. The Authority will annually notify the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration of those developments that have been allocated State Housing Credits.
6. The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration will be notified of any revocation of State Housing Credits.

V. **COMPETITIVE RESERVATION OF “NINE-PERCENT” CREDITS.**

A. **APPLICATION PROCESS**

It is the intent of ADFa to reserve in one eligibility cycle all Housing Credits available for allocation. Any credits that are not reserved will carry forward to next year. Applicants must apply during the eligibility cycle to receive a credit allocation for that calendar year.

**The closing deadline for submitting the 2005 Multi-Family Housing Application for the 2005 Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (“LIHTC”) Cycle is as follows:**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, 4:30 P.M., FEBRUARY 11, 2005  
 (“APPLICATION DEADLINE”)**

The APPLICATION DEADLINE for submitting applications for the 2005 LIHTC cycle is set forth above. Facsimiles and e-mails will not be accepted. **All applications must be submitted online as provided by ADFa (if available) and a tabbed, 3-ring bound hardcopy delivered to ADFa no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, February 11, 2005. The tabbed, 3-ring bound hardcopy must be delivered to ADFa at the following address:**

**Arkansas Development Finance Authority  
Attn: Multi-Family Housing Department  
423 Main Street, Suite 500  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Telephone Number: 501-682-5900**

**ADFA will not accept any applications submitted after the APPLICATION DEADLINE.**

**Applications.** An applicant must submit a **COMPLETE** application by the APPLICATION DEADLINE. ADFA staff will review and evaluate the application, and notify the applicant of deficiencies and scoring in accordance with the schedule below.

**Cure Period.** Applicants will have an opportunity to cure application deficiencies cited by ADFA through comment and submission of required documentation to ADFA within five (5) business days from the date of notification. Applicants will also be allowed to discuss scoring with ADFA during the five (5) day Cure Period. The applicant's comments and additional documentation will then be reviewed and a final score will be sent to the applicant. **The applicant will be notified of deficiencies and curable application items according to the schedule below. ADFA will not accept any missing documentation, will not consider any additional comment, nor allow the applicant to discuss scoring with ADFA after the expiration of the five (5) day Cure Period.**

<b>DATES FOR REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND RESERVATION PROCESS</b>	
APPLICATION DEADLINE	February 11, 2005 (4:30 p.m.)
Applicants notified of deficiencies and scoring	April 22, 2005
Cure Period Deadline for receipt by ADFA of application deficiency responses and documentation. Any pages of the application that require modification in response to ADFA's notice of deficiencies must be submitted with the applicant's response. Deadline for Applicants to discuss scoring	April 29, 2005 (4:30 p.m.)
Applicants notified of final score	May 2, 2005
Successful applicants approved for reservation of Housing Credits by ADFA Board of Directors	May 19, 2005
2005 Housing Credit reservation letters mailed to successful applicants.	May 26, 2005

**B. APPLICATION THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS.**

The 2005 Multi-Family Housing Application must be submitted by the APPLICATION DEADLINE and MUST BE COMPLETED in accordance with the instructions provided by ADFA. In addition, the following Threshold Requirements MUST BE INCLUDED with the application:

1. **Narrative Description of the Development.** A detailed narrative description of the development which includes the type of development; geographical description of the development site and surrounding area types of financing; tenants served; bedroom mix; percentage of low-income units; involvement of non-profit support service organizations; amenities for the development; energy efficiency; rehabilitation work to be performed, if applicable; and any other relevant descriptive information.
2. **Financial Commitment Letters.** Evidence from all mortgage lenders that the applicant has submitted an application for financing. The letter must be dated within six (6) months of the APPLICATION DEADLINE and state that a formal application for construction and/or permanent financing is under serious consideration. The letter should contain the approximate amount of the loan, the loan's terms and interest rate, if known.

A commitment letter, dated within six (6) months of the APPLICATION DEADLINE, from any syndicator or investor purchasing the Housing Credits or State Housing Credits, which will be utilized as a source of funds for the development.

Funding documentation (*e.g. HOME agreement, commitment letter*) from any Participating Jurisdiction providing HOME funds to the applicant.

A firm commitment letter, dated within six (6) months of the Application Deadline, from RD if the development will receive RD funding.

A commitment letter, dated within six (6) months of the APPLICATION DEADLINE, from any other gap-financing source providing financing for the development.

3. **Utility Allowance Calculation.** Documentation of utility calculations from one of the following entities must be included:

- Local Public Housing Authority
- State Public Housing Authority
- Utility Company
- Third Party Company

4. **Site Control Information.** Evidence of site control in one of the following forms must be included:

- Deed
- Option
- Purchase Contract

Verification of Arm's Length Transactions must be included. ADFA reserves the right to require an appraisal of the property for all Arms' Length Transactions, at the applicant's expense.

For **all** rehabilitation projects claiming acquisition credits, the application must include documentation to satisfy the purchase requirement, 10-year hold rule and related party requirement of IRC Section 42.

The applicant must produce evidence of site ownership or a 99-year leasehold on the site no later than December 1, 2005, the Carryover Allocation documentation deadline date. *See Section VII, below.*

5. **Zoning Information.** Documentation that the development site is properly zoned or that application for such zoning has been made to the proper zoning authority. The zoning authorization letter or the applicant's request to the proper zoning authority must be dated within six (6) months of the APPLICATION DEADLINE. Proof of proper zoning must be submitted by the end of the Cure Period as established in this QAP.

6. **Independent Market Study.** A market study, prepared by a party unaffiliated with the developer, in the appropriate format outlined in the ADFA Market Study Guidelines. The study must be dated within six (6) months of the APPLICATION DEADLINE. Only approved market analyst firms on the ADFA Approved Market Study Firm List will be allowed to perform market studies for this program. Market studies performed by firms not approved by ADFA will not be accepted. *See Section VI A, below.*

7. **Letter from highest elected local official supporting proposed development.** A letter from the highest elected local official in the jurisdiction where the development will be located. A development located within a city's limits must have a letter from its Mayor. A development located outside of a city's limits must have a letter from the County Judge. The letter must be dated within six (6) months of the APPLICATION DEADLINE. The letter, at a minimum, must address the need for affordable housing in the area and support for the specific development. Should the highest elected official withdraw the letter of support at any time prior to the deadline for a Carryover Allocation, ADFA will revoke the reservation of Housing Credits for the development. Revocation of the letter of support after the deadline for Carryover Allocation will not affect the reservation of Housing Credits. ADFA will provide written notification to the State Representative and Senator for the location in which you plan to locate your development.

8. **Letter of Participation and Resume of Development Team Members.** Each development team member must submit a cover letter describing its participation in the development along with a copy of its resume listing qualifications, experience, previous experience with the low-income housing tax credit program, address and telephone number. If the applicant does not have the minimum required experience a consultant or developer with the minimum required experience must be a member of the development team. The consultant or developer's participation letter, resume and summary page specifically describing its role in the development must be included.

“Minimum required experience” is met when either the applicant, consultant, or developer held that position on a previous development that received a reservation of Housing Credits from ADFA and whose owner was issued IRS Form 8609(s).

9. **Previous Participation Record.** The applicant, its consultant, and each development team member shall separately identify any existing contract or indebtedness it has with ADFA and any prior delinquent, defaulted, or foreclosed upon contract, loan or other indebtedness of the applicant, consultant, or development team member with ADFA. In addition, ADFA will review the previous performance of the applicant, its consultant and each development team member under all affordable housing programs with ADFA or other State Housing Finance Authorities, including the HOME Program, the Housing Credit program, Tax-Exempt Bond program, and any other affordable housing loan program, including disbursements, payment history, compliance history and any findings. Non-performance on previous developments or delinquencies in payments

will result in disqualification of an application by the ADFA Board Housing Review Committee, regardless of scoring.

10. **Articles of Incorporation and IRS documentation for Non-Profit Organizations.** To be considered for the “Non-Profit Set-Aside,” the development must involve a qualified non-profit organization that:
- a) owns an interest in the development;
  - b) materially participates in the development;
  - c) is not affiliated with or controlled by a for-profit organization;  
and
  - d) whose exempt purposes include fostering low-income housing.

The non-profit organization’s Articles of Incorporation and IRS documentation of its exemption from federal income tax must be included. Section XXV of the application must be completed. Pending requests with the IRS for exemption will not be accepted as compliance.

11. **Preliminary Plans and Specifications.** One set of preliminary plans and outline of specifications must be included.
12. **Environmental Checklist.** The Environmental Checklist attached hereto must be completed. Any applicant that has a “Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)” of the development’s site must submit a copy of that ESA with its application. Any applicant receiving a reservation of Housing Credits will be required to submit an ESA on the development site by the earlier of: Carryover Allocation deadline of December 1, 2005 or placement in service allocation.
13. **Capital Needs Assessment.** All rehabilitation developments must include a capital needs assessment conducted by a third party architect, engineer or contractor dated within six (6) months of the APPLICATION DEADLINE. The assessment must include a physical inspection of the interior and exterior of the units and structures, as well as, an interview with the development manager and maintenance personnel. Some of the components that should be examined and analyzed in this assessment are:
- site, including topography, drainage , pavement, curbing, sidewalks, parking, landscaping, amenities, water, sewer, storm drainage, gas and electric utility lines;
  - structural systems, both substructure and superstructure, including exterior walls and balconies, exterior doors and windows, roofing system and drainage;
  - interiors, including unit and common area finishes (carpeting,

vinyl flooring, tile flooring, plaster walls, paint condition, etc.) unit kitchen finishes, cabinets and appliances, unit bathroom finishes and fixtures, and common area lobbies and corridors; and

- mechanical systems, including plumbing and domestic hot water, HVAC, electrical, lighting fixtures, fire protection and elevators.

The assessment should state the cost (labor and materials) for each item identified and the term of operability. The assessment should address the extent of future expenditures contemplated to ensure they will be addressed through operating and replacement reserves.

14. **Tenant Income Audit.** All rehabilitation projects must include a complete, detailed tenant income audit that identifies all existing tenants and their income. The audit shall separately identify those tenants whose income exceeds applicable income limits.
15. **Operating Reserve and Replacement Reserve Funds.** The total development budget must include the funding of: (1) an operating reserve equal to not less than four (4) months of: (a) projected annual operating expenses, (b) annual debt service payments and (c) annual replacement reserve deposits; and (2) a replacement reserve fund equal to not less than \$250.00 per unit per year. These amounts must be incorporated into the 2005 Multi-Family Housing Application. The applicant must identify the name of the financial institution where the funds will be held.
16. **Section 106 Clearance Letter.** A Section 106 (National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S. C. § 470(f)) clearance letter from the Arkansas Department of Heritage, or, proof of application for such letter. Such letter must be obtained by the earlier of: Carryover Allocation deadline of December 1, 2005 or placement in service allocation. *See Attachment D to the 2005 Multi-Family Housing Application for Instructions for Obtaining a Section 106 Clearance Letter.*
17. **Form RD 1924-13.** Each application must use Form RD 1924-13, or some similar form, for computation of estimated costs.
18. **Application Fee.** The application fee check should be made payable to “Arkansas Development Finance Authority.” Refer to the 2005 Multi-Family Housing Application for all required fees.

**C. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTING DEVELOPMENTS.**

Each application will be awarded points according to the nature and character of the development. The maximum number of points which may be awarded for each set of criteria are indicated below:

<b>SELECTION CRITERIA</b>		<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>
1.	<p><b>Location.</b></p> <p>A. Development is located in the following low-income counties designated in the 2000-2005 State Consolidated Plan: Bradley, Chicot, Crittenden, Desha, Fulton, Jackson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lee, Miller, Monroe, Newton, Phillips, St. Francis, Searcy and Woodruff ..... (15 points)</p> <p>B. Development has a commitment letter for funding from USDA Rural Development.)..... (15 points)</p> <p>C. Development is located in a Qualified Census Tract (“QCT”) or a Difficult to Develop Area (“DDA”); a copy of QCT map for the development area must be submitted with the application with complete census tract information submitted in Section I of the 2005 Multi-Family Housing Application. (See attached listing of QCT’s and DDA’s.)..... (15 points)</p>	<b>15</b>
2.	<p><b>Development of housing for special needs or with special features including:</b></p> <p>(a) single room occupancy housing;</p> <p>(b) transitional housing for the homeless</p> <p>(c) elderly housing (all units must be elderly units);</p> <p>(d) Supportive housing for disabled persons;</p> <p>(e) Assisted Living housing;</p> <p>(f) housing for large families (3 bedrooms or larger);</p> <p>(g) scattered site housing;</p> <p>(h) housing targeting a tenant population of single parent/single guardian with children; or</p> <p>(i) housing intended for eventual tenant ownership (single family detached houses only)</p>	<b>15</b>

<b>SELECTION CRITERIA</b>		<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>
	<p>Points for Items (a) – (g)</p> <p>all of tax credit units for special needs ..... (13 points)</p> <p>half of the tax credit units ..... (8 points)</p> <p>10% of the tax credit units (minimum of three units)..... (4 points)</p> <p>Point for Item (h) -- must include housing with not less than 2 bedrooms and manner in which such population will be targeted..... (1 point)</p> <p>Point for Item (i) -- must describe manner in which eventual tenant ownership will be achieved..... (1 point)</p> <p>Items (a) &amp; (b) must be operated by governmental or non-profit entity);</p>	
3.	<b>Involves rehabilitation of existing structures.</b>	<b>10</b>
4.	<b>Involves preservation and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing.</b>	<b>10</b>
5.	<b>Points will be available to applicants if their combined developer and consultant fees are 10% or less of total development cost as defined under developer fee standard.</b>	<b>5</b>
6.	<b>A minimum of 20% of the total housing units in the development is market rate units.</b> (Market rate units must be integrated with the development’s LIHTC units and designated on the development’s preliminary plans.)	<b>5</b>
7.	<b>Owner provides amenities beyond those appropriate for the type of housing proposed, <i>inter alia</i>, amenities employing “universal design” concepts; swimming pool; covered parking; individual garage parking; individual storage units; microwave; dishwasher; supplied in-unit washer and dryer; furnished exercise room; furnished computer lab; in-unit cable/internet connection as evidenced by architectural plans and specifications that must be included in the application.</b>	<b>10</b>

SELECTION CRITERIA	MAXIMUM POINTS
<p>8. <b>The development promotes energy efficiency.</b> The applicant must provide a statement that the design and/or components of the development promotes energy conservation. The statement should be from a licensed engineer or architect certifying which of the following energy-saving devices will be utilized in the construction of each Housing Credit building. The elements selected must be certified as included in each building upon placement in service.</p> <p>(A) All of the following must be satisfied in order to count as one element of energy savings efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) ceiling fans in each bedroom and living room;</li> <li>(ii) shower head(s) with a maximum of 2½ gallon per minute water flow rate;</li> <li>(iii) ½” insulation on hot water pipes; and</li> <li>(iv) fluorescent light fixtures in the kitchen, bathroom(s) and utility room.</li> </ul> <p>(B) Wall insulation with a minimum of R-16, and must also include exterior house wrap (ex: TYVEK).</p> <p>(C) Ceiling insulation with a minimum of R-38.</p> <p>(D) Gas heating system with a minimum 90% AFUE rating with an air conditioning system with a minimum 12 Seer rating or a minimum 7.8 HSPF electric heat pump system.</p> <p>(E) Windows with frames and sashes of wood, vinyl or thermally broken-metal with two or more panes of insulated glass and argon gas, of which at least one pane has a low emission coating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all five..... (15 points)</li> <li>• 3 or 4..... (6 points)</li> <li>• 1 or 2..... (3 points)</li> </ul> <p>A signed certification from the design architect or licensed engineer confirming the installation of energy saving devices will be required prior to the issuance of IRS Form 8609. The certification must be included in the Allocation of Credits request made to the Authority.</p> <p><b><u>For rehabilitation developments</u></b>, if any of the above elements cannot be included in any building because of structural constraints, the applicant can submit an energy audit or report, performed by an independent, professional energy consultant/audit firm, which identifies those constraints but enumerates: (i) other effective</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>15</b></p>

<b>SELECTION CRITERIA</b>		<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>
	<p>energy improvements or energy performance measures designed to increase energy efficiency in the particular building, and (ii) the energy efficiency to be achieved by such improvements or measures on the particular building. The energy audit or report must describe the methodology/testing procedures utilized. (An energy consultant/audit firm is considered a member of the development team. Its Letter of Participation and Resume as well as its Participation Record must be attached to the application in accordance with Sections V(B)(8) and V(B)(9) of this QAP.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The applicant must submit a signed statement that it will implement the energy improvements or energy performance measures identified within the energy audit or report in order to be considered for points under this criterion.</b> Also, a certification from the design architect or licensed engineer confirming the implementation of the energy improvements or energy performance measures will be required prior to the issuance of IRS Form 8609.</li> </ul>	
9.	<p><b>Support services provided by local-based, tax-exempt organizations (other than in the role of developer).</b> An authorized official of each tax-exempt organization involved must provide a signed acknowledgement of participation describing the supportive services offered. The acknowledgement must state that the organization's charter or by-laws authorize the service(s) to be provided and that their provision is appropriate for the development's tenants. Local-based means the non-profit service area (neighborhood, city or county) in which the development is to be located.</p>	<b>5</b>
10.	<p><b>Use of Public Housing Waiting List.</b> The Public Housing Authority serving the development area must submit a letter stating it is willing to refer tenants to the proposed development.</p>	<b>5</b>

<b>SELECTION CRITERIA</b>		<b>MAXIMUM POINTS</b>
11.	<p><b>Site Visit.</b> The site location will be evaluated for accessibility, proximity to services appropriate to the type of housing proposed (e.g. grocery stores, schools, medical facilities, recreational facilities, gas stations, banks, and public transportation); and environmental issues. Scoring consideration will also include, among other things, site suitability regarding topography (grade, low-lying area, flood plain, or wetlands) and proximity to nuisances (e.g., railroad tracks, major highways/interstates, and manufacturing /production plants.)</p>	<b>10</b>
12.	<p><b>Market Need.</b> A Market Feasibility Study must be submitted with the application, which adequately demonstrates a market need including, among other things, certification that comparable affordable housing developments in the subject market location are at least eighty-five percent (85%) occupied. (See pages 10 and 19 of this Qualified Allocation Plan for additional information and market study requirements.)</p>	<b>15</b>
13.	<p><b>Requesting HOME Funds.</b> In addition to Housing Credits, applicant is applying for HOME funds..... (5 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If awarded HOME funds, applicant will extend the affordability period on HOME units to thirty (30) years. HOME income limits and rent limits will apply throughout the affordability period.</li> </ul> <p><b>If the applicant elects to extend the affordability period and restrict the income and rent limits on the HOME units for thirty (30) years, it must submit a signed statement indicating this election. .... (5 points)</b></p>	<b>10</b>

<b>Legislated Priorities</b>		<b>Bonus Points</b>
1.	<b>Serves the lowest income group possible.</b> Special priority will be given to developments with units for households with 30% (or less) of area median income. (The units set aside for very low-income households must be occupied by households within the income limits set forth in a regulatory agreement.) The compliance period on the very low-income units is established by the compliance period on the low-income units. Rents are restricted accordingly. The number of units should be 5% of total number of units. <b>If the applicant elects to serve very low-income households, a signed statement, including the number of units to be set-aside for very low-income tenants, must be included in the application and must be reflected in the Project Income Section XVII of the application.</b>	<b>3</b>
2.	<b>Extends the duration of low-income use.</b> Special priority will be given to developers who agree to maintain units for low-income occupancy for a period at least five years beyond the 30-year extended use period. <b>If applicant agrees to extend the duration of low-income use, a signed statement, indicating the number of years the affordability period will be extended, must be included with the application.</b>	<b>4</b>
3.	<b>Developments Located in Qualified Census Tracts.</b> Special priority will be given to developments located in Qualified Census Tracts, which contributes to a concerted community revitalization plan. A copy of the Community Revitalization Plan, must be included with the Application to be considered for this scoring.	<b>3</b>

**D. SCORING AND DEVELOPMENT DETERMINATION.** Each application will be ranked according to the score awarded. In the event that some applicants score the same and are ranked the same, the Authority may use discretionary judgment in establishing a final award. The Authority reserves the right to disapprove or reduce the Housing Credits for an allocation during any stage, regardless of ranking under the priorities and point ranking outlined above. For any allocation not made in accordance with the established priorities and selection criteria of the Authority, a written explanation must be made by the Authority to the general public.

ADFA reserves the right to disapprove any development for an allocation of Housing Credits, regardless of the evaluation. ADFA reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to suspend or debar any applicant from the Housing Credit program, which ADFA determines has acted improperly, illegally or inappropriately in the applicant's dealings with the Authority or in any way relative to the Housing Credit Program.

It is the policy of ADFA to prohibit applicants from contacting ADFA staff in any manner regarding any application after the expiration of the APPLICATION DEADLINE. Violations of this policy will be brought to the attention of the Board Housing Review Committee and could result in a downgrade to the final scoring or disqualification from the program. No contact with ADFA board members is allowed and any such contact will be grounds for immediate rejection of an application.

- E. **DEVELOPMENT SITE REVIEW.** ADFA Staff will conduct a site review of the proposed location for the development. The site visit will take place during the application review period.
  
- F. **RESERVATION OF CREDITS.** Developments selected will be given preliminary approval for a reservation of Housing Credits. The required reservation fee of One Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$100.00) per low-income unit must be submitted to ADFA within twenty-one (21) days of notification of reservation of Housing Credits. No later than sixty (60) days prior to completion of the development, the applicant must submit all required documentation for the next stages of processing by ADFA. Developments that will not be placed in service in the tax year ADFA approves the Housing Credit reservation may be awarded a Carryover Allocation upon the satisfaction of requirements of IRC § 42 and the Authority. All developments with a valid reservation of Housing Credits will be required to obtain a placed-in-service or Carryover Allocation by **December 1** of the same calendar year or for reservations made in the second half of the calendar year, the ten percent (10%) test must be satisfied within six (6) months of receipt of the reservation.

The Owner of the development identified in the application must utilize the allocation of Housing Credits. The transfer of credits to a property not identified in the application is prohibited.

- G. **CHANGES TO THE ORIGINAL APPLICATION.** Any change to the original application must be submitted to ADFA in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the desired effective date of the change. All changes must be reviewed and approved by ADFA's Multi-Family Housing Staff or ADFA's Board of Directors. Any change to the original application made without approval from ADFA will be null and void.

VI. **ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**

- A. **MARKET STUDY.** A comprehensive market feasibility study, which is required with all applications, must demonstrate that sufficient demand for rental housing exists in the proposed geographic market area to support the proposed development. The market study must be dated within six (6) months of the APPLICATION DEADLINE. The market feasibility study must be conducted at the applicant's expense by a disinterested third party approved by ADFA. The market analyst must be on ADFA's Approved Market Study Firm List and must follow the Guidelines for Market Studies. Market studies that do not meet the requirements of the Guidelines for Market Studies, nor provide an index or table of contents indicating the page within the market study each requirement can be found, will not be accepted and will result in your application being denied for not meeting threshold requirements. The market study is an application threshold requirement and must be complete and attached to the hardbound application.

ADFA reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to independently evaluate the demand for additional affordable rental housing in the geographic market area.

B. **DEVELOPER FEE STANDARD.**

1. **Developer Fee (New Construction).** The developer fee, which includes the developer's overhead and profit plus consultant fees and the owner's profit, should not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total development costs.
2. **Developer Fee (Acquisition/Rehabilitation).** The developer fee for acquisition/rehabilitation will be limited to ten percent (10%) of the cost of the land and building plus no more than fifteen percent (15%) of the remaining total development cost.

“Total Development Costs” is defined as the total uses of funds, less syndication-related costs, developer’s fee and development reserves.

**C. BUILDER’S PROFIT.**

The amount allocated to the general requirements of the development cannot exceed six percent (6%) of its construction hard costs. The Authority will limit the builder’s profit to ten percent (10%) of the development’s hard costs plus its general requirements’ costs. The Authority will limit the builder’s overhead to four percent (4%) of the development’s hard costs plus its general requirements’ costs. ADFA reserves the right to determine whether costs included in the developer’s fee and builder’s profit calculations are appropriate and reasonable.

**D. PER UNIT COST CAP.**

The Authority limits the per unit cost for all developments, other than qualified Assisted Living developments, to \$100,000 per unit. The per unit cost for qualified Assisted Living developments is limited to \$120,000. “Per unit cost” is calculated by dividing the total development cost by the total number of units.

**E. MINIMUM DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE.**

The development will be required to establish minimum debt service coverage of 1.10. For this purpose, debt service coverage is defined as the ratio of a development’s net operating income (rental income less operating expenses and reserve payments) to total debt service obligations.

**F. REHABILITATION STANDARD**

Rehabilitation hard costs (labor and materials) on any rehabilitation development will be no less than \$15,000 per low-income unit and no less than thirty percent (20%) of the development’s total costs.

**G. DEFINITION OF SCATTERED SITE.**

A scattered site development is any development whose buildings would be treated, but for their lack of proximity, as a low-income housing development. The development shall be so treated if all of the units in each building in the development are designated low-income housing units and all of the buildings in the development are located within one jurisdiction, *i.e. city or county*.

**H. DEFINITION OF ASSISTED LIVING.**

Assisted Living housing is a combination of housing, supportive services, personalized assistance and health care designed to respond to the individual needs of those who need help with activities of daily living, in a way that promotes maximum independence for each resident. Supportive services are available 24 hours per day to meet scheduled and unscheduled needs of each resident. An Assisted Living development applicant must comply with all state and federal regulations for assisted living developments. Assisted Living development applicants will be required to submit an approved Certificate of Need or Permit of Approval from the State of Arkansas with their application.

**I. DEFINITION OF SUPPORTIVE (DISABLED) HOUSING.**

Housing intended for the use of persons with a disability (as defined by HUD), which contains all the physical design, construction, and service provision components adequate to meet the needs of the disabled population targeted. Any market study submitted in support of an application for housing intended for the use of person with disabilities must address the housing needs of the targeted disabled population in the primary market area. The applicant must also include a marketing plan specifically designed to reach the targeted disabled population for which the proposed housing is to be developed.

**J. JUSTIFICATION EXPENDITURES STANDARD.**

Applicants must submit a final development cost certification supported by an audit report performed by a Certified Public Accountant prior to issuance of IRS Form 8609. A completed Form RD 1924-13 must accompany the final development cost certification.

**K. UNIT ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**

Developments approved for Housing Credits must comply with local and federal regulations pertaining to unit accessibility and construction standards to accommodate persons with physical disabilities.

**L. LEAD-BASED PAINT.**

In a development with Housing Credits, the lead-based paint requirements apply to all units and common areas in the development.

**M. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.**

The Authority requires that occupancy of all housing financed or otherwise assisted by ADFA be open to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin and contractors and subcontractors engaged in the construction or rehabilitation of such housing provide equal opportunity for employment without discrimination as to race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin.

**VII. CARRYOVER ALLOCATION.**

ADFA will follow the Code for Carryover Allocation requirements. In order to qualify for a Carryover Allocation, the owner's basis in the development, at the close of the calendar year in which the reservation is received, must be more than ten percent (10%) of the owner's reasonably expected basis in the development at the close of the second calendar year following the year in which the allocation is made. The required documentation for a Carryover Allocation must be submitted to the Authority by December 1 of the year the Housing Credits are reserved.

In the event a reservation of credits is received in the second half of the calendar year, the owner's basis in the development must be more than ten percent (10%) of the owner's reasonably expected basis within six (6) months of receiving the reservation.

The terms and conditions of the Multi-Family Housing Application will be incorporated into the Carryover Allocation documentation.

**VIII. LAND USE RESTRICTION AGREEMENT ("LURA")**

The owner of the development will be required to execute and record a Land Use Restriction Agreement ("LURA") that sets forth those covenants that will restrict the development property for a minimum of thirty (30) years ("the extended use period"). The owner is required to submit a "DRAFT" copy of the LURA for review and approval by ADFA prior to recording the LURA in accordance with Arkansas law. ADFA will not issue IRS Form 8609 until the LURA has been reviewed and approved by ADFA.

The LURA will state that the owner will comply with all applicable requirements under the Code, this Qualified Allocation Plan, other relevant statutes and regulations and all representations made in the Multi-Family Housing Application. Among other things, the LURA:

- will state that the owner will not apply for relief under Sections 42(h)(6)(E)(i)(II) and 42(h)(6)(I) of the Code;
- will identify: i) each building in the development, ii) the income limit for each low-income unit in the development, iii) the applicable fraction for each building; and will

state that the applicable fraction for any building will not be reduced during the extended use period;

- will state that, notwithstanding the termination of the “extended use period,” per Section 42(h)(6)(E)(ii) of the Code, for a period of three years following such termination existing tenants in low-income units in the development cannot be evicted (other than for good cause) and the gross rent of such units will not increased other than permitted by § 42;
- will authorize individuals who meet the income and rent limitations applicable to the building the right to enforce those limitations in Arkansas courts;
- will prohibit the disposition of a portion of any building identified in the LURA to any person unless the entire building is so disposed;
- will state that the owner will not refuse to lease any residential unit in the development to a holder of a voucher or certificate of eligibility under Section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937 (42 USC § 1437f) because of the status of the prospective tenant as such a holder; and
- will state that the LURA is binding on all successors of the owner.

## **IX. COMPLIANCE.**

Applicants must comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, including Section 42 of the Code. ADFA’s Compliance Monitoring Policies and Procedures Manual for the Low-income Housing Tax Credit Program may be obtained from ADFA’s office, and may also be accessed at ADFA’s website ([www.state.ar.us/adfa](http://www.state.ar.us/adfa)). Fair Housing manuals may be obtained from HUD’s Little Rock office, and the Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines may be accessed at HUD’s website ([www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)). Use the following link to the information needed:

Under the heading “Information For ... Other Partners”

Click on “Fair housing”

Under the heading “General Info”

Click on “Fair housing accessibility guidelines”

The owner will be required to prepare and submit to the Authority, no later than January 15 of each year following the first taxable year of the owner’s credit period, an Owner’s Certificate of Continuing Program Compliance. The owner will be required to prepare and submit to the Authority, no later than February 1 of each year following the first taxable year of the owner’s credit period, the LIHTC Compliance Monitoring Status Report. Both the Certificate of Continuing Program Compliance and the LIHTC Status Report must be submitted under penalty of perjury to the Authority in accordance with Internal Revenue Service procedures for monitoring compliance. The compliance monitoring procedures apply to all buildings placed in service in Arkansas that have received an allocation of Housing Credits as determined by Section 42 of the Code. Regular site inspections to monitor compliance with habitability standards applicable to the project will be carried out by the Authority at least once every three (3) years.

In the event the Authority becomes aware of non-compliance or upon the failure to submit a Certificate of Continuing Program Compliance, the Authority will notify the owner of the areas of non-compliance and the required timeframe to correct the deficiencies. There is a maximum of sixty (60) days to correct such non-compliance. Additionally, the Authority will notify the IRS, as required, of any non-compliance or failure to certify no later than forty-five (45) days after the end of the allowed time for correction.

**X. ADFA FEES.**

**A. APPLICATION FEES.**

The appropriate application fee (determined from the list below) must be included with the application and be in the form of a check payable to the Arkansas Development Finance Authority. All fees are non-refundable.

Any development with four (4) or less units	\$300.00
Non-Profit Owner (more than four (4) units)	\$300.00
For Profit Owner (more than four (4) units)	\$500.00

**B. RESERVATION FEE.**

A non-refundable reservation fee of \$100.00 per low-income unit will be required to secure the reservation of Housing Credits.

**C. ALLOCATION FEE.**

An allocation fee equal to \$100.00 per low-income unit will be required at the time the owner submits the final development cost certification requesting issuance of IRS Form 8609(s).

**D. MONITORING FEES.**

A one-time monitoring fee equal to six percent (6%) of the total annual Housing Credits allocation will be required at the time the owner submits the final development cost certification requesting issuance of IRS Form 8609(s).

**XI. FINANCING WITH TAX-EXEMPT BONDS AND HOUSING CREDITS.**

Developments financed with tax-exempt bonds must apply to receive Housing Credits not allocated as part of the State’s annual Housing Credit ceiling. Section 42(m)(1)(D) of the Code requires such developments to satisfy the “requirements for allocation of a housing credit dollar amount under the qualified allocation plan applicable to the area in which the project is located.” Although these developments need not compete for an award through the competitive process, they must still be evaluated for compliance with the THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS set forth in Section V(B) of this Qualified Allocation Plan and the ADDITIONAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS set forth in Section VI of this Qualified Allocation Plan, as well as, be approved by the Authority. In addition, each development financed with tax-exempt bonds must be in compliance with the monitoring provisions of this Qualified Allocation Plan. Applicants must comply with the Guidelines for Allocating Multi-Family Tax Exempt Private Activity Volume Cap and the Second Amended Arkansas Development Finance Authority Rules and Regulations for Allocation of State Tax Exempt Volume Cap.

**XII. CLARIFICATIONS.**

The Authority is charged with allocating no more Housing Credits to any given development than is required to make that development economically feasible. This decision shall be made solely at the discretion of the Authority, but in no way represents or warrants to any sponsor, investor, lender or any one else that the project is, in fact, feasible or viable.

ADFA’s review of documents submitted in connection with the allocation is for its own purposes. ADFA makes no representations to the owner or anyone else as to compliance with the Code, Treasury regulations, or any other laws or regulations governing Housing Credits. The applicant and owner of the development are responsible for understanding and following all applicable tax law requirements for the development.

No director, officer, agent or employee of ADFA shall be personally liable concerning any matters arising out of, or in relation to, the allocation of Housing Credits.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2004.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lloyd Lindsey, Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mac Dodson, President/Secretary

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**QUALIFIED CENSUS TRACTS (QCTs)**  
**AND DIFFICULT TO DEVELOP AREAS (DDAs)**

**The QCTs and DDAs for 20045 have not been released as of this date. ADFa will update the website and make the list available as soon as the lists are published by the IRS.**