

AHFA 2021 Draft HOME Action Plan, Low-Income Housing Credit Qualified Allocation Plan,
and National Housing Trust Fund Allocation Plan
Public Comment Form
Commenting Period July 2, 2020 – August 20, 2020

All comments regarding the Draft Plans must be submitted using this form. General Comments may be submitted at the bottom of the form. **Comments which include cut-and paste text (or redlined/re-worded sections) of the proposed Plans will be rejected.** AHFA will not respond (or seek to interpret) to suggested change in language without a complete explanation of the suggested language change. Please provide full explanatory and careful comments regarding your proposed changes, keeping in mind that your proposed changes might have an unintended consequence for a different project or location in the state. All forms should be submitted to ahfa.mf.qap@ahfa.com as an attachment to the email. Other documentation, e.g., product information or photos, may also be submitted. All comments will be posted at www.ahfa.com for review.

8/19/2020

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Plan Section	Section Reference	Page #	Specific Comments
Housing Credit	II	11	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on AHFA's Draft 2021 QAP. I appreciate AHFA's collaborative and inclusive approach and respectfully offer the following comments and recommendations. We are green building and healthy housing consultants working across the southeast region. Many states, including Georgia and Mississippi, require green building certification within their QAPs. We request that AHFA require all new construction projects to certify to ENERGY STAR's Residential New Construction program, and for rehabilitation projects to undergo a pre-rehabilitation energy analysis and energy audit to identify and install cost-effective energy upgrades.</p> <p>We acknowledge that AHFA, like many state Housing Finance Agencies, justifiably wants to minimize up-front development costs associated with Housing Credits. However, affordable housing residents should not bear the burden of costly utilities and uncomfortable housing. They should be able to pay their rent and energy bills and still be able to put food on the table. Additionally, energy efficient buildings are proving to be more healthy for residents and require lower ongoing maintenance costs.</p> <p>Whole building energy programs, like ENERGY STAR, are proven to be a cost-effective way to lower residents' and property owner's bills, reduce unit turnover and provide healthier, more comfortable homes for residents. Currently, 41 state housing finance agencies have determined that whole building energy and green building programs are a prudent use of Housing Credits and have included them in their QAPs. Additionally, by including a whole building energy program in Alabama's QAP, AHFA would also create a level playing field</p>

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