

# 2025

## HOME ACTION PLAN

### Draft Version: Citizens Participation Process

*The State of Alabama's 2025 Draft HOME Investment Partnerships Program Action Plan (the "Plan") was approved by the Board of Directors of the Alabama Housing Finance Authority ("AHFA") on December 13, 2023. The Plan will be submitted for public comment ("Citizens Participation Process") on February 8, 2024. After the completion of the Citizens Participation Process, the plans, reflecting any changes or modifications, will be resubmitted to the AHFA Board of Directors for further consideration. After consideration by the AHFA Board, the Plan will be included as part of the State of Alabama's Consolidated Plan and will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") for its approval.*

*Until approved by HUD, the Plan is available for informational purposes only and is subject to change in whole or in part.*

*On February 9, 2023, HUD issued its Guidance on Submitting Consolidated Plans and Annual Action Plans for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 under Notice CPD 23-01 (the "Notice"). In accordance with the Notice, AHFA hereby notifies all potential applicants of the following:*

- All amounts of 2025 HOME Funds shown in the Plan are merely estimates based on AHFA's 2023 HOME Funding levels.*
- All amounts of HOME Funds shown in the Plan will be amended when HUD announces the final 2025 HOME Funding levels.*
- HUD's announcement of final 2025 HOME Funding levels may not occur until after the AHFA Application Cycle has begun.*
- As provided in the Notice, AHFA will not submit the Plan to HUD for review and approval until HUD announces the final 2025 HOME Funding levels, and the Plan has been revised to reflect those Funding levels. The Plan and all 2025 HOME Funding levels described therein will remain subject to change in whole or in part until HUD's review and approval is received.*
- The 2025 HOME Funding levels announced by HUD may be materially different than those described in the Plan, and HUD may require AHFA to amend the Plan in whole or in part, which may alter significantly how applications are scored and funded.*

*As a result, please be advised that all time, money, and other resources committed to the submission of an application to AHFA under the Plan will remain entirely at risk until HUD announces the 2025 HOME Funding levels and provides final approval of the Plan.*



**Alabama Housing Finance Authority**

**2025 HOME Action Plan**

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## I. HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

The Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) is a federally funded housing program established in 1990 as part of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (the “Act”). Under guidelines from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Alabama Housing Finance Authority (AHFA) is the designated administrator and designer of Alabama’s HOME Program. AHFA has specifically designed the HOME Program to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income Alabamians consistent with HUD guidelines.

## II. DEFINITIONS

Capitalized terms used in this HOME Action Plan have the meanings set forth below or elsewhere in this HOME Action Plan. Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meanings assigned in the AHFA Plan Defined Terms available at [www.AHFA.com](http://www.AHFA.com) or as regulations or other context require. Singular terms include the plural as well as the singular, and vice versa.

Act: the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act passed in November 1990. This Act contains the provisions for the HOME Program and is further defined in 24 CFR Part 92.

AHFA-Approved CHDO: A CHDO that has requested and obtained prior approval from AHFA to submit a funding application. Without this prior approval, a CHDO will be treated like a non-CHDO applicant under AHFA’s programs and will not be eligible for funding under the mandatory CHDO set-aside established by the HOME Program.

Alabama Housing Finance Authority (AHFA): AHFA was designated the administrator of Alabama’s HOME Program by the Governor of the State of Alabama on February 22, 1991.

Application Cycles: a period of time established by AHFA during which applications for funding under Alabama’s HOME Program may be accepted.

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO): To qualify as a CHDO, an organization must be a non-profit organization and meet the requirements specified in 24 CFR Section 92.2. The qualifying CHDO must have staff that is experienced in developing projects of the same size, scope, and level of complexity as the activities for which HOME Funds are being reserved or committed. HUD defines CHDO staff as paid employees responsible for day-to-day operations (volunteers, board members, and consultants are not considered staff). The organization must recertify annually to remain an active and qualified CHDO for purposes of applying for HOME Funds.

Consolidated Plan (Plan): the consolidated plan designed to help states and local jurisdictions to assess their affordable housing and community development needs and market conditions, and to make data-driven, place-based investment decisions. The consolidated planning process serves as the framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify housing and community development priorities that align and focus funding from the CPD formula block grant programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, Housing Trust Fund (HTF), Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program.

HOME Funds: funds made available under Alabama’s HOME Program through allocations and reallocations, and may consist of any repayments and interest or other return on the investment of these funds.

Participating Jurisdiction (PJ): a unit of state or local government that has met the requirements of Section 216 of the National Affordable Housing Act and receives a separate appropriation of HOME Funds to be used within its jurisdictional boundary. The State of Alabama is the Participating Jurisdiction for the HOME

Funds administered by AHFA. The local Participating Jurisdictions in Alabama: Anniston, Birmingham, Huntsville, Jefferson County, Mobile, Mobile County, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa.

Project: a site or an entire building or two or more buildings, together with the site or (when permissible) sites on which the building or buildings are located, that are under common ownership, management, and financing and are to be assisted with HOME Funds made available under a Written Agreement, as a single undertaking. Project includes all the activities associated with the site(s) and building(s).

Recipient: an individual, public agency, for-profit developer(s), CHDO, non-profit developer(s), or any entity that receives State of Alabama HOME Funds.

Written Agreement: Alabama's HOME Investment Partnerships Program Written Agreement. The Written Agreement is an agreement executed by AHFA and the entity approved to receive an allocation of HOME Funds.

### III. ALABAMA'S HOME PROGRAM

- Develop selection criteria to be used in determining housing priorities for the State. The selection criteria include ranking each project in accordance with its location, fulfillment of housing needs, project and applicant characteristics, tenant populations with Special Housing Needs and with families, public housing waiting lists, projects intended for eventual tenant ownership, energy efficient projects and participation of local tax-exempt organizations;
- Develop an evaluation process whereby preference is given to projects that serve: (1) the lowest-income tenants, (2) qualified tenants for the longest period(s), and (3) projects which are located in Qualified Census Tracts and contribute to a Concerted Community Revitalization Plan (CCRP); and
- Develop compliance monitoring procedures to test for compliance with HOME Regulations and for notifying HUD of noncompliance.

#### A. Development of Selection Criteria

AHFA has been responsible for preparing a housing needs assessment and strategy for the State of Alabama since the HOME Investment Partnerships Program was created. In 1992, AHFA prepared the first Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) as a prerequisite for Alabama to receive federal dollars for housing. Prior to submitting the CHAS to HUD, AHFA prepared an extensive list of interested relevant stakeholders from which to gather information and mailed letters of inquiry, questionnaires and surveys to various state agencies, service providers, housing directors and individuals. Based on the information gathered, along with data from the relatively then new 1990 U.S. Census, AHFA then compiled a blueprint document for creating affordable housing across the State.

Beginning in 1995, HUD abandoned the CHAS and created the Consolidated Plan in an effort to blend its four Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs - CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA - into a single submission process. AHFA, as administrator of the HOME Program, was deemed responsible for writing the housing portion of the new document. The State Consolidated Plan provided a detailed overview of how the State planned to utilize its annual Community Planning and Development funding to meet economic development objectives, provide affordable housing, and address other Special Needs. As a contributor, AHFA offered a detailed analysis of the current status of housing

in Alabama with special attention devoted to the condition of housing and housing affordability.

The early State Consolidated Plan submissions relied on figures from the 2000 U.S. Census. Once the 2010 U.S. Census became available, the State relied upon the newer figures. While Alabama, like all states, has experienced fluctuations in population, income, and other critical Census-tracked data between 1990 and 2000 and between 2000 and 2010, one realization has not been altered – many in our State are still poor (our 17% poverty rate ranks 49<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states) and thousands of Alabama families and households need a safe and affordable place to live. A great many unmet needs still exist and AHFA will use the limited resources available to address as many unmet needs as feasible across the State.

The State Consolidated Plan, in addition to providing an overall assessment of housing needs for the State, identifies the housing needs for groups with Special Housing Needs. As the administrator of the HOME Program for Alabama, AHFA identifies areas of need, prepares plans to address those needs, and reports on the use of allocated funds to meet those needs.

A demographic analysis performed for the first State Consolidated Plan (and still true today) concluded “that a significant number of individuals in all parts of the state are in need of housing assistance. Those with the greatest needs are, predictably, concentrated at the lowest levels of the income hierarchy, wherein the housing cost burden is also the most severe. The largest numbers relative to housing needs are found in the State’s most populous urban and metropolitan counties, but the greatest concentration of need is observed in the rural counties located in the southern portion of the State, the Black Belt in particular.”

A component of the State Consolidated Plan, the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (updated March 27, 2020), identifies impediments to fair housing choice existing within Alabama’s non-entitlement communities so as to determine courses of action designed to address those impediments. This study recommended 6 primary fair housing issues / impediments and offered recommended corrective actions. Outreach and education were the recommended courses of corrective action, either in part or in whole for 3 of the identified impediments. To that end, AHFA encourages and offers Fair Housing training in efforts to measurably overcome those identified impediments. Alabama’s Consolidated Plan and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice are available at [www.adeca.alabama.gov](http://www.adeca.alabama.gov).

Pursuant to the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq., and including any and all regulations and guidance promulgated by HUD thereunder), discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or familial status is strictly prohibited. In addition to prohibiting discrimination, the Fair Housing Act also imposes an obligation to affirmatively further the goals of the Fair Housing Act. AHFA is fully committed to affirmatively furthering fair housing by taking meaningful actions to promote fair housing choice, overcome patterns of segregation, and eliminate disparities in access to opportunity.

Additionally, the State Consolidated Plan continues to be updated with historical AHFA data, including a list of HOME and Housing Credit projects Placed-In-Service and/or committed by AHFA since those programs began. The new Census data did not dramatically alter the State’s affordable housing priorities. While State HOME Funds provide hundreds of traditional affordable housing units across Alabama each year, the

primary beneficiaries have been families and the elderly. Meeting those needs is consistent with the Consolidated Plan findings and the need for additional family units and elderly units remains strong.

Annually, subject to the availability of HOME funds, AHFA will encourage citizen participation in the HOME planning process by providing a draft of the HOME Action Plan for public comment. AHFA will begin the annual process by providing public notice that the draft HOME Action Plan is available for review at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com). This public notice will be published in major statewide newspapers, will be posted online at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com), and will be delivered by email to all who have registered with AHFA to receive its email notifications. AHFA will also provide a public notice, which notice may be included in the initial notice or circulated separately by all the same means, of the date and time of a public hearing at which AHFA will present a brief description of the draft HOME Action Plan and accept comments from the public, both orally and in writing. AHFA will provide a number of copies of the draft HOME Action Plan for those in attendance. Provision will be made to accommodate the needs of interested parties in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For a period of 30 days following the public hearing, AHFA will continue to accept written comments from all interested parties regarding the draft HOME Action Plan. After providing the public notices, conducting the public hearing, completing the 30-day public comment period, and giving due consideration to all comments received, AHFA will publish a final version of the HOME Action Plan at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com) that will be accompanied by a summary of the Citizen Participation Process and Proposed Changes and of all public comments received. To finalize the HOME Action Plan for each year, AHFA must present the final HOME Action Plan for approval by the applicable state and federal authorities.

Prior to the preparation of this HOME Action Plan, ADECA submitted requests for proposals for the completion the State of Alabama's PY 2020-2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, which will be prepared pursuant to HUD's guidelines and, when available, will be included with the PY 2020-2024 Five Year Consolidated Plan for CDBG, ESG, HOME, HOPWA, and HTF programs.

## **B. Establishment of Housing Priorities**

This HOME Action Plan seeks to ensure that, where economically feasible, every county in Alabama regardless of population size and other factors, will have an opportunity to compete for funding to address its unmet housing needs, with the understanding that respective county stakeholders should proactively engage to a) provide additional funding sources and incentives as available, b) help to remove regulatory and discriminatory barriers, and c) seek experienced Housing Credit and HOME development partners to assist in creating affordable housing solutions for their respective communities. AHFA has established certain housing priorities that affect the distribution of HOME Funds. In the current application cycle, AHFA seeks to promote the following housing priorities (not in order of preference):

- Projects that add to the affordable housing stock
- Projects that, without HOME Funds, would not likely set aside units for lower income tenants, inclusive of tenants with disabilities who are able to live independently with limited supportive services, and/or persons who are homeless
- Projects that use additional assistance through federal, state, or local subsidies

- Projects that promote healthy living and tenant quality of life by providing tenant services such as blood pressure screening, CPR and first aid training, promoting nutrition and healthy eating, budget counseling and various other quality of life services
- Balanced distribution of HOME Funds throughout the State in terms of geographical regions, counties, and urban/rural areas

**C. Application Criteria**

**ALL DETERMINATIONS, CALCULATIONS, JUDGMENTS, ASSESSMENTS OR OTHER DECISIONS MADE BY AHFA UNDER THIS HOME ACTION PLAN, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ITS ADDENDA AND RELATED APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS, SHALL BE MADE IN AHFA'S SOLE AND ABSOLUTE DISCRETION.**

AHFA is required to evaluate each application to determine which projects should receive HOME Funds. To facilitate the evaluation process, all applicants must complete the following basic steps:

- 1) Submit a complete application to AHFA. All or portions of the application may be required to be submitted online. After application submittal, AHFA will conduct a completeness review. The application will be deemed complete if the Application Package contains, at a minimum, the following:
  - All required AHFA-provided forms for current year application. The application forms will be posted at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com) prior to the beginning of the application cycle. AHFA will post these forms as they become available, and applicants should check [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com) regularly in order to begin work on the required forms as soon as possible. All AHFA-provided forms should be completed pursuant to instructions, legible, and all applicable spaces fully completed.
  - The AHFA DMS Authority Online Application must be completed and submitted by the Application Cycle deadline. Failure to submit the AHFA DMS Authority Online Application by the Application Cycle deadline will result in termination of the application.
  - All required third-party documents in form and content acceptable to AHFA. Refer to the application checklist and the current Application Package and Application Instructions for the complete list of required documents as provided at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com).
  - All required AHFA-provided and third-party forms and documentation must be in numerical order behind blue index pages. The Application Package should be provided in a format per AHFA written instructions.
  - Applicants requiring special accommodations covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) must notify AHFA in advance so that appropriate accommodations can be made with respect to their application submission.

After the completeness review, if an applicant has failed to submit and/or complete the items described in this Section III.C.(1) (inclusive of items requiring clarifications), AHFA will contact the applicant via email regarding any missing and/or incomplete items.

If an applicant during a Competitive Application Cycle receives an email from AHFA identifying missing and/or incomplete items or documents, the applicant must submit all missing and/or incomplete items or documents in form satisfactory to AHFA (along with the required fee for each such item or document as specified in Section III.D.(2)) within 10 business days after receipt of the email from AHFA. If the applicant fails to submit the missing and/or incomplete items when required or fails to pay the required fees or if the applicant's fee payment is rejected for insufficient funds, the application will be terminated and will receive no further consideration.

If AHFA determines during the completeness check that any application has an aggregate total of 8 or more missing and/or incomplete items, the application will be terminated automatically by AHFA, and AHFA will notify the applicant by email of this termination.

AHFA shall deliver notices of missing and/or incomplete items to each applicant at the primary and secondary email addresses provided by the applicant in its application, and all deadlines for response shall be calculated from the date such email notice is sent. Each applicant is solely responsible for providing correct and valid email addresses (primary and secondary) in its application, for ensuring that both email addresses remain active on an ongoing basis, and for monitoring both email addresses for notices from AHFA.

**AHFA performs the completeness check solely in order to determine whether any materials required under this Section III.C.(1) or under the threshold items described in Section IV.C are missing and/or incomplete. The completeness check does not include a review of any point scoring items, any material environmental items (except to the limited extent described in Addendum B) or any other item not specifically described in this paragraph.**

- 2) Provide evidence that the project is a Qualified Affordable Housing Project for multifamily rental housing that meets the basic occupancy and rent restrictions required of Section 42 and HOME Regulations.

Multifamily rental housing projects must be on a single site or contiguous sites. Sites may be considered contiguous if separated only by 1 neighborhood street.

Under the HOME Action Plan, the following projects do not qualify for HOME Funds:

- Mobile home developments
- Intermediate care facilities
- Group homes
- Congregate care facilities



In addition, any residential rental unit that is part of a hospital, nursing home, sanitarium, life-care facility, or intermediate care facility for the mentally and/or physically handicapped that is not for use by the general public and not eligible for HOME Funds. Projects must contain no fewer than 12 units and no more than 56 units.

Multifamily rental housing units must be under common ownership, deed, financing, and property management.

- 3) Provide evidence acceptable to AHFA that the proposed project meets the current AHFA Market Study Certification requirements and related Application Instructions. The proposed rental project must meet AHFA's market feasibility and analysis requirements. The market study must be conducted by an independent third-party market analyst that has conducted a market study for a prior application submitted to AHFA for Housing Credits, HOME Funds or Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds or has received prior written approval from AHFA to submit a market study for the current application cycle. A current list of market analysts who have conducted market studies for prior applications is available at [www.AHFA.com](http://www.AHFA.com). The market study must also meet AHFA's market feasibility and analysis requirements, which include, at minimum, the following criteria:

- (i) The project's market area must be clearly defined and supported;
- (ii) The supply analysis of comparable subsidized or non-subsidized developments must include, but not be limited to, vacancies, amenities, and rental rates;
- (iii) The demand analysis must convincingly demonstrate a need for the proposed type of housing;
- (iv) The market feasibility of the proposed rent structure must demonstrate that there is a rent advantage over non-subsidized housing in the defined market area;
- (v) The analysis of the relationship between supply and demand must demonstrate an acceptable absorption rate; and
- (vi) The summary of important facts and conclusions as provided in the market study must include a statement from the market analyst clearly stating in the analyst's professional opinion whether the project as proposed will be successful.

The market study must demonstrate an adequate market for the proposed units and that the proposed project would not adversely impact any existing AHFA projects or create excessive concentration of multifamily units.

AHFA will review the market study submitted, in-house documentation collected by AHFA from onsite compliance audits, market information submitted by Rural Development, audited financial statements, and applicant-submitted project budgets to determine if there is an adequate need for the proposed project.

AHFA will terminate an application based on any one of the following market criteria:

- (i) The proposed project's capture rate is above 35%.

- (ii) All Active AHFA Projects in the defined market area have an overall average stabilized vacancy rate of 15% or above.
  - (iii) A determination by AHFA that the proposed project's market will not support the proposed project and/or the proposed project will have a clear long-term negative impact on an existing AHFA-funded development(s) in the same market.
  - (iv) The market study contains Misleading Information.
- 4) Demonstrate that the project is financially feasible. The project must meet certain financial feasibility requirements as defined in Section IV(E)(1)(iii) of this HOME Action Plan.
  - 5) Demonstrate adequate infrastructure capacity evidenced by the proposed project's utility documentation provided in a completed application.
  - 6) Demonstrate the likelihood of sustained 20-year HOME Affordability Period with the HOME Regulations based on the following criteria: (a) the market study demonstrates a need for the project as proposed, (b) the application demonstrates that the project is financially feasible as defined in Section IV(E)(1)(iii) at the time of application and (c) the Ownership Entity and Management Company demonstrate their respective financial capacity and experience consistent with Section 42 requirements related to development and compliance guidelines.

**D. Fees**

The following fees, as applicable, must be paid with a cashier's check or certified funds and made payable to Alabama Housing Finance Authority. Cash or personal checks will not be accepted:

- (i) A **non-refundable fee** must accompany the Application Package at the time of application submission. For applicants with up to eight Responsible Owners applying in a single application:
  - a) \$10,000 if (x) each Responsible Owner has **fewer than 3** Placed-In-Service projects funded with Housing Credits and/or HOME Funds awarded by AHFA and (y) any Responsible Owner has one or more multi-family rental projects financed from non-AHFA sources.
  - b) \$7,500 if each Responsible Owner has **3 or more** Placed-In-Service projects funded with Housing Credits and/or HOME Funds awarded by AHFA, regardless of whether any Responsible Owner has other multi-family rental projects financed from non-AHFA sources.
  - c) \$7,500 if (x) each Responsible Owner has **fewer than 3** Placed-In-Service projects funded with Housing Credits and/or HOME Funds awarded by AHFA and (y) no Responsible Owner has any multi-family rental projects financed from non-AHFA sources.

- d) \$2,000 for all AHFA-Approved CHDO applicants applying for HOME Funds regardless of the number of Placed-In-Service projects awarded by AHFA.

An additional application fee will be due at the time of application submission for application(s) that have Ownership Entities exceeding 8 Responsible Owners. The amount of the fee will be \$1,000 per each owner (individual/entity) exceeding 8. This fee does not apply to the Investor Owner.

**All application fees are non-refundable. If an application fee is returned due to insufficient funds, the application will terminate.**

In addition to the non-refundable application fee(s), AHFA may require the applicant to provide additional funds in amounts sufficient to cover all third-party costs that AHFA reasonably anticipates having to pay or to reimburse AHFA for any third-party costs incurred during the application review and analysis process. Third-Party fees include without limitation, legal fees, architect and engineers’ fees, consultant (construction, environmental or otherwise) fees, and any other third-party report (construction, environmental or otherwise) fees related to the review of any third-party report(s) submitted by the applicant. These amounts must be paid by applicant within 5 business days of the invoice date.

Any unused portion of the additional funds collected will be returned to applicant without interest once all third-party invoices have been submitted and refund amount is determined.

- 2) Missing and/or Incomplete Items (Excludes Threshold Requirements and Material Environmental Findings): Applicants are required to submit their final and complete Application Packages by the submission deadline. If an applicant receives an email from AHFA regarding missing and/or incomplete items identified during AHFA’s completeness check under Section III(C)(1), and the applicant elects to submit, complete or clarify these items within the time required by Section III(C)(1), the applicant’s delivery of the missing and/or incomplete items or clarifying information must be accompanied by payment in full of a fee calculated based on the following schedule:

Missing and/or Incomplete Documents	Required Fee	Missing Item Occurrence
Missing and/ or incomplete application document(s)	\$2,000 per document	1 occurrence per document
Incomplete third-party report <sup>1</sup>	\$2,000 per report	1 occurrence per document
Requests for additional information or clarification of third-party report(s) <sup>1</sup>	\$2,000 for 5 or more per report	1 occurrence for 5 or more clarifications (or requests for additional information) per report

<sup>1</sup> Applicant can supply missing and/or incomplete items with respect to environmental reports only to the extent permitted by Addendum B, and this table applies only to such items.

If the applicant fails to pay the full amount of the required fee upon delivery of these items or information or if the applicant's fee payment is rejected for insufficient funds, the application will be terminated and will receive no further consideration.

Any application with an aggregate total of 8 or more missing item occurrences will result in the automatic termination of the application by AHFA and the applicant will be notified by AHFA via email.

*An applicant may pay the above-referenced fee(s) to cure missing and/or incomplete items only to the extent that they are identified by AHFA in connection with the completeness check under Section III.C.(1). If an application has missing and/or incomplete items that are not included in the items reviewed by AHFA during the completeness check, the missing and/or incomplete items cannot be cured after the application is submitted and will have an adverse impact on the application, including without limitation a loss of points under the Point Scoring System or termination of the application without opportunity to cure.*

- 3) A complete list of AHFA's fees (from notification of approval of awards through the Extended Use Period) is located at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com).

#### **E. Amendments**

**AHFA has the right to provide technical updates or interpretative releases to clarify circumstances, foreseen and unforeseen, relative to its administration of the Plan.**

AHFA is also entitled to amend this HOME Action Plan as required by the promulgation or amendment of HOME Rules and Regulations from time to time or to implement new features or provisions of the HOME Rule or applicable regulations. Such amendment(s) are expressly permitted and the making of such amendment(s) will require a public notice.

Certain defined terms used in the HOME Action Plan are located at [www.AHFA.com](http://www.AHFA.com). Such defined terms may be amended at any time with public notice.

#### **F. Uses of HOME Funds**

HOME Funds will be allocated primarily toward the production of residential rental housing for low-income households. AHFA anticipates receiving additional HOME Funds from the repayment of previously allocated funds in the form of Program Income throughout the current Program Year. Those funds will also be allocated toward the production of residential rental housing for low-income households and for other uses deemed necessary by AHFA that are consistent with the State's Consolidated Plan. Fifteen percent (15%) of HOME Funds allocated to AHFA is required by federal regulations to be reserved for investments in housing owned by CHDOs and/or other specific organizational activities. AHFA will meet this required set aside for use by CHDOs by allocating HOME Funds in the form of loans for project construction and development. AHFA reserves the right in its discretion to award a sufficient number of projects to CHDO applicants, regardless of point scoring, to meet the 15% set aside of HOME Funds. AHFA will make efforts to identify and assist eligible organizations in using HOME Funds to meet the housing needs of the State. These organizations must meet the criteria identified by the Act and demonstrate the feasibility of their proposed endeavors.

Alabama’s HOME Program will utilize loans to promote the production of affordable housing in an effort to meet the needs as identified in the State’s Plan. A general outline of the HOME Program is as follows:

Anticipated Uses of HOME Funds:

AHFA estimates the following uses of HOME Funds for the State of Alabama:

**2025 HOME Funds:**

Entitlement	\$ 12,419,271
Program Income	6,023,080
Uncommitted HOME	<u>3,138,380</u>
Total	\$ 21,580,731

**2025 USES of HOME Funds:**

CHDO Loans (15% of Entitlement)	\$ 1,862,891
Administrative Fee (10% of Entitlement)	\$ 1,241,927
Loans	\$ 17,200,424

**G. Loan Structure**

The structure of the loans made under Alabama’s HOME Program will be determined based upon AHFA’s assessment of the proposed project’s ability to address the needs as identified by this HOME Action Plan. The amount of HOME Funds to be allocated to any project will not exceed the amount, determined by AHFA, needed to make the project economically feasible. The amount, terms and rate structure will be set by AHFA. General loan guidelines are as follows and are subject to change at AHFA’s discretion:

- 1) Loan Terms and Repayment: HOME Funds will be allocated to approved projects in the form of a loan(s). AHFA may allocate HOME Funds to an approved project(s) in the following ways:
  - (i) The HOME loan will bear an interest rate of one-half of one percent (1/2%) accrued annually with all principal and accrued interest payments due at the end of the 20th year. In the event of default, AHFA reserves the right to set a default rate more than the prevailing Prime Lending Rate applicable at the time of default; or
  - (ii) If a project with a conventional loan more than \$750,000 is not financially feasible, the project may combine the loan structure described in item (i) above with a second loan from AHFA that will bear an interest rate of one percent (1%) and fully amortizes within twenty (20) years with required quarterly principal and interest payments. The loan will be in first position relative to any other proposed Soft Debt for the project. The loan will require a minimum Debt Service Coverage ratio of 1.20:1 and if not repaid will result in foreclosure. AHFA will determine the allowable operating expense per unit based on historic and current HOME and Housing Credit properties’ financial statements.

- (iii) The HOME loan will bear an interest rate of one-half of one percent (1/2%) accrued annually with all principal and accrued interest payments due at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> year. However, the repayment of the HOME loan will be forgiven entirely (but never in part) if the Project remains in compliance with HOME and AHFA requirements for the entire HOME Affordability Period. In the event of default, AHFA reserves the right to set a default rate more than the prevailing Prime Lending Rate applicable at the time of default and accrued interest and principal will due.
- 2) Eligible Activities and Costs: HOME Funds will be used primarily to fund new construction costs of rental units. Any additional costs associated with the development such as the demolition of existing structures onsite or offsite cost associated with the development will not be eligible for HOME Funds.
- 3) Eligible Participants: For-profit developers, CHDOs, non-profit developers or any entity eligible to receive an appropriation under Title II of the Act.
- 4) Security: The loan may be secured by a first or subordinate mortgage on the land and the existing or proposed improvements. In addition, a collateral assignment of rents and leases will be executed in connection with the property. Additional collateral may also be required, subject to the discretion of AHFA based on the nature of the transaction involved.
- 5) Guaranty: AHFA, in its sole discretion, may require that the loan be guaranteed by an individual(s) or entity acceptable to AHFA.
- 6) Insurance: Appropriate insurance will be required in connection with the principal security as collateral for the loan. In addition, the applicant, developer and/or builder must evidence insurance coverage to include, but not be limited to, builder's risk insurance, general liability insurance, and loss of rents insurance.
- 7) Good Standing: No loan application will be processed for any borrower or related entity which is not in good standing with AHFA and any other state housing finance authority, the ADECA, HUD or Rural Development. An applicant can be denied consideration of the HOME Funds under Alabama's HOME Program if the applicant or its Related Parties have a history of payment delinquencies, bankruptcy, foreclosure, or activities determined to be unsound or unlawful.
- 8) Closing Costs: The borrower is responsible for all closing costs incurred in connection with any HOME Program loan(s), inclusive of all AHFA-appointed attorneys' costs.
- 9) Environmental Review: AHFA may select and engage an environmental professional at borrower's expense to review and comment on the environmental report(s) submitted by the applicant. AHFA may also select and engage an environmental professional to complete a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment after a Written Agreement of HOME Funds. Environmental reviews will be conducted in accordance with the applicable HOME Regulations and AHFA's Environmental Policy. Before AHFA can execute the HUD Form 7015.15 Request for Release of Funds, all environmental issues identified in the Environmental Site Assessment(s) must be cleared in a manner acceptable to AHFA.

- 10) Survey: Loans closed under Alabama’s HOME Program will require an as-built survey of the property, which must be completed prior to closing, and contain a Flood Zone certification. The survey and certification, in form and content, must be acceptable to AHFA and must demonstrate that no portion of the property, including areas necessary for ingress or egress (e.g., offsite areas required for ingress, egress, or parking), are located within the 100-year flood plain.
- 11) Declaration of Land Use Restrictive Covenants: Prior to closing, applicants must execute and record a copy of the Declaration of Land Use Restrictive Covenants. The terms of the Declaration of Land Use Restrictive Covenants will require that the covenants remain in effect for the required low-income occupancy period.
- 12) Construction Consultant: AHFA will contract with an independent construction consultant who may: (i.) perform an up-front analysis of the construction budget to determine the reasonableness of costs as presented; (ii.) review the final plans and specifications of the project (during and upon the completion of the project) for compliance with AHFA’s Design Quality Standards & Construction Manual, applicable local, state and federal building codes and ordinances; (iii.) review specifications and make comments and/or recommendations regarding the quality of materials to be used in connection with the project; and (iv.) review work in progress and the completed project for any material defects and quality of work.
- 13) Appraisal: Appraisals will be required on all loans and must adhere to applicable federal and state laws. AHFA will select and engage all appraisers.
- 14) Applying for Funds: Applications for Alabama HOME Funds may be made to AHFA during a Competitive Application Cycle (funding decisions will be based upon the project selection criteria and Point Scoring System as detailed herein and Addendum A). If funds are available after the Competitive Application Cycle, AHFA may consider an application under AHFA’s Multifamily Housing Revenue Bond program for new construction applications or a Non-Competitive HOME only Cycle. Due to the limited amount of HOME funds, applications combining HOME funds with Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis for applications received by AHFA by 5:00 p.m. November 1, 2025. All applicants must meet the 2025 HOME Action Plan with the following restrictions and exceptions:
  - (i) No more than fifty (50%) percent of the AHFA annual HOME allocation will be allocated towards Multifamily Housing Revenue Bond projects.
  - (ii) Acceptable applications will include projects located in a city or county that is a HUD approved participating jurisdiction and receives its own allocation of HOME funds.
  - (iii) Acceptable applications will include projects with greater than 56 units.
  - (iv) For applications with missing and/or incomplete documents, the applicant will have thirty (30) business days to provide the required items(s) or documents(s) and missing item fee(s).
  - (v) Applications will not be evaluated using a Point Scoring system. However, each application must also meet the Multifamily Housing Revenue Bond requirements per the 2025 Housing Credit Qualified Allocation Plan.

(vi) AHFA will not consider an application for a proposed project located within a two (2) mile radius of an AHFA Project approved during the 2023 or 2024 Competitive Application Cycle, except for HOME only-, HOME-ARP only or HTF only AHFA Projects.

15) Existing HOME Loans: The full principal and accrued interest is due and payable on the maturity date specified in the project loan documents. For projects unable to pay the full principal and accrued interest, AHFA will consider an extension. Projects not able to pay off 100 percent of the HOME loan (Principal and interest) or be approved for a fifteen (15) year extension of HOME loan balance will not be eligible for additional funding under the Housing Credit Program.

#### **H. Defined Terms**

Capitalized terms used in this HOME Action Plan and not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings assigned in the AHFA Defined Terms – Multifamily Funding Programs available at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com) or as regulations or other context require. Singular terms include the plural as well as the singular, and vice versa. Certain defined terms used in this HOME Action Plan are located at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com). Such defined terms may be amended at any time with public notice.

#### **I. Website Links**

ALL WEBSITE LINKS IN THIS HOME ACTION PLAN ARE PROVIDED SOLELY FOR CONVENIENCE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT OR ITS ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL (EP) TO VERIFY THAT THE CORRECT WEBSITE HAS BEEN ACCESSED AND THAT THE CURRENT VERSION OF ALL APPLICABLE INFORMATION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, REVIEWED AND COMPLIED WITH.

#### **J. Notices and Communications**

From the date of application submission through the end of the HOME Affordability Period, AHFA will deliver all notices or other communications under the HOME Program to the owner contact or contact email, as applicable, designated in the Application Instructions. All notices or communications sent to the contact information designated in the Application Instructions will be considered validly delivered for all purposes of the HOME Program, including without limitation the calculation of applicable deadlines. Each applicant or recipient is solely responsible for designating correct contact information per the Application Instructions and for updating that designation as needed. In no event will AHFA be deemed to receive constructive notice of a change in contact information by any means or communication outside of the Plan Requirements and Application Instructions as updated in accordance with this paragraph. For the avoidance of doubt, this paragraph governs all notices and communications under the HOME Program to all applicants or recipients of HOME Funds or Housing Credits, regardless of the specific term used to describe them in a particular HOME Program document, which may include applicant, owner, project owner, Ownership Entity or any term or phrase of equivalent meaning.

#### **K. Definitive Requirements**

The version of this HOME Action Plan that is approved by the AHFA Board of Directors, approved by the Governor of the State of Alabama, and posted on [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com) as the qualified allocation plan for particular application cycle, together with all related materials



posted on [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com), shall contain the final and definitive requirements for the HOME Program for that application cycle. Information from prior application cycles, including comments at public hearings and feedback on applications, is not applicable to subsequent application cycles. It is the responsibility of the applicant or its EP to identify and review the final, definitive requirements for each application cycle in order to ensure that they have been reviewed and complied with.

#### IV. ALLOCATION PROCESS

##### A. Application Cycle

The dates of the application cycle (or cycles, if more than one) will be determined by AHFA on an annual basis. All individuals who have requested to be on the email distribution list as described in Section IV (B) will receive notification of the cycle via Constant Contact. Notice of the cycle will also appear at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com) and in major or regional newspapers throughout Alabama. Prospective applicants and other stakeholders are encouraged to visit the website regularly for updates in addition to the email notification process.

To apply for HOME Funds, an applicant must complete the applicable AHFA Multifamily Funding application which is available online at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com).

All correspondence and inquiries regarding the application are to be directed to the following:

Alabama Housing Finance Authority	Phone	(334) 244-9200
Attn: Multifamily Division	Fax	(334) 279-6957
P. O. Box 242967		
Montgomery, Alabama 36124-2967		
<a href="http://www.ahfa.com">www.ahfa.com</a>		
<a href="mailto:ahfa.mf.application@ahfa.com">ahfa.mf.application@ahfa.com</a>		

Applications received during a Competitive Application Cycle will be evaluated on a competitive basis.

AHFA may award HOME Funds without the use of a Competitive Application Cycle or the Point Scoring System to:

- Any project eligible for HOME Funds pursuant to any waiver, exception, program, or other special action by HUD.
- Any project that must be funded to meet the CHDO set aside as specified in the Final HOME Rule.
- Any HTF project application which will require additional sources of funds to make the proposed project economically feasible, subject to the availability of excess or unallocated HOME funds from the most recent Competitive Application Cycle.

However, Ownership Entities for the projects listed above may be required to submit a complete Application Package and be subject to AHFA's threshold items, underwriting and cost requirements, in order to be considered for an award of HOME Funds.

## B. E-Mail Distribution List

AHFA maintains an email distribution list for those interested in receiving notifications of application cycles and other AHFA Multifamily program activities. Visit [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com) to be added to the email list or you may submit a written request to the address specified in Section IV(A). Changes or updates to contact information are the responsibility of each applicant or interested party who wishes to remain (or be placed) on AHFA's email distribution list.

## C. Application Threshold Requirements

Although it is recognized that each application is different, certain standard requirements must be met by all applicants before the application can be considered for full evaluation. The threshold requirements are critical to efficient and timely administration of the State of Alabama's funding for affordable housing. The threshold requirements ensure that projects are ready to proceed, have sufficient sources of funds, meet construction quality requirements, can be constructed, and leased up on a timely basis, will be located on the most environmentally safe sites for tenants, and be financially feasible on an ongoing basis. Evaluation of the threshold requirements is essential to a project's prospects for success, because AHFA does not provide funding for construction overruns, lease-up delays, operating shortfalls, or environmental remediation. Upon application submittal, if AHFA determines that any threshold requirement is missing or fails to materially adhere to AHFA defined standards during the completeness review, the application will be terminated. A list of all threshold requirements and explanations are provided below:

- 1) Fee(s). If any fee(s) described in Section III (D) is not paid in full when due or is returned due to insufficient funds, the application will terminate.
- 2) Complete Application. The applicant must submit to AHFA a complete application as defined in Section III(C)(1). An application with 8 or more missing and/or incomplete documents will be terminated.
- 3) Status of Previously Funded Projects. If any application has a Responsible Owner that is also a Responsible Owner for a project that (i) received an initial allocation of HOME Funds in 2022 or 2023 and (ii) is not at least 50% complete as reflected by the project's most recent construction inspection report/progress report to AHFA on or before the date of application, the application is not eligible to receive an allocation of HOME Funds in the 2025 Competitive Application Cycle.
- 4) Existing Project Inspection. Applications with one or more owners applying on a single application that has **less than** 3 Placed-In-Service projects funded with Housing Credits and/or HOME Funds awarded by AHFA, AHFA will perform an on-site inspection. The applicant must provide, at the time of the initial application submission, a complete AHFA Schedule of Real Estate Owned for each owner.

Each such Responsible Owner must consent to an on-site inspection by AHFA (or by AHFA's designated consultant) of any of such Responsible Owner's existing projects, including physical inspections of buildings and units as deemed necessary by AHFA (or the AHFA designated consultant). AHFA will select 1 Non-AHFA Project for inspection based on the AHFA Schedule of Real Estate Owned submitted by the applicant. For applicants with Non-AHFA Projects in the State and/or out-of-State, the project selected for inspection may be in Alabama or in

another state. All applicant Ownership Entities will be subject to the same AHFA requirements defined in attached Addendum D during the current application cycle.

For applicants with one or more Responsible Owners applying on a single application where each Responsible Owner has three (3) **or more** Placed-In-Service projects funded with Housing Credits and/or HOME Funds allocated by AHFA, AHFA may schedule an on-site inspection if AHFA has not performed an on-site inspection in the current year. However, if AHFA determines there are sufficient and satisfactory on-site inspections for each Responsible Owner's current projects that were performed within 3 years prior to the date of Responsible Owner's application in the current application cycle and show that such projects were in compliance with AHFA requirements defined in attached Addendum D, AHFA reserves the right to waive the on-site inspection for any Responsible Owner listed in an application.

**Site Control.** If the applicant does not already own the property for which funds are requested at the time of application, the applicant must have Site Control as evidenced by a purchase option. Conditional sales contracts or leaseholds will not be accepted for HOME projects. Because of regulations that impact the varying lengths of the approval process for each property and the significant risks to the applicant for failing to do so, AHFA requires, at or before application submittal: (i) that the applicant secure, at a minimum, a 6 month purchase option with an option to renew for an additional 6 months, that complies with all applicable Application Instructions, (ii) if the proposed site is subject to any restrictions that allow any other person or entity, such as a homeowner's association or neighborhood design review board, to approve any aspect of the proposed Project (excluding construction-related approvals from local government that become necessary only if AHFA awards funding to the proposed project, e.g. building permit, traffic engineering approval, storm water drainage permit, architectural endorsement...), that the applicant disclose any such restrictions in its purchase option and deliver evidence satisfactory to AHFA that all such approvals have been obtained; and (iii) that the option agreement not impose any obligation upon the potential buyer to purchase the property. An applicant's purchase option must comply with all rules and regulations issued by HUD, including 24 C.F.R. § 58.22. **If the applicant is applying for HOME funds in conjunction with Housing Credits, Site Control must be evidenced by a purchase option (not a sales contract or long-term lease) in the name of the applicant, and the option must comply with the Site Control requirements set forth in the applicable year's HOME Action Plan.**

- 5) Evidence of Zoning based on Intended Use (Proper Zoning). The applicant must provide evidence that the property owned (or to be owned) is properly zoned and consistent with the proposed project's use. AHFA does not consider the property zoned if final Zoning (but not including plans and specifications for issuance of building permits) is contingent upon further city meetings, approvals and/or advertisement. Evidence must be in the form of a signed statement from the local jurisdiction where the property is located.
- 6) Market Study. The applicant must provide a market study at the time of application submission. All market studies must be less than 6 months old. If the market study

does not meet AHFA requirements at the time of application, the application will terminate as described in Section III(C)(3).

- 7) Design Quality Standards and Construction Manual. All projects are required to meet AHFA's Design Quality Standards and Construction Manual for construction of attached new construction rental units or for single-family rental homes. These are minimum standards and AHFA permits applicants to exceed these project standards (e.g., to provide specific accommodations for persons with disabilities, among other special populations). Each applicant may construct the proposed project in a manner that reflects applicant goals or that exceeds local building codes. Any deviations from these standards must have the written approval of AHFA.
- 8) Flood Certification. The applicant must provide a Certified Boundary Survey including the flood certification indicating the map and panel number of the Flood Insurance Rate Map, the Flood Zone designation and that no portion of the property, including areas necessary for ingress or egress (e.g., offsite areas required for ingress, egress, or parking), is located within the 100-year flood plain.
- 9) Applications submitted in other Participating Jurisdictions. AHFA will not accept or consider an application(s) submitted in a city or county that is a HUD approved participating jurisdiction and receives its own allocation of HOME Funds.

AHFA-Approved CHDOs applying for HOME Funds combined with Housing Credits in a Competitive Application Cycle are allowed to apply in another Participating Jurisdiction. If the proposed project is in an area that is covered by a local Consolidated Plan, the AHFA-Approved CHDO applicant must provide a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan completed by an authorized official of the participating jurisdiction. In the event that the Certification of Consistency with Consolidated Plan is signed by someone other than the designated person(s) listed on the current year list of Consolidated Plan Coordinators-PJ's found at [www.AHFA.com](http://www.AHFA.com), it is the responsibility of the Applicant to provide AHFA with evidence that the signer is authorized to execute this certification.

- 10) Environmental Site Assessment. The applicant must provide an Environmental Site Assessment at the time of the initial application submission. The Environmental Site Assessment must meet the minimum AHFA's Environmental Policy Requirements (Addendum B). If the Environmental Site Assessment does not meet AHFA's requirements, the application will terminate.
- 11) Architect's Certification of Project Progress. For each Project (New Construction or Rehabilitation) that received a Reservation Letter or Binding Commitment – Future-Year's Credit Authority for Housing Credits and/or HOME Written Agreement in 2020 (or any prior year) that has not closed an AHFA HOME loan, submitted an Actual Cost Certification to AHFA, or been issued an 8609 by AHFA, the Project architect must certify as follows:

New Construction: The Project's architect must certify that all building foundation slabs, or crawl spaces, are in place.

Rehabilitation: The Project's architect must certify that 90% of the units are Habitable or ready for immediate occupancy.

- 12) Site Location. AHFA will not consider any application for a new construction project, if the proposed project is located within a radius of two (2) miles (2-Mile Radius Requirement), as hereinafter defined, of any other Project approved by AHFA for funding in a prior year's cycle, that has not been Placed-In-Service and/or is 90% or more Occupied at the time of application, including without limitation all Active AHFA Projects, excluding HOME only, HOME-ARP and/or HTF only funded AHFA Projects.

*The radius must be determined by using a starting point at the centroid (geometric center) of the proposed Project's site and measured using Geographic Information System (GIS) maps. The 2-Mile Radius Requirement for each proposed Project must be clearly defined and depicted in the Market Study.*

The following is an exception to the 2-Mile Radius Requirement:

Applications that contain financing through HUD's Choice Neighborhood funds, HUD Capital Fund Program funds, or HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) Program.

Upon request, AHFA will provide reasonable assistance in determining the occupancy of applicable Projects solely for purposes of applying the 2-Mile Radius Requirement. All information provided to applicants by AHFA may be based upon third-party information provided to AHFA.

AHFA determination of occupancy is final and binding for all applicants. AHFA is not responsible for errors or omissions in occupancy reported.

*Note: If a Project has been awarded Housing Credits but returns the Housing Credits before the start of the current application cycle, that project will not be considered in determining the 2-Mile Radius Requirement.*

- 13) Extended Use Period. All Projects must commit in writing to not apply for a Qualified Contract until after the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the Extended Use Period, which is 4 years after the end of the 15-Year Compliance Period. If eligible to apply, the Responsible Owner and proposed purchaser must mutually agree via a fully executed option/sales agreement to provide reasonable written notice to AHFA regarding the proposed date of sale and require all ownership information and other required documents be provided to AHFA for its review and action well in advance of the proposed sale date.
- 14) CHDO Designation Application (if applicable). AHFA will not consider an application under the CHDO set-aside unless the applicant has been previously designated as an AHFA-Approved CHDO. AHFA's determination as to the designation of the applicant as a CHDO is final. If AHFA does not pre-approve an organization as a CHDO, then the Project application may continue to compete in the current cycle for funding beyond the CHDO set-aside.
- 15) Owner-Provided Tenant Services. The owner must provide at least 3 of the AHFA-approved tenant services throughout the Extended Use Period. A list of AHFA-approved tenant services is available at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com).

#### **D. Negative Actions**

Should any of the following actions occur after the application has been submitted and prior to approval by AHFA, consideration of the application will terminate unless otherwise provided below:

- 1) Site change or alteration of any kind or change of property ownership
- 2) Change in ownership of the Ownership Entity (e.g., addition of a new general partner/member or removal of an existing general partner/member)
- 3) Change in syndication structure, including without limitation a change in the role of the syndicator or in the distribution of allocated funds to others through syndication as stated in the application without prior written consent of AHFA
- 4) Change in unit design, square footage, unit mix, number of units, number of buildings, etc. (unless changes are required by a local regulatory authority and/or codes)
- 5) Change in the general contractor
- 6) Change in the Management Company
- 7) Change in the architect
- 8) If AHFA receives a determination from a federal, state, or local regulatory authority or agency of significant or uncorrected non-compliance on applicant's Non-AHFA Projects, AHFA may terminate the application
- 9) Any Development Team Member (listed in the application) who has instances of excessive, flagrant, or uncorrected non-compliance within the timeframe provided by AHFA, Housing Credit, HOME, TCAP/Exchange, National Housing Trust Fund or Multifamily Housing Revenue Bond regulations on existing projects
- 10) Any Development Team Member listed in the application is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment or suspension, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from any transactions or construction projects involving the use of federal funds or Housing Credits
- 11) Applicant has a project that goes into foreclosure or has been foreclosed within the last 10 years
- 12) Any material adverse change relating to the Project or Responsible Owner. AHFA will determine whether the change(s) is material and/or adverse in its sole discretion and further reserves the right to terminate an application
- 13) Applicant (including all Development Team Members listed in the application) has any outstanding fee(s) due to AHFA on other projects; and/or
- 14) If AHFA determines that the applicant failed to materially adhere to AHFA's defined environmental standards as set forth in Addendum B, including without limitation, the failure by the applicant to identify any unsatisfactory environmental condition that the applicant (or any Responsible Owner of applicant) knew or

should have known about or failed to investigate fully prior to application submission.

- 15) For any applicant having a single (first time AHFA funded) Project which received a Reservation Letter for Housing Credits and/or a HOME Written Agreement or a first-time reservation or commitment for other AHFA Program Funding in a current or prior application cycle, the Project must, at the time of application, (i) be complete (that is, the construction/rehabilitation is 100% complete per the Quarterly Status Report effective as of the date of application), and (ii) have provided satisfactory documentation to AHFA that it has reached 90% occupancy. Projects funded with HUD Choice Neighborhood Funds, HOME ARP Funds, CDBG Disaster Relief funds and Capital Fund Program funds are exempt from this requirement.

The above list of negative actions is not all-inclusive. The Application Package itself will list other necessary requirements via forms, related instructions, and other items. AHFA will terminate consideration of an application if it determines that the application contains Misleading Information.

#### **E. Application Evaluation**

AHFA follows a competitive process by which all applicants are objectively scored according to criteria specified in the HOME Action Plan. AHFA strictly adheres to the policy and procedures of the HOME Action Plan. Efforts to influence the outcome of the application process through lobbying efforts either directly (by the applicant) or indirectly (via the efforts of third parties on the applicant's behalf), will be futile, considered as a violation of the HOME Action Plan and may result in the termination of the application. In addition, the applicant could be subject to civil or criminal liability. Each application must stand on its own merits.

- 1) Process of Evaluation. Provided each applicant has met the threshold requirements in Section IV.C. of the HOME Action Plan, each application will be subject to the following evaluation process:
  - (i) Completeness. The applicant must submit a complete application (see Section IV.C(1)) to AHFA.
  - (ii) Point Scoring. The application will be evaluated using the Point Scoring System included in Addendum A. The applicant will not receive points if the item(s) or document(s) required to qualify for points are missing and/or incomplete or fail to be submitted in the format as required per AHFA instructions.
  - (iii) Determination of Financial Feasibility. The Project will be evaluated to determine its financial feasibility as hereinafter defined, including its financial viability as a Qualified Affordable Housing Project throughout the HOME Affordability Period.

At minimum, AHFA will evaluate a proposed Project's financial feasibility based on the following criteria:

- a) the extent to which the Project's sources of funds equals the Project's uses of funds
- b) the extent to which the proposed developer fee deferral can be paid within the time frame allowed by the Internal Revenue Service
- c) the reasonableness of total Project costs, taking into account AHFA's hard and soft cost standards and AHFA's minimum Design Quality Standards and Construction Manual
- d) the proposed repayment terms (including interest rate, total debt, and loan term) for all proposed debt (hard and soft) in connection with the proposed Project

AHFA will determine the financial feasibility of the Project based on an amount of Housing Credits equal to the lesser of the amount requested by applicant or the amount that is determined by AHFA. HOME Funds are allocated as gap financing based on the Housing Credit Amount determined by AHFA. Because AHFA is permitted to allocate only the resources necessary to make a Project financially feasible, AHFA cannot and should not be expected to fund the full amount requested by an applicant, especially in those cases where an applicant proposes to complete a higher-than-normal cost development which far exceeds AHFA minimum Design Quality Standards and Construction Manual.

Therefore, AHFA will allocate Housing Credits based on the lesser of the amount requested by applicant or the Housing Credit amount that is determined by AHFA to be necessary to make a Project financially feasible and will evaluate financial feasibility on this basis.

AHFA's determination of the appropriate amount of Housing Credits is not a representation or warranty as to the financial feasibility of any Project, and may not be relied upon as such by the applicant, Responsible Owner, developer, Investor Owner, lender, or any other person. The amount of Equity contributed by Investor Owners to a Project partnership shall not be less than the amount generally contributed by Investor Owners to similar projects based on current market conditions. In the event that the Ownership Entity receives less Equity proceeds than the amount which should be reasonably obtained based on prevailing market rates, AHFA will underwrite each project's projected Equity proceeds based on the prevailing market rate. Any equity deficits will become the responsibility of the Ownership Entity to contribute. In the event of a surplus in Equity, AHFA may reduce the amount of Housing Credits allocated to the Project at the time of Actual Cost Certification as described herein to avoid over subsidizing the Project.

Special purpose or high-cost housing applications that exceed construction and soft costs of other applications received must be supported with other subsidy sources, especially in those cases where proposed costs significantly exceed those of other projects that meet AHFA's minimum Design Quality Standards and Construction Manual. AHFA fully expects that any proposed application submitted will include sufficient other



subsidy sources needed to leverage AHFA's limited Housing Credit and HOME Funds.

AHFA will require a minimum Debt Service Coverage ratio of 1.20:1 for HOME development debt financing that would foreseeably result in foreclosure if not repaid. AHFA will determine the allowable operating expense based on historic and current HOME and Housing Credit properties' financial statements.

AHFA will require the Project to establish and maintain throughout the Extended Use Period a minimum operating reserve. The operating reserve will be an amount equal to four months of the projected first year operating expenses (including replacement reserve payments) plus two months of debt service.

AHFA will require the Project to establish and maintain throughout the Extended Use Period a minimum replacement reserve account of (a) \$250 per unit annually for new construction projects for the elderly, and (b) \$300 per unit annually for all other projects.

Additional underwriting criteria and assumptions that are market-driven, such as interest rates, Housing Credit pricing, and Project operating expenses will be available at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com) prior to the application cycle.

(iv) Credit Worthiness. AHFA will perform credit examinations of the individual(s) and review trade reports for all businesses comprising the proposed development team involved in the development and operation of the Project. The application must contain sufficient documentation to obtain all applicable credit and trade reports. If these reports prove to be less than satisfactory, including but not limited to the finding of federal tax liens, bankruptcies, judgements, etc., the application will be terminated.

(v) Reasonableness of Project Costs.

a) Any line-item costs, square footage costs or total unit costs exceeding a range of reasonableness may be disallowed at the determination of AHFA. Additional information and documentation (verified by AHFA and/or an AHFA third-party consultant) may be required to substantiate the reasonableness of the cost, including without limitation information regarding proposed costs which significantly exceed AHFA minimum Design Quality Standards and Construction Manual. Any allocation of Housing Credits, regardless of funding type or project type, will be determined using AHFA's assessment of cost and overall application feasibility. Any allocation of HOME Funds cannot exceed the limits published by HUD. A list of applicable limits can be provided by AHFA.

b) AHFA determines reasonableness of Project costs by comparing aggregate cost data based on all applications received, historical cost certification, cost data of completed projects, and current cost data provided by AHFA third-party construction consultant reports. After evaluating all the data, reasonable standard project

hard construction costs and soft costs are established for each application cycle.

**AHFA reserves the right to request certification or verification in a form acceptable to AHFA of any line-item cost at any time between the application cycle and Actual Cost Certification.**

- 2) Frequency of Evaluation. Applications will be evaluated at least two times:
  - At submission; and,
  - Before the closing of the HOME loan.

**F. Developer and Builder Fees**

- 1) Developer Fee. The developer fee, which includes the developer’s overhead and profit plus consultant fees and the Ownership Entity’s profit, should not exceed 15% of the total project costs (excluding the developer fee).
- 2) Builder Fee. The builder fee, which includes builder profit and overhead, should not exceed 8% of the construction costs, excluding the fee. General requirements must be cost-certified and, as a general rule, should not exceed 6% of the total construction costs. Items included in general requirements will be consistent with HUD and USDA Rural Development regulations.

**G. HOME Funds Allocations**

All AHFA issued Written Agreements for HOME Funds to approved projects are contingent upon AHFA’s receipt of an allocation of HOME Funds from the U.S. Department of the Housing and Urban Development and subject to any change in applicable laws or regulations. Each approved Written Agreement may be reduced or terminated if AHFA does not have available the expected amount of HOME Funds or if there is a change in applicable laws or regulations. AHFA shall have no liability whatsoever to any Ownership Entity if AHFA’s Written Agreement for HOME Funds to such Ownership Entity is impacted by a change in AHFA’s HOME Action Plan or in applicable laws or regulations.

No single Ownership Entity, Responsible Owner or their Related Parties shall be allocated HOME Funds in excess of 25% of the State’s current HOME Fund allocation when combined with Housing Credits. Regardless of the percentage ownership in a project, 100% of the project’s HOME Fund allocation will count towards all caps.

The intent of the HOME Cap is to promote fair and objective administration of the HOME Program by ensuring that no single applicant can receive an excessive share of the available HOME Funds in any application cycle. Parties that have an Identity of Interest are presumed to be sufficiently related for them to be treated as a single applicant for purposes of the HOME Cap. As described below, AHFA may in its discretion, identify other parties whose relationship is sufficiently close to cause them to be treated as a single applicant for purposes of the HOME Cap. A significant factor in the evaluation will be whether, based on the facts and circumstances, a primary purpose of a party’s involvement in a project appears to be avoidance of the HOME Cap. For purposes of this paragraph, the following relationships constitute an Identity of Interest for purposes of identifying Related Parties in order to apply the HOME Cap:

- 1) Individual persons are considered related to each other (a) if they have any of the following direct relationships: parent, child, spouse, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, and mother-in-law, including any such direct relationship created by marriage, remarriage, adoption, or any other legally recognized status, or (b) if one individual is an employer, by common law or otherwise, of the other.
- 2) Entities are considered related to each other (a) if any director, shareholder, partner, member or any other type of Responsible Owner of any Ownership Entity would be considered a related individual (under item (a) above) to any director, shareholder, partner, member or any other type of Responsible Owner of another Ownership Entity, (b) if the Ownership Entity has the ability to control another Ownership Entity, or (c) if the Ownership Entity owns a material interest in another Ownership Entity. An Ownership Entity will be presumed to control another Ownership Entity if it has a percentage of ownership in the other Ownership Entity or the ability to appoint a percentage of the members of the other Ownership Entity's governing body (i.e., board of directors, board of trustees, partners, managers, etc.) that would permit it to control the other Ownership Entity either by operation of law or by agreement. A material interest means any ownership interest in excess of 20% of the stock, partnership interests, membership interests or other forms of ownership of any Ownership Entity; provided, however, that ownership interests held by Housing Credit investors, Housing Credit syndicators or special administrative partners or members shall be disregarded for purposes of 20% test.
- 3) Without limiting the above, a trust will be considered related to any individual or Ownership Entity if any trustee, trustor, grantor, settlor, beneficiary, permissible distributee, any person or entity serving a role similar to the foregoing, or any person holding power of appointment (general or limited) over trust property would be considered related to the individual or entity under items (a) or (b) above.
- 4) Any other relationship which, while not specifically listed above, is determined to constitute an Identity of Interest because it is a relationship at least as close as an Identity of Interest described above or because it would permit an allocation that violates the intent of the HOME Cap. For example, the facts and circumstances relating to relationships involving a former employer and employee or longstanding business partners could be determined to constitute an Identity of Interest.

## **H. Notification of Approval**

Applicants may be notified of the award decisions via email notification, by a letter of non-selection, or a Reservation Letter until all conditions necessary for the issuance of a Written Agreement have been met. In addition, award recipients will be listed at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com). The Written Agreement will outline the requirements that must be met for an Ownership Entity to receive HOME Funds. Failure to accept the Reservation Letter or Written Agreement when required or to comply with the terms of both agreements will cause the award decision to be automatically terminated.

All Applicants selected for an award of Credits must prepare and submit an Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (AFHMP) outlining how the project will market units to

underserved residents including residents with disabilities. The AFHMP must include formal documented strategy and outreach examples for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) for languages identified as being prevalent in the surrounding market area.

Design requirements for all construction and rehabilitation projects must include Equal Opportunity in regard to marketing and tenant selection (affirmative marketing procedures), and reasonable accommodation and modification for those tenants covered under the law.

Any applicants that are not selected for funding may schedule a conference call or meeting with AHFA staff to discuss the reasons their application was not selected for funding. The call or meeting must be scheduled and held within the timeframe specified in the notification letter from AHFA. Once the call or meeting has concluded, AHFA will not have any further discussion regarding the application.

## **I. Progress Requirements After the Written Agreement**

From the date of the Written Agreement, the Ownership Entity must deliver each item listed in the Written Agreement on or before the deadline specified for that item. The deadlines outlined in the Written Agreement will be enforced. Requests for extensions must be submitted on the AHFA-provided forms with the required fees, which are found at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com). Failure to comply with any one of the deadlines (in whole or in part) and/or providing incomplete or unacceptable content of the required document(s) will cause the Written Agreement to be automatically terminated. A list of the required items is provided at [www.AHFA.com](http://www.AHFA.com).

- 1) The Ownership Entity must submit AHFA's HOME/Housing Credit Progress Report as required.
- 2) If any unforeseen or unusual environmental condition(s) not otherwise identified after completing AHFA's environmental requirements is discovered with respect to a project that received an award of HOME Funds, Housing Credits, or both under this plan or the plan for any prior year, and such unforeseen environmental condition(s) results in the inability of the project to Place-in-Service by the deadline established under Section 42, AHFA may elect to exchange the Housing Credits awarded to the project for a current or future year allocation of Housing Credits, subject to the Ownership Entity's payment of the environmental extension penalty specified at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com) herein and the Ownership Entity's compliance with Addendum B and with all other conditions specified by AHFA based on the specific nature of circumstances of the project.
- 3) Within 180 days after Placed-In-Service Date, the Ownership Entity must provide AHFA with the Actual Cost Certification package (Available at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com)).

**Construction on the project cannot begin until a pre-construction conference has been held with AHFA.**

**J. Negative Action after Notification of Approval until Closing of HOME Loan**

Should any of the following actions occur after the notification of approval of HOME Funds the award will be terminated unless otherwise provided below:

- 1) Site change--a change from the original site location or a change in property ownership will not be allowed under any circumstances. Any change in the site configuration or size from what was originally proposed in the application must have prior written consent from AHFA;
- 2) Change in ownership--a change in the parties involved in the Ownership Entity (e.g., addition of a new general partner/member or removal of an existing general partner/member) without prior written consent of AHFA. Examples of situations in which consideration may be given for a change in Ownership Entity include but are not limited to death or bankruptcy. Even if an exceptional circumstance occurs in which AHFA will consider the removal of a Responsible Owner from an Ownership Entity, including death or bankruptcy, that change in ownership will not be approved if the project would have received a lower score in the application process if the Responsible Owner proposed to be removed had not been included in the application at the time of submission. This test is applied without taking into account any persons or entities nominated to be substituted in place of the Responsible Owner being removed. Any person or entity, including syndicators, that attempts to circumvent this requirement, may be subject to debarment from all AHFA programs;
- 3) Change in syndication structure--a change in the role of the syndicator or in the distribution of funds/allocation to others through syndication as stated in the application without prior written consent of AHFA;
- 4) Change in unit design, square footage, unit mix, number of units, number of buildings, etc. (unless changes are required by a local regulatory authority and/or regulatory codes);
- 5) Change in the general contractor without prior written consent of AHFA;
- 6) Change in the Management Company without prior written consent of AHFA;
- 7) Change in the architect without prior written consent of AHFA;
- 8) If AHFA receives a determination from a federal, state, or local regulatory authority or agency of significant or uncorrected non-compliance on applicant's existing Non-AHFA Projects, AHFA may terminate the application;
- 9) Any Development Team Member listed in the application who has instances of excessive, willful neglect or uncorrected (within the time required by AHFA) non-compliance with AHFA, Housing Credit, HOME, TCAP/Exchange, or Multifamily Housing Revenue Bond regulations on existing projects;
- 10) Any Development Team Member listed in the application who is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment or suspension, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from any transactions or construction projects involving the use of federal funds or Housing Credits;

- 11) Applicant has a project that is in foreclosure or has been foreclosed in the past 10 years;
- 12) Any material adverse change relating to the Project or Ownership Entity. AHFA will determine whether the change(s) is material and/or adverse and further reserves the right to terminate the allocation based on the effect of said change(s) in comparison to original application approved by AHFA;
- 13) Applicant (including all Development Team Members listed in the approved application) has outstanding fees due to AHFA; and/or
- 14) If Housing Credits are combined with HOME Funds and the Environmental Site Assessment review by AHFA (or AHFA's consultant) identifies any unsatisfactory environmental condition that the applicant (or any Responsible Owner of applicant) knew or should have known about or failed to investigate fully prior to application submission.

The above list of negative actions after an award of HOME Funds is not all-inclusive. The Written Agreement itself will list other necessary requirements. AHFA will terminate the Written Agreement if it determines that any information supplied in connection with the project contains Misleading Information.

If an applicant requests or receives a reservation of Housing Credits combined with a commitment of HOME Funds, the more restrictive requirements (Housing Credit or HOME, as applicable) will apply to the applicant, the application, and the project. For example, if a project has requested or received a reservation of Housing Credits combined with a commitment of HOME Funds and the project fails to satisfy requirements for either the Housing Credits or the HOME Funds, then both the reservation of Housing Credits and the commitment of HOME Funds may be terminated. Under no circumstance can an application or reservation for combined Housing Credits and HOME Funds be decoupled in order to circumvent the more restrictive requirement(s) as determined by AHFA.

#### **K. Change in or Denial of HOME Allocation**

The application evaluation described in Section IV (E)(2) of the HOME Action Plan may result in a possible change in the amount of HOME Funds allocated to a project or denial of the total allocation altogether due to, but not limited to, one of the following reasons:

- 1) AHFA determines that the application contains Misleading Information;
- 2) Conditions in the Written Agreement are not met;
- 3) Changes in the actual cost of the project;
- 4) Obtains additional subsidies or financing other than those disclosed in the application;
- 5) Appraised value of the land that will be included in the Project is not equal to or higher than the purchase price based on the sales contract provided at the time of application; and
- 6) Applicant's failure to notify AHFA promptly of any material or adverse changes in the original application. Material or adverse changes include, but are not limited

to, applicant's loss of Site Control, rights of way, ingress and egress, environmental issues, adverse change in the financial condition of the applicant, and applicant's inability to perform tasks proposed in the application by the deadline set by the applicant and further set or agreed to by AHFA.

**L. Disclosure**

AHFA will attempt to request all information necessary to make informed decisions regarding HOME allocations. Therefore, it is in the best interest of all parties involved with the process to disclose completely and accurately all information regarding each proposed project. AHFA acknowledges that errors and misjudgment sometimes occur and simply requests that the applicants notify AHFA of any errors that may occur upon discovery.

**V. ADMINISTRATIVE OVERVIEW**

**A. Alabama Housing Finance Authority (AHFA)**

AHFA is a public corporation and instrumentality of the State of Alabama, organized pursuant to the provisions of Title 24 Chapter 1A of the Code of Alabama, as revised. AHFA was established as the housing finance entity for the State in 1980. Currently, AHFA has an experienced staff of employees with many having 10-20 years of commercial banking, mortgage banking or accounting experience. AHFA staff includes experienced commercial real estate and construction lenders, mortgage bankers, accountants, and support personnel. The multifamily staff, responsible for the HOME Program, has experience in dealing with other federal programs, which include the Housing Credit and Multifamily Bond Financing Programs. The single-family staff administers a number of programs including the Mortgage Revenue Bond program, the Mortgage Credit Certificate program, the Down Payment Assistance program, the Step Up program, the Rural Alabama Mortgage program, the Building Blocks to Homeownership program, and the Habitat for Humanity Loan Purchase program.

AHFA has the necessary computer hardware and software programs required to properly administer and service loan transactions in connection with the HOME Program. Hardware components consist of a personal computer local area network with multiple large-capacity file servers with the capacity to run mortgage loan servicing software packages.

**B. Administrative Policies and Procedures**

AHFA's administration of the HOME Program includes, but is not limited to, the following functions: accounting, loan processing, loan servicing, administration, compliance, investments, and disbursement of funds. AHFA will be compensated for any and all expenses incurred in performance of its duties (inclusive of those duties for which AHFA may subcontract) through draws from available administrative funds in the HOME account.

The State of Alabama, as a Participating Jurisdiction, is responsible for ensuring that HOME Funds are used in accordance with all program requirements. AHFA, acting in its capacity as Administrator of the State of Alabama's HOME Program, AHFA's Board of Directors, officers, employees and agents will not be held responsible or liable for losses incurred from claims, suits, damages, and costs and expenses of any kind or of any nature that the HOME Program may suffer, incur or pay arising out of decisions by AHFA

concerning any application, loan decision(s), or action(s) associated with the administration of the HOME Program unless said responsibility or liability is specifically contained within the Act.

1) HOME Disbursement Accounts

Accounts have been established to administer Alabama's HOME Program. The primary account, the HOME Investment Trust Fund, is established in the Treasury Department and managed through HUD's Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS). In addition, separate account(s), Alabama's HOME Account(s), may be utilized by AHFA as additional deposit and disbursement accounts of HOME Funds. HOME Funds from the federal government, interest earnings and repaid principal will be deposited and disbursed from this account. All HOME related funds in this account will be kept separate from other accounts maintained by AHFA. AHFA may establish other administrative accounts, which are allowed under Title II of the Act.

Once a project has been approved for funding, and all conditions required to be satisfied prior to the execution of the HOME Written Agreement have been satisfied, an account for said project will be established in IDIS. Requests for HOME Funds will be made to the IDIS by AHFA or its designee.

2) Administrative Duties

(i) Audits and Reviews: AHFA, as administrator, may conduct reviews and audits of recipients as may be necessary or appropriate to determine compliance with the rules and regulations of Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act. An accounting firm chosen by AHFA will conduct required external audits of Alabama's HOME Program.

(ii) Monitoring: AHFA will monitor each designated recipient of HOME Funds for compliance with occupancy and use restrictions. The scope and frequency of monitoring activities will meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the specific program as outlined in the Act or regulations. See Compliance Section VI.

Recipients of HOME Funds must comply with the reporting requirements as defined in 24 CFR Section 92.508 and are responsible for providing AHFA with the information necessary to complete the annual reporting requirements. Recipients must report all instances of non-compliance to AHFA at P. O. Box 242967, Montgomery, AL 36124-2967 and the HUD office in Birmingham, The Plaza, 417 20<sup>th</sup> Street North, Suite 700, Birmingham, AL 35203.

## VI. COMPLIANCE

### A. Minority and Women's Business Outreach

As required in Section 281 of the HOME Investment Partnerships Act, AHFA will work to involve minority and women's business enterprises whenever possible.

AHFA will give preference points to those applications which evidence the participation of minorities in connection with the project. AHFA will maintain a record of reported activities of Minority- and Women- Owned Businesses involved in the HOME Program.



**B. Equal Opportunity and Fair Housing**

Affirmative marketing procedures will be utilized so that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under Alabama’s HOME Program. Recipients of Alabama’s HOME Funds must adhere to the requirements of the Fair Housing Act and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. AHFA will maintain records, whenever possible, of the percentage of low-income units Occupied or purchased by minority and single parents.

All loan applicants or local units of government applying for Alabama HOME Funds must certify in the application that they will adhere to the affirmative marketing procedures (as defined in 24 CFR Section 92.351). Records concerning the characteristics of tenants renting HOME assisted units must be maintained by the Ownership Entity; and supplied to AHFA on an annual basis. AHFA will analyze this data to assess the success of the Ownership Entity’s affirmative marketing procedures.

**C. Section 3 Economic Opportunities for Low – and Very Low-Income Persons**

As required by Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u and its associated regulations (24 C.F.R. Part 75), recipients of HOME Funds must ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by housing development must be directed toward low- and very low-income persons, and eligible businesses.

**D. Environmental Review**

AHFA will conform to the Environmental Review requirements of Title II of the Act.

**E. Matching**

NOTE: The State of Alabama is currently required to match a portion (fifty percent) of annual HOME Funds. This match may be derived from several possible sources including the donation of land by localities, the donation of voluntary skilled or unskilled labor, sweat equity, the use of tax-exempt bond proceeds, the value waived of property taxes by localities, cash injections by localities, and any other source which may be determined at a later date. Additionally, a number of AHFA programs (Down Payment Assistance, Habitat for Humanity Partnership) provide financial assistance to HOME- eligible Alabama households and a portion of this funding may count as match. The use of any possible State funds would require an appropriation by the legislature. Specific sources and the amount of possible funds available to meet the matching requirements for a program year will be determined prior to any draw of HOME Funds. A HOME recipient may be required to provide a “Match” source to close their project. Specific waivers may be granted if an Alabama county is listed as a presidentially declared disaster area.

**F. Occupancy and Rent Requirements**

In HOME and Housing Credit residential rental projects at least 20% of the units must be Occupied by households with incomes at or below 50% of median family income and the rent must be restricted at or below the 50% rent level or Section 8 Fair Market Rent, whichever is less. The remaining units must be Occupied with households with incomes at or below 60% of median family income and the rent must be restricted at or below the 60%

rent level or Section 8 Fair Market Rent, whichever is less. HOME income limits and rent limits are calculated annually by HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PDR), once the Section 8 income limits have been issued.

**G. Compliance Monitoring**

The compliance monitoring procedures apply to all buildings Placed-In-Service in Alabama, which have received allocations of HOME Funds as determined under the HOME Regulations. A complete outline of AHFA's compliance requirements is located in AHFA Compliance Manual available at [www.AHFA.com](http://www.AHFA.com). A description of AHFA's basic compliance monitoring procedures and requirements are described in Addendum D.

**VII. AMERICAN DREAM DOWNPAYMENT INITIATIVE**

**A. American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI)**

ADDI is a HOME Program-based funding source for the provision of down payment assistance to eligible first-time homebuyers. AHFA serves as administrator of the State of Alabama HOME Program and the State of Alabama ADDI Program.

The initial allocation of ADDI funds to the State was approximately \$1,463,919 -- 2003 HUD-appropriated funds totaling \$671,691 and 2004 new funding totaling \$792,228. Each source had its own separate requirements.

**B. ADDI Funds**

The State of Alabama has not received a new allocation of funds since 2009. Should the program continue to be funded, AHFA will continue to use these funds to provide down payment assistance throughout the State. The per-family assistance shall not exceed \$10,000 in the form of a grant or a forgivable loan.

Families and households eligible to receive ADDI funds must (a) earn 80% or less of the Area Median Income (AMI) per HOME guidelines, (b) have less than \$4,000 in liquid assets at the time of loan application through the date of closing, (c) complete a homeownership counseling course provide by a HUD-approved counseling agency or any other AHFA-approved homeownership counseling course and meet lenders credit requirements.

Outreach and marketing efforts for ADDI will be conducted by AHFA and its many business partners such as the Homebuilders Association of Alabama, the Mortgage Bankers Association of Alabama, the Alabama Association of Realtors, the Alabama Federation of Housing Counselors and Agencies, and the Consuming Credit Counseling Services of Alabama.

**C. ADDI Recapture Provision**

If at any time during the five-year affordability period, the original homebuyer sells, trades, transfers title or otherwise ceases to occupy the home as their primary residence, the homebuyer will be subject to recapture and must pay back the funds as deemed applicable. ADDI recapture is assessed on a reduced prorated basis of 20% per complete year, except in cases of non-compliance, which requires 100% of the ADDI funds to be repaid. Non-compliance for ADDI means that the homebuyer was not eligible for the ADDI funds at

the time of the application. Non-compliance would result if the program criteria such as prior ownership, family income limits, sales price limits, and occupancy of residence during the 5-year affordability period are not met and this information was not properly disclosed. Any recaptured funds paid back to AHFA will be returned to the ADDI allocation and used to assist other qualifying homebuyers.

DRAFT

## Addendum A

### Alabama Housing Finance Authority's

#### 2025 HOME Point Scoring System

WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS HOME ACTION PLAN, ALL DETERMINATIONS, CALCULATIONS, JUDGMENTS, ASSESSMENTS OR OTHER DECISIONS MADE BY AHFA UNDER THIS ADDENDUM, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION RELATED APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, AHFA FORMS AND THE HOME ACTION PLAN ITSELF, SHALL BE MADE IN AHFA'S SOLE AND ABSOLUTE DISCRETION.

The point scoring system described in this Addendum A and related provisions of the HOME Action Plan (Point Scoring System) will allow AHFA to award points to projects that best meet the identified housing priorities for the State of Alabama. The Point Scoring System will rank each project in two sections (Points Gained and Points Lost). The ranking of each project will be determined by taking the Points Gained section and deducting the Points Lost section to get an overall project score. The Point Scoring System will largely determine which projects should be allocated. Applicants will be required to score their applications using the current year HOME/Housing Credit Point Scoring form provided by AHFA. This point scoring form must be submitted to AHFA as part of the Application Package.

Any points gained category referenced herein or in other sections of the current QAP or the current HOME Action Plan are specific to the current program year and may not be carried (or brought) forward to (or from) any future (or past) program year by any entity, individual or application.

AHFA has established a housing priority to achieve a balanced distribution of Housing Credits and HOME Funds throughout the State in terms of geographical regions, counties, urban, and rural areas. AHFA will achieve this priority by allocating Housing Credits and HOME Funds generally to only one project per county. This allocation methodology, used over time, has helped to ensure that counties and cities across the State have received a share of AHFA allocation of funds proportionate to their respective populations.

Please note that applicants may apply for Housing Credits combined with HOME Funds only for new construction projects, which are not eligible for the rehabilitation points described in this Point Scoring System.

#### Project Selection Procedures:

##### Allocation Selection:

1. The highest scoring project per county with ownership by an AHFA-Approved CHDO will be funded until the regulatory 15% CHDO set-aside has been met.
2. The highest scoring Housing Credit project and/or HOME project combined with Housing Credits will be allocated per county until all available 2025 Housing Credits and HOME Funds have been allocated, subject to the following exception. **AHFA will allocate Housing Credits to 2 projects in the same county or city only if both projects score high enough to be funded, are otherwise eligible to be funded under this HOME Action Plan, and one of the projects being considered has all of the following attributes at the time of application: (i) has received a HOME Loan from AHFA, (ii) has at least 85% occupancy, and (iii) has either (a) repaid the HOME Loan in full, or (b) has closed a 15-year extension of the debt evidenced by the outstanding HOME loan.**

3. If all available 2025 Housing Credits have been allocated and there still remains available HOME Funds, the highest scoring HOME project combined with Housing Credits may be allocated per county, subject to a future-year Housing Credit allocation.
4. In addition to meeting the CHDO funding requirements, and to maximize the utilization of available or excess HOME Funds, if any, and to increase new construction of HOME funded Projects, AHFA will prioritize the funding of at least 2 of the highest scoring HOME applications.

Projects with a net score of less than 70 points (Points Gained less Points Lost) will not be considered for allocation.

In the event of a tie between two or more applications, the projects will be ranked in the following order to determine which application will receive priority:

1. In the event there is a tie in scoring among two or more applications, then a recommendation will be made for the application that has the least amount of aggregate participation by any one Responsible Owner. Aggregate participation is defined as the total of all Housing Credit and HOME/Housing Credit applications recommended for allocation in the current application cycle.
2. If a tie(s) still remains, priority will be given to the application that has applied for HOME Funds.
3. If a tie(s) still remains, priority will be given to a project located in a Census Tract where the applicable year's Estimated Census Tract Median Family Income from the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) Census and Demographic Data is equal to 100% or more of the applicable Median Family Income published by HUD for the county in which the project is located.
4. If a tie(s) still remains, priority will be given to the application located in a county with the least total number of units in (a) Active AHFA Projects, and (b) projects that have received Housing Credit allocations from AHFA but have not Placed-In-Service.
5. If a tie(s) still remains, priority will be given to the Responsible Owner who has not been required to schedule an additional on-site compliance inspection at a project, at any time prior to the project's standard inspection cycle, as the result of a material finding of non-compliance, a failure to maintain or provide complete records, a failure to provide on-site access to compliance staff, or unresponsiveness to AHFA's compliance program.
6. If a tie(s) still remains, priority will be given to the project that is located in a Qualified Census Tract and is supported by a Concerted Community Revitalization Plan (CCRP) approved by the governing body of the local jurisdiction within 5 years before application submittal. To be eligible for this priority, the application must include copies of the relevant excerpted pages from the revitalization plan, including referenced defined terms, with specific references highlighted (no more than 10 pages).
7. If a tie(s) still remains, priority will be given to the application for a project that is intended for eventual tenant ownership. The project must consist of single-family homes, duplexes, townhomes, or a combination thereof to be eligible. To be eligible for this priority, the

applicant must complete the AHFA-provided Homeownership Conversion Proposal and provide a plot plan and counseling agreement in form and content acceptable to AHFA.

8. In the event there is a tie in scoring among two or more non-profit Responsible Owner applications, then a recommendation will be made for the application that has the least amount of aggregate participation by any one Developer. Aggregate participation is defined as the total of all Housing Credit and HOME/Housing Credit applications recommended for allocation in the current application cycle.
9. If a tie(s) still remains, priority will be given in accordance with a drawing that will be held the next business day after the applications are submitted. The drawing will be held in AHFA's boardroom to determine the order of awards in the event of a tie. An impartial person will be selected to draw. The drawing will be open to the public and the results will be posted on AHFA's website at the conclusion of the drawing.

AHFA reserves the right to deny a Housing Credit allocation to any applicant or project, regardless of that applicant's point ranking if, in AHFA's determination, the applicant's proposed project is not financially feasible or viable. Additionally, AHFA may recommend that a Housing Credit allocation be made irrespective of the ranking order established by the Point Scoring System, based on the amount of Housing Credit allocation needed relative to the amount of allocation available for the project to be financially feasible.

Regardless of strict numerical ranking, the Point Scoring System does not operate to vest in an applicant or project any right to a reservation or allocation of Housing Credits in any amount. AHFA will in all instances reserve and allocate Housing Credits consistent with sound and reasonable judgment, prudent business practices and the exercise of its inherent discretion.

## **A. POINTS GAINED**

### **1.) Project Characteristics (Maximum 68 Points)**

#### **(i.) Type of Construction (Maximum 33 Points)**

- (a.) A maximum of 25 points in aggregate will be given to projects that provide extra unit/project amenities. Refer to the application and its instructions for the distinction between an extra amenity and a required amenity. Only the extra amenities listed below will be eligible for points. If a project receives an allocation of Housing Credits and fails to provide any extra amenity in the manner represented in the Application Package, the project and its Responsible Owners will be subject to point penalties and other sanctions in accordance with this HOME Action Plan.

4 Points will be given for each of the following extra amenities:

- Clubhouse/Community Building/Community Room (Must have at a minimum a kitchen (with refrigerator/freezer, cabinets, and a sink with counter space), community meeting room (with seating and activity areas commensurate to total number of units), restrooms, community TV with cable, satellite or streaming services with a minimum of 42-inch screen TV, and wireless internet service. A community laundry must be provided if not providing a washer/dryer in each unit and the community laundry must contain at least 1 washer and 1 dryer for every 25 units proposed in the project.)
- Washer/Dryer provided in each unit (3-7 cu. ft. capacity. Washer must be Energy Star rated.)

- The Exterior Security Package for the Project must include, at a minimum, the following:
  - Alarm (sound and/or third-party monitored) system at the clubhouse/ community building, resident manager’s office, and laundry.
  - Camera/Video monitoring system to provide visibility of all pedestrian and vehicular traffic of all main Project entry and exit points, parking lot and Project amenities.
  - Lighting of all project amenities, parking lot(s), and all Project entry and exit points.
- Unit Security Package (*Each unit must have an alarm on all entry doors and windows*)
- Storm Shelter (*Must meet the International Code Council National Storm Shelter Association Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters (ICC-500 August 2008) Standards*)
- Playground (*Must provide commercial grade playground equipment with a minimum of 3 play activities*)
- Outdoor Fitness Activity Area (*Must provide 3 separate types of commercial grade outdoor fitness equipment with a minimum of 3 exercise activities. An instructional sign on the usage of fitness equipment must be placed by each type of fitness equipment*)
- Covered Picnic Pavilion (*Minimum of 2 tables with attached bench seating and 2 grills with a permanent cover*)

3 Points will be given for each of the following extra amenities:

- Furnished Children’s Activity or Senior Arts & Crafts Center (*Room must be no less than 144 square feet and provide a single bowl sink with a minimum 6’-0” countertop with wall and base cabinets and a Storage Closet. Room must be equipped with a minimum 6’ table and chairs. No folding furniture is allowed.*)
- Senior Gathering Area for Multistory Elevator Developments (*Provide a minimum 144 square feet interior conditioned and furnished Gathering Area separate from the Community Building or Community Space. Room must be equipped with a table and chairs, lounge chairs/sofa, and a minimum 42” TV. No folding furniture is allowed.*)
- Gazebo (*Minimum 16’ x 16’*) (*Minimum of 1 picnic table with attached bench seating or no picnic table and three benches*)
- Computer center (*two or more computers with printer and internet access*)
- Splash Center (*at least 500 square feet*) which includes at a minimum a spray zone and pad and 3 above ground water features.
- Exercise/Fitness room with equipment (*Room must be no less than 144 square feet and provide a minimum of 3 separate types of commercial grade exercise/fitness equipment*)
- Covered bus stop shelter (minimum 6’ wide by 12’ long) with 2 fixed bench seating underneath same cover (*Must be separate/independent of the mail kiosk unless location allows for proper access of bus to pick-up and drop off*)
- Access Gate (*Must be on all entry points of project if more than one*)
- Walking Trail with Benches (*5 feet wide concrete and minimum of ¼ of mile long*) (*Must be separate from required sidewalks*)

2 Points will be given for each of the following extra amenities:

- Basketball court (*Must have break-away rim and shatter-proof backboard*)
- Picnic area (minimum of 168 square feet of concrete slab for the picnic area) with grills (*1 grill (permanently fixed) 1 picnic table with attached bench seating for every 14 units proposed in the project*). Rooftop area with 1 picnic table with attached bench seating for every 14 units proposed in the project.
- Storm doors (Must be aluminum construction)
- Emergency Pull Cord/Call Button (*Minimum of 1 in each unit*)
- Bike Racks - Minimum of two attached 3-bike racks, one located at the Community Building and one at an outdoor amenity area. (Racks must be permanently installed on concrete in such a way that sidewalk traffic is not impeded)

**New Construction Projects Only** (Maximum of 8 Points)

- (a.) 4 points will be given for storm windows; thermal break insulated windows or extruded vinyl windows and insulated exterior doors. Windows must be Energy Star Rated.
- (b.) 4 points for full brick/cementitious siding, stucco, cultured stone, or concrete masonry unit (CMU) products (No Exterior Insulation Finishing System is acceptable).

**Multifamily units** (two or more units in a building)

A minimum of 40% of each building, defined as the exterior façade from finished grade elevation to eave line, shall be brick. The remaining 60% can be cementitious siding, stucco, or CMU products. The CMU products must be decorative, textured, patterned, color core, or painted.

All entry areas into the apartment (including covered breezeways, porches, balconies, and patios) must have brick, cementitious siding, stucco, cultured stone, or CMU to be considered full brick.

**Single-family units** (single unit/detached building)

A minimum of 50% of the building, defined as the exterior façade from finished grade elevation to eave line, shall be brick. Each exterior wall must contain brick up to the bottom of the first-floor windows on a two-story unit or the windowsill of a one-story unit. The remaining 50% can be cementitious siding, stucco, cultured stone, or CMU products. The CMU products must be decorative, textured, patterned, color core, or painted.

(ii.) **Energy/Water Conservation and Healthy Living Environment**  
(Maximum of 8 Points in Aggregate)

3 points will be given for each of the following:

- HVAC of 14.3 SEER2 (7.8 HSPF2) or above.
- Energy Star rated “cool roof” shingles or metal roof with a fifty (50) year warranty.
- Installed Dehumidifiers in all Apartment Units per AHFA specifications in secure areas inaccessible by tenants. Install so that controls are inaccessible by tenants. Dehumidifiers may be in-wall, in-line, or free.
- Radiant barrier roof deck at all Buildings to reduce heat buildup in the Attic Space, so the insulation is more effective and lessens heat transfer into the thermal envelope.



2 points will be given for each of the following:

- Kitchen range hood ventilation to be vented to the exterior and equipped with a damper.
- EPA’s Partnership Program “WaterSense” labeled water closet, bathroom faucets and showerheads.
- Installed Jumper Ducts from a heated and cooled space to closets that do not have an HVAC duct.
- Installed LED light fixtures or fixtures with LED bulbs at all interior and exterior Apartment unit light fixtures.
- Humidistat controlled Energy Star ventilation fans in all bathrooms.

1 point will be given for each of the following:

- Energy Star rated bath and kitchen exhaust fans.
- Energy Star rated LED lighting in the kitchen.
- Energy Star rated LED lighting package in the entire living unit.

(iii.) **Rent Affordability** (Maximum 10 Points)

(a.) **New Funds.** A maximum of 5 points in aggregate will be given to projects which have a commitment for the AHFA approved sources of new funds listed below. Regardless if the funds are loaned (required repayment) or granted to the project, 100% of the total amount of funds committed for points must be a permanent source of funds. Existing funds that are assumed and/or term(s) extended do not qualify for points under these criteria. To qualify for these points, the application must include a fully executed firm commitment from the entity that will be loaning or granting the funds to project.

(1.) A maximum of 5 points will be given to projects that have a commitment for AHFA-approved sources of new funds from the following list: Federal Home Loan Bank for Affordable Housing Program (AHP) funds (AHP funds must be in the form of a grant or subordinate loan), HOME Funds (not awarded by AHFA), USDA Rural Development 515 funds, CDBG (Entitlement, State, Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Programs), CHOICE Neighborhood funds, NeighborhoodWorks Capital Grant, Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG), Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program and/or Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

5 points – \$16,001+ per unit

4 points – \$12,001 - 16,000 per unit

3 points – \$8,001 - 12,000 per unit

2 points – \$4,000 - 8,000 per unit

(b.) **Rental/Operating Subsidies.** A maximum of 2 points will be given to projects that have a commitment for rental/operating subsidies from USDA Rural Development, HUD, or a Public Housing Authority (PHA) based on a written agreement providing additional rental/operating subsidies.

- USDA Rural Development commitment must be for at least 25% of the total proposed units to receive the points.
  - HUD (HUD through PHA) commitment must be for at least 25% of the total proposed units to receive the points.
- (c.) **Extended Use Period.** 3 points will be given to projects that irrevocably commit in writing to forego submitting a request for a Qualified Contract and to remain a Qualified Affordable Housing Project throughout the Extended Use Period (total of 30 years).
- (iv.) **Tenant Needs (Maximum 5 Points)**
- (a.) 1 point will be given to projects with 100% of the units in the project designed, equipped and set-aside for the elderly. (For elderly definition, see the AHFA Compliance Manual available at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com))
- (b.) 1 point will be given to projects targeting low-income families (individuals with children) with a minimum of 15% of the low-income units having three or more bedrooms. If an applicant chooses 100% elderly, the applicant *will not* receive additional points for three or more bedrooms. Rehabilitation of existing multifamily rental units must already have the required three or more bedrooms to receive the points.
- (c.) Up to 2 points will be given to projects that set-aside a minimum of up to 10% of the total proposed units for tenants with disabilities or homeless populations for a minimum period of thirty (30) years.
- i. that set-aside a minimum of 10% of the total units for tenants with disabilities or homeless populations for a minimum of 30 years.
  - ii. 1 point will be given to projects that set-aside 7% of the total proposed units for tenants with disabilities or homeless populations for a minimum of 30 years.
- The units must be actively marketed and rented to households with at least one tenant with a disability or a tenant transitioning from being homeless (to include persons fleeing domestic violence; aging out of the foster care system, nursing homes or other institutions, etc.). A marketing and preference plan and an executed Memorandum of Understanding will be required if the Project is approved for funding.
- (d.) 1 point will be given to projects that have committed in writing to target households on the public housing waiting lists.
- (e.) 1 point will be given to projects that provide at a minimum 5% of the dwelling units be designed and constructed to be readily accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. An additional 2% of the dwelling units must be accessible to individuals with sensory impairments (i.e., hearing or vision impairments).

(v.) **Project Type (Maximum 2 Points)**

2 points will be given for:

- a. Replacement of public housing authority (PHA) housing, or
- b. Replacement of previously existing multifamily housing that was destroyed or damaged in an area designated as a Presidentially Declared Disaster area

Previously existing PHA multifamily housing is defined as multifamily housing that has been demolished and cleared within the last 8 years or will be demolished and cleared for the construction of new replacement housing on the same site, except for replacement of existing multifamily housing owned by public housing authorities, which may be constructed on the same site or a new site.

(vi.) **Location** (Maximum 10 Points)

(f.) Points Gained for Site Selection

Neighborhood Services (Maximum 10 Points)

2 points will be given for each of the following neighborhood services located within 3 miles of the site. Distance will be measured by odometer from the automobile entrance of the proposed project site to the closest automobile entrance to the parking lot of the applicable neighborhood service. Projects located in a federally declared disaster county may receive points for neighborhood services if the neighborhood service is currently under construction and funded in whole or part by Federal or State disaster funds. Existing multifamily projects, located in rural areas, may submit the best option available for the grocery store (i.e., Dollar General, convenience store, etc.). The applicant must provide sufficient evidence of both requirements. Duplicate neighborhood services will not be eligible for additional points. Points will only be given for the neighborhood services listed below. If AHFA cannot locate a service due to incorrect directions, 1 point will be deducted for each service where incorrect directions are provided. (Refer to the Application Site/Project Information Form for instructions on providing directions from site, and a general definition of services eligible for points).

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Grocery Store             | Pharmacy or Drug Store |
| Convenience Store         | Bank or Credit Union   |
| Hospital or Doctor Office |                        |

(g.) Points Deducted for Site Selection

(1.) Negative Neighborhood Services (No Maximum)

There is not a limit on the amount of points that can be deducted for negative neighborhood services.

5 points each will be deducted if any of the following incompatible uses are adjacent to the site. Adjacent is defined as nearby, but not necessarily touching. The following list is not all inclusive. (Refer to Negative Neighborhood Services as defined in the Application Instructions)

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Junk yard or dump | Pig or chicken farm |
|-------------------|---------------------|

Salvage yard	Processing plant
Wastewater treatment facility	Industrial
Distribution facility	Airport
Electrical utility Substation	Prison or Jail
Railroad	Solid waste disposal

Adult video/theater/live entertainment

\*Please note: Points will not be deducted for properties located adjacent to a railroad if the noise levels are acceptable (outside noise level < 65 dB; interior noise level < 45 dB). AHFA will rely on the noise level assessment required in the environmental report submitted with the application.

2 points each will be deducted if any of the following incompatible uses listed are within .3 mile of the site. The list is not all inclusive.

Junk yard or dump	Pig or chicken farm
Salvage yard	Processing plant
Wastewater treatment facility	Airport
Prison or Jail	Solid waste disposal

Points will not be deducted for a prison, jail, or detainment facility if it is co-located with a police station or similar law enforcement office.

(2.) Accessibility (Maximum 2 points Deducted)

2 points will be deducted if the condition of the streets and sidewalks are unsatisfactory. The width of the streets and the difficulty of access to the proposed site will be taken into consideration.

**2.) Applicant Characteristics (Maximum 25 Points)**

- (i.) A maximum of 10 points will be given to applicants with participation of minorities or women. To qualify for the points for participation of minorities or women, the application must meet the following requirements:

5 Points – Minorities (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, African American, Hispanic, Puerto Rican, Native American, or an Alaska Native) or women have ownership in the Ownership Entity or any Responsible Owner; and must not have an Identity of Interest defined in Section II(G) (4) of this QAP.

In all cases, the Minority (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, African American, Hispanic, Puerto Rican, Native American, or an Alaska Native) or female individual(s) must serve as a general partner or managing member of the Ownership Entity or Responsible Owner with at least a 51% ownership interest in the general partnership or managing member of the Ownership Entity or Responsible Owner.

5 Points - Applicant guarantees that contracts for at least 10% of the total building cost are awarded to Minority- or Women-Owned Businesses.

In all cases, the Minority (Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, African American, Hispanic, Puerto Rican, Native American, or an Alaska Native) or female individual(s) must have at least 51% ownership interest in the participating business to qualify for the points. The legal name and address of the business and the anticipated contract amount must be listed at the time of application on the form provided by AHFA in the Application Package to receive the points. These businesses include, but are not limited to, real estate firms, construction firms, appraisal firms, management firms, financial institutions, investment banking firms, underwriters, accountants, and providers of legal services., or

- (ii.) 5 points will be given to Ownership Entities with a Responsible Owner that currently owns and has previous successful experience in the development of Active AHFA Projects that received a Housing Credit Reservation Letter or HOME Written Agreement in 2000 or later.

These 5 points will also be given (without duplication) to Ownership Entities with one or more Responsible Owners that have listed Non-AHFA Projects that were Placed-In-Service in 2006 or later. The Ownership Entity must list each Non-AHFA Project on the Responsible Owner's AHFA Schedule of Real Estate Owned included in the application.

**Special limited partners do not qualify for these points.** Mobile home developments, hospitals, sanitariums, life care facilities, or intermediate care facilities are not considered multifamily housing for purposes of qualifying for points. The Responsible Owner may include experience gained as a Responsible Owner in another firm, but not as an employee of another firm. Applicants must currently own the properties listed for development points.

5 points = (500+ units or 5+ projects)

- (iii.) 10 points will be given to applicants with sound, experienced managing agents of low-income multifamily housing. This experience is defined by the highest number of units or projects (with at least 20% of the units being considered low-income) currently managed. Only those units in projects that are considered low-income units will be counted in this total.

10 points = (1000+ units or 10+ projects)

All points relating to Applicant Characteristics will be awarded to the Ownership Entity identified in the application based on the characteristics of (a) a for-profit Ownership Entity, its Responsible Owners who are individuals, and (b) a non-profit Ownership Entities, the Ownership Entity itself.

## **B. POINTS LOST**

In addition to the points gained, each application submitted by an Ownership Entity may be subject to point deductions. Point deductions resulting from each existing AHFA-Project (approved and/or Placed-In-Service) will be based on AHFA's QAP and HOME Action Plan for the applicable year and will cover all non-compliance with AHFA documents, executed agreements, audits and inspections that is identified during the period from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year immediately preceding the current QAP or HOME Action Plan Year. Point deductions for non-compliance identified between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year will take into account whether or not the Ownership Entity or other Responsible

Owner completes corrective actions, follow up inspections or other verification of compliance within the deadline required by AHFA, even if the deadline falls after December 31<sup>st</sup> of such year. Points lost will be assessed based on the following criteria:

**1.) Existing AHFA- Project(s) Approved and/or Placed-In-Service (No Maximum)**

- (i.) 5 points (for each occurrence) will be deducted from an application if any Responsible Owner of the Ownership Entity altered an approved project in any manner different from the approved project's original application without prior written consent from AHFA.
- (ii.) 5 points (for each occurrence) will be deducted from an application if any Responsible Owner of the Ownership Entity or the Management Company identified in the application is not in compliance with and/or has any uncured failure to meet a requirement specifically listed in any AHFA document(s), the AHFA HOME Loan Restructuring Policy or any applicable agreement(s) without prior written consent from AHFA.
- (iii.) 2 points (for each occurrence) will be deducted from an application if any Responsible Owner of the Ownership Entity or the Management Company identified in the application for any of the following with respect to Davis Bacon requirements on any AHFA-Project (approved and/or Placed-In-Service):
  - Outstanding issues not resolved within 6 months after the General Contractor has been notified of the problem.
  - If required posting of Wage Decision and approved Additional Classifications wages are not posted on site visible to the workers employed on the project.
  - The General Contractor is unable to submit payrolls, causing an escrow account to be established.
  - Outstanding issues remain over 2 years from the notice to proceed.
  - Failure to provide AHFA the Section 3 Summary Report on the required date.
  - Failure to provide AHFA the HUD 2516 Report on the required date.

**2.) Non-Compliance after the Initial On-Site Inspection (No Maximum)**

Applications are subject to point deductions for failure to comply with the Compliance Requirements as outlined in (Addendum D) Compliance Monitoring Procedures, Requirements and Penalty Criteria.

Applications with Responsible Owners that have Non-AHFA Projects, whether in the State and/or out-of-State, will be subject to the same AHFA requirements defined in attached Addendum D (Health and Safety, Unit, Site, Exterior and Common Area Deficiencies). The 4-point threshold in Addendum D does not apply to Non-AHFA Project(s).

## Addendum B

### Alabama Housing Finance Authority's 2025 Environmental Policy Requirements

**WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THE HOUSING CREDIT QUALIFIED ALLOCATION PLAN (QAP); HOME ACTION PLAN; OR MULTIFAMILY HOUSING REVENUE BOND POLICY, ALL DETERMINATIONS, CALCULATIONS, JUDGMENTS, ASSESSMENTS OR OTHER DECISIONS MADE BY AHFA UNDER THIS ADDENDUM, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION RELATED APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, AHFA FORMS AND THE QAP, HOME ACTION PLAN, OR MULTIFAMILY HOUSING REVENUE BOND POLICY, SHALL BE MADE IN AHFA'S SOLE AND ABSOLUTE DISCRETION.**

Alabama Housing Finance Authority ("AHFA") requires that a project-specific Phase I Environmental Site Assessment ("ESA") Report be submitted for each application. The Phase I ESA Report must be prepared by a qualified third-party Environmental Professional ("EP") as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 312.10(b) and adhere to the guidelines, requirements and format described herein.

#### **For All Applications made to AHFA:**

A Phase I ESA must be completed by an EP and include all of the components described in Addendum B1, including without limitation, many components that are in addition to what is required by the current American Society for Testing and Materials ("ASTM") Standard for Phase I ESAs approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA"). Failure to fully comply with and include in the Phase I ESA all of the AHFA-required elements will result in delays in processing or termination of the Application Package. AHFA requires that the applicant engage the EP in accordance with the terms set forth in the engagement letter in Addendum B-2, a copy of which must be included as Appendix I of the Phase I ESA. Because many of the required elements of the Phase I ESA take time to complete, AHFA strongly recommends that applicants engage an EP and begin preparing the Phase I ESA as early as possible in the process of preparing an application.

If a Phase I ESA for a project either (a) identifies a Recognized Environmental Condition (which includes, but is not limited to, controlled recognized environmental conditions and historical recognized environmental conditions (hereinafter collectively referred to as ("RECs")), and/or (b) recommends additional testing, investigation or a Phase II ESA Report be conducted, any and all Phase II ESA Reports and Addenda or additional testing reports that are prepared by the EP to address the RECs identified must be included at the time the Phase I ESA is submitted to AHFA. All Phase II ESA Reports must fully address all RECs identified in the Phase I ESA; must be completed in accordance with the most current versions of ASTM E1903, Alabama Environmental Investigation and Remediation Guidance ("AEIRG"), and the Alabama Risk Based Corrective Action Guidance Manual ("ARBCA"); and must sufficiently demonstrate that all environmental conditions associated with the project are appropriate for **unrestricted** residential use as defined by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management ("ADEM") under Alabama Administrative Code regulation 335-15-1.02(ddd). The requirement that all projects be appropriate for unrestricted residential use is subject to the following sole exceptions: (a) AHFA will permit the use of an institutional control prohibiting the use of groundwater for potable or irrigation purposes in instances where the water is supplied by a utility; and (b) for Housing Credit projects only, AHFA will permit the use of a permanent passive vapor mitigation system as part of a Voluntary Cleanup Plan approved prior to submission of the application, in writing by ADEM under Alabama Administrative Code regulation 335-15-4-.04, where the source(s) of potential vapor intrusion is (are) located entirely off-site and the ADEM approval of the Voluntary Cleanup Plan states that no future compliance monitoring will be required. If a Phase I ESA identifies an environmental condition that is ruled out as a REC, the Phase I ESA must provide sufficient explanation and all supporting data to demonstrate that the environmental condition is not a REC. AHFA reserves the right to terminate any application if it determines that the EP failed to identify environmental conditions as RECs and addressed, where appropriate, in a Phase II ESA. AHFA further reserves the right to terminate any application if it determines that the EP failed to sufficiently demonstrate that a project is

appropriate for **unrestricted** residential use in compliance with the most current versions of ASTM E1903, AEIRG, or ARBCA. AHFA will not consider any sites for funding that are listed on or proposed to the National Priority List (“NPL”) or State equivalent State Hazardous Waste Site (“SHWS”) (Superfund sites).

Two versions of all reports must be submitted as follows: a complete bound (3 ring binder) color hard copy (with each appendix separately tabbed) and an **exact, complete, color copy** in digital form, the text of which shall be in a searchable format. At the time of application submittal, the applicant must pay a non-refundable application fee as specified in the QAP, HOME Action Plan, and/or Multifamily Housing Revenue Bond Policy. Pursuant to those plans/policy, AHFA may select and engage third-parties (e.g., an EP, legal counsel, and/or designated consultant) to review and comment on the Phase I ESA or the Phase II ESA Report submitted by the applicant. In addition to the non-refundable application fee(s), AHFA may require the applicant to provide additional funds in amounts sufficient to cover all third-party costs that AHFA reasonably anticipates to pay or reimburse AHFA for any third-party costs incurred during the application review and analysis process. AHFA will submit an invoice to the applicant which shall be paid by the applicant within 7 business days of the invoice date. Any unused portion of any additional payments made by applicant related to third-party review, shall be returned to applicant without interest once all third-party invoices have been submitted and a refund amount is determined. During the course of the AHFA environmental review process, AHFA will notify the applicant if the Phase I ESA Report must be updated in order to satisfy the All Appropriate Inquiry (“AAI”) 40 CFR 312 and ASTM Section 4.6 requirements (requiring certain components of the Phase I ESA to be conducted or updated within 180 days). To the extent that an updated Phase I ESA Report is required, the applicant will be solely responsible for these costs, fees, and related expenses. During the AHFA review process, any report(s) submitted for which AHFA (or AHFA’s designated consultant) determines materially fails to comply with AHFA Environmental Policy Requirements, current ASTM standards, or applicable environmental regulatory requirements will result in the termination of the related application.

**For all applicants applying for HOME, HOME American Rescue Plan (“HOME ARP”), or Housing Trust Funds (“HTF”):**

Pursuant to 24 C.F.R. § 50.3(i)(1), “[i]t is HUD policy that all property proposed for use in HUD programs be free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals and gasses, and radioactive substances, where a hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property.”

**Application Completeness Requirements:**

Upon submittal of the Phase I ESA Report, AHFA will conduct a completeness review to determine whether or not the report is complete and complies with the Environmental Policy Requirements.

If during its completeness review AHFA determines that an application in a Competitive Application Cycle for HOME Funds and/or Housing Credits is missing any materials required by the Environmental Policy Requirements or that the materials included in the report fail to materially adhere to AHFA’s defined standards, the application will terminate and will not be considered for funding during that scoring cycle. If during the completeness review AHFA determines that all documentation required by the Environmental Policy Requirements has been provided and that the application materially adheres to AHFA’s defined standards but that additional information or clarification is required in order for AHFA to complete its full evaluation of the Environmental Policy Requirements, AHFA will contact the applicant via email. When contacted, the applicant must submit requested items within 10 business days or the application will terminate and will not be considered for funding during that scoring cycle.

If in response to a request from AHFA for additional information or clarification, the applicant provides materially different or new information or documentation that was required by this Environmental Policy to have been submitted at the time of application submission, AHFA reserves the right to terminate the application. For clarity, the following are considered Material Environmental Items that must be submitted at the time of application and will not be accepted after the application submission deadline: (1) all environmental testing data collected for a proposed project, including without limitation, testing of soil, groundwater,



sediment, soil gas, ambient air, asbestos, and lead-based paint; (2) any required wetland delineation studies or assessment reports; (3) any required request for a Jurisdictional Determination from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and (4) all remediation or mitigation plans to address any environmental issues identified (or that should have been identified) in the Phase I ESA and Phase II ESA reports. Furthermore, if an applicant wishes to provide information from any local, state, or federal agency pursuant to any item submitted to AHFA by the applicant pursuant to these Environmental Policy Requirements, all such information must be provided at the time of application and be in the form of a formal written communication from the agency to the applicant or its counsel or EP. If the agency information references or expresses approval of any methods, processes or other information, all information that is referenced or purportedly approved, including exhibits or addenda and related correspondence, must be provided at the time of application. After the date of initial application, AHFA will not consider or review any communications to the applicant related to these Environmental Policy Requirements from any local, state, or federal agency regardless of when or in what form it was received.

If during its completeness review AHFA determines that an application for tax-exempt volume cap (whether or not the applicant requests Housing Credits awarded without a Competitive Application Cycle) is missing any materials required by the Environmental Policy Requirements or that the materials included in the application fail to materially adhere to AHFA's defined standards, the applicant will have up to 30 days after notification from AHFA to resolve any outstanding issues. A Commitment Agreement for Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds will not be issued until all defined environmental requirements are met to AHFA's complete satisfaction.

All environmental issues identified (or that AHFA determines should have been identified) in the Phase I ESA and Phase II ESA reports must have been fully abated or mitigated (or include with the application a written remediation plan approved in writing by ADEM) in a manner that is compatible with **unrestricted** residential use other than the sole exceptions described on page B-1 of this Addendum.

Excepting only plans for radon resistant new construction, all remediation or mitigation plans to resolve **any** environmental issues identified in a Phase I ESA or Phase II ESA must be submitted to AHFA in writing upon submittal of the application and include: (a) details regarding the specific remediation plan; (b) all applicable final regulatory authority approvals required for the implementation of the remediation plan; (c) a detailed line item summary of estimated costs with supporting quotes; (d) information regarding the expected source of funding for conducting the remediation activities; (e) a projected schedule for approved remediation activities; and (f) a copy of any proposed environmental covenants documenting any planned institutional or engineering controls.. To the extent there are conflicting or inconsistent guidelines or methods between regulatory agencies concerning the environmental matter at issue, the EP shall follow the most stringent standard and certify that this standard has been satisfied.

All information provided by the applicant must be satisfactory to AHFA and may be subject to the fees as outlined in the applicable QAP, HOME Action Plan, Multifamily Housing Revenue Bond Policy and/or at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com).

**After the Reservation, HOME Written Agreement, and/or Declaration of Official Intent:**

If any unforeseen environmental condition(s) is discovered with respect to a project that has already received an award of HOME Funds, Housing Credits, and/or Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds, and such environmental condition(s) would have caused the project to fail to meet the Environmental Policy Requirements if discovered prior to award, then (a) if AHFA determines that the environmental condition(s) should have been discovered by the applicant or its Responsible Owners during the application process, AHFA will terminate the award and require all HOME Funds or Housing Credits to be returned to AHFA, or (b) if AHFA determines that the environmental condition(s) arose through no fault of the applicant and could not reasonably have been discovered during the application process, AHFA may allow the Ownership Entity for the project to remediate the environmental condition(s) at the Ownership Entity's sole cost and expense, including without limitation the fees and expenses of any EP and/or attorney engaged by AHFA in connection with the project, as necessary in

order for the applicant to comply with the Environmental Policy Requirements and all other conditions specified by AHFA based on the specific nature of circumstances of the project. If AHFA determines under the foregoing standards that an applicant is eligible to take remedial actions with respect to any unforeseen environmental condition(s), the applicant will be permitted to do so only if the applicant provides the following items to AHFA within 30 days, in compliance with the following requirements (the “Remedial Action Requirements”):

1. Estimate of total remediation costs (including itemized quotes from any third party contractors) and schedule for completion of remediation from a qualified environmental professional;
2. Evidence that the project will remain financially feasible and capable of being completed within the time required by the type of funding received; provided, however, that if AHFA permits the Ownership Entity to remediate an unforeseen environmental condition(s) and the time required for such remediation results in the inability of the project to Place-in-Service by the deadline established under Section 42 and AHFA, AHFA may elect to exchange the Housing Credits awarded to the project for a current or future year allocation of Housing Credits, subject to the applicant’s payment of the environmental extension penalty specified at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com); and
3. Evidence that the applicant has sufficient financial resources to complete the remediation and the project by the required deadline. AHFA will require an applicant to provide a deposit in order to ensure that AHFA’s expenses in connection with any remediation will be paid on a timely basis.

For a project that receives an award of HOME Funds, AHFA will notify the applicant if the Phase I ESA Report must be updated in order to satisfy the AAI and ASTM Section 4.6 requirements (requiring certain components of the Phase I ESA to be conducted or updated within 180 days). If an updated Phase I ESA Report is required, the applicant will be solely responsible for all costs, fees and related expenses. If any environmental condition(s) is discovered with respect to the updated Phase I ESA Report that was not present, discovered or disclosed at the time of the initial Phase I ESA Report and such environmental condition(s) causes the project to fail to meet the Environmental Policy Requirements, the applicant must comply with AHFA’s Remedial Action Requirements as specified above.

During the AHFA review process, if AHFA (or AHFA’s designated consultant) determines that the ESA Report(s) fails to comply with AHFA’s requirements, the ASTM standards or applicable environmental regulatory requirements, this determination will result in termination of the award and the return of HOME Funds and/or Housing Credits if not corrected promptly after written notice.

**NEPA Environmental Assessment (Projects Selected for HOME, HOME ARP, or HTF Funding):**

Each project that receives HOME Funds must undergo an environmental assessment in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA environmental assessment”) in accordance with 24 C.F.R Part 58.<sup>1</sup> The Ownership Entity of a project that receives an award of HOME Funds will be required to provide certain additional studies, reports and documentation necessary for AHFA to complete the NEPA environmental assessment. AHFA will notify the Ownership Entity of the NEPA environmental assessment requirements at the time of award of HOME Funds. For more information about an Ownership Entity’s submission requirements for the NEPA environmental assessment process, please review the AHFA

Environmental Assessment Checklist and Guidance (Projects Selected for HOME Funding) at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com).

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that HUD issued a Climate Action Plan in November 2021 (<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/HUD-Climate-Action-Plan.pdf>). AHFA anticipates that HUD will be issuing new regulations and/or guidance in connection with that plan that will be incorporated in AHFA’s Environmental Assessment Checklist and Guidance.

Although these items are not required to be provided until after an award of HOME Funds, AHFA strongly encourages applicants and their EPs to review the items prior to submitting an application to ensure that there are no environmental or other conditions at the project site that would lead to the termination of the award pursuant to 24 C.F.R. Part 58.

**“Choice-Limiting Activities” and Other Activities Prohibited:**

***Applicants for HOME Funding***

NEPA requires that no “choice-limiting activities” occur relating to the proposed project or at the project site **from the time the applicant submits a HOME Program application to AHFA until the NEPA environmental assessment process is complete** (see 24 C.F.R. § 58.22). The applicant must take all actions necessary to ensure that no participant in the development process (including the applicant, Ownership Entity, all Development Team Members, contractors, subcontractors, current property owner(s) or any other person) commits non-HUD funds or undertakes an activity that would have an adverse environmental impact or limit the choice of reasonable alternatives relating to the proposed project or project site.

For projects applying for HOME Funds (regardless of whether any other form of funding is received), prohibited “choice-limiting activities” include, but are not limited to, acquiring, purchasing, rehabilitating, demolishing, converting, leasing or repairing all or any portion of the project as well as disturbing the ground or commencing any form of construction at the project site. All such choice-limiting activities are prohibited during the NEPA environmental assessment period that (a) begins with delivery of the application to AHFA and (b) ends with AHFA’s issuance of the Notice to Proceed, which typically occurs at the pre-construction meeting conducted at AHFA’s offices in Montgomery.

If choice-limiting activities occur at a proposed project or project-site seeking HOME Funds during the prohibited period, regardless of whether the applicant consented to the activity or had knowledge of it, the application will terminate and will not be considered for funding. AHFA reserves the right to inspect a project-site at any time after submittal of an application to confirm that no choice-limiting activities are taking place.

***Applicants for Housing Credits***

AHFA also prohibits certain post-application activities on projects applying for low-income housing tax credits (“Housing Credits”). For projects applying for Housing Credits or a tax-exempt volume cap allocation (but do not receive HOME Funds), prohibited post-application activities include, but are not limited to, acquiring, changes in property ownership, rehabilitating or converting all or any portion of the proposed project or project-site as well as disturbing the ground (other than geotechnical soil borings upon advance notice to AHFA) or commencing any form of construction at the proposed project or project-site. All such post-application activities are prohibited during the review period that (a) begins with delivery of the application to AHFA and (b) ends with a written notification from AHFA that the environmental review process has been completed.

If the aforementioned prohibited activities occur at a proposed project or project-site seeking Housing Credits during the prohibited period, regardless of whether the applicant consented to the activity or had knowledge of it, the application will terminate and will not be considered for funding. AHFA reserves the right to inspect a project-site at any time after submittal of an application to confirm that no prohibited activities are taking place.

**Addendum B-1**  
**AHFA Requirements**

**NOTE: ALL REQUIREMENTS BELOW MUST BE PRESENTED IN THE DESIGNATED SECTIONS AND APPENDICES OF THE PHASE I ESA REPORT.**

**NOTE: THE LINKS TO GOVERNMENT AGENCY WEBSITES IN ADDENDUM B ARE PROVIDED SOLELY FOR CONVENIENCE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT OR ITS EP TO VERIFY THAT THE WEBSITE CONTAINS THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE APPLICABLE STANDARDS CITED HEREIN.**

UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED BELOW, EVERY PHASE I ESA REPORT SUBMITTED TO AHFA MUST AT TIME OF APPLICATION:

1. As to content, comply in all respects with the current version of the “ASTM Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process” approved by the USEPA as of the date the Phase I ESA is completed (the “ASTM Standard”) and fully adhere to AHFA’s Environmental Policy Requirements.
2. Include a complete legal description (e.g., metes and bounds) of the entire project-site and the exact project-site acreage. A tax map identifying the parcel that is the subject of the application must also be included in Appendix A of the Phase I ESA. If applicable, the Phase I ESA should state that the proposed project-site does not include the entire tax parcel, and in such instances, the outlines of the proposed project-site must be accurately illustrated on the tax map. **The project-site boundaries must be clearly marked and consistent on all figures.** Pursuant to the current ASTM Standard, the project site should be referred to as the “Subject Property” throughout the Phase I ESA.
3. Be completed and certified as to its accuracy, completeness and in conformance with the ASTM Standard and AHFA Policy Requirements by an “Environmental Professional” as defined the current ASTM Standard.
4. Include a statement that the report can be relied upon by AHFA.
5. Pursuant to Section 4.6 of the ASTM Standard and 40 CFR 312.20, the following components of every Phase I ESA must be updated if they are greater than 180 days old:
  - a. interviews with owners, operators, and occupants;
  - b. searches for recorded environmental cleanup liens;
  - c. reviews of federal, tribal, state, and local government records;
  - d. visual inspections of the subject property and of adjoining properties (include photographs taken during the visual inspection); and
  - e. declaration by the Environmental Professional (EP) responsible for the assessment or update.
6. Be in the AHFA Required Environmental Report Format (Addendum B-3).
7. Include a database search. **IMPORTANT: The facilities required to be searched and the search distances for ASTs, USTs, delisted NPLs, historic auto facilities, and historic dry cleaners (as specified in Addendum B-3) required by AHFA are more stringent than the default search distances based on the ASTM Standard.** The results and EP’s analysis of the database search must be described in the text of the Phase I ESA report (detailing the total number of listed facilities within applicable search radii from the site boundary) and include a sufficiently detailed rationale for why each facility listed in the database search should or should not be identified as a REC. Facilities ruled out as RECs may be summarized as a group; however, the EP must provide the basis

(described in sufficient detail) for ruling out groups of facilities as RECs. AHFA reserves the right to reject summaries that do not sufficiently address any facilities listed in the database search results.

8. If the proposed project involves rehabilitation, removal, or demolition of any structures the following items must be addressed (with associated cost estimates for each and documentation within project budget to account for these costs):

- a. **Asbestos Testing:** Asbestos testing must be performed to document the presence or absence of asbestos-containing materials (“ACMs”) in every structure. Testing is to be conducted by Alabama licensed, accredited inspectors meeting the requirements set forth in Ala. Admin. Code r. 822-X-2 or as otherwise specified by the Alabama Safe-State Program. Asbestos testing results must follow the applicable inspection and sampling protocols set forth in the Asbestos Hazardous Emissions Response Act (AHERA) and regulations, EPA’s National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Asbestos, Ala. Admin. Code r. 335-3-11, and all other applicable federal, state, or local regulations. All asbestos testing results must be included in the Phase I ESA at the time of application submittal. AHFA requires the Phase I ESA to include a statement that all friable and non-friable ACM in deteriorated condition will be completely abated. If funded, a plan for complete abatement by a qualified asbestos contractor of all friable and non-friable ACM in deteriorated condition in all structures will be required. An asbestos contractor’s listing may be obtained from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (“ADEM”) at 334-271-7700 or at <http://www.adem.alabama.gov>. Non-friable ACMs may be managed in place if in an intact condition, and if any proposed rehabilitation activities will not disturb the non-friable ACMs. If funded, a site-specific Operations & Maintenance Plan will be required if non-friable intact ACMs (in good condition) are to be left in place.
- b. **Lead-Based Paint (“LBP”) Testing:** For all buildings built prior to 1978, a LBP testing report must be included in the Phase I ESA. AHFA requires the Phase I ESA include a statement that all LBP will be completely abated (eliminated) by a licensed LBP contractor. If funded, the plan for LBP abatement will be required. If any structures are planned to be demolished, in lieu of a LBP testing report, it is acceptable to provide a plan for abatement via demolition that includes the appropriate management and disposal of waste in accordance with applicable solid waste regulations and the preparation of any required post-demolition clearance report compliant with applicable state, federal, and local regulations. A list of licensed LBP contractors can be obtained from the Alabama Department of Public Health (“ADPH”) at [www.adph.org](http://www.adph.org). See also Lead-Based Paint standards: US Department of HUD “Guidelines for the Evaluation and Control of Lead Paint Hazards in Housing”: Chapter 7 of [https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program\\_offices/healthy\\_homes/lbp/hudguidelines](https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/healthy_homes/lbp/hudguidelines).
- c. **Mold:** Visually check for the presence of mold and notate your findings. If mold is present or suspected to be present, the Phase I ESA shall provide recommendations for abatement and confirmation air sampling following removal.

9. All reports must include information on the following:

- a. **Radon:** Report the Alabama Department of Public Health radon zone for the county in which the project is located.<sup>2</sup> New Construction projects in all zones will require radon resistant new construction practices in all buildings pursuant to the radon requirements in the most recent version of HUD’s Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide (“HUD MAP Guide”).<sup>3</sup> Radon testing results must be provided for all rehabilitation projects in strict accordance with the most recent version of HUD’s MAP Guide, including without limitation the requirements regarding Radon Professionals and testing protocols.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.adph.org/radon/Default.asp?id=6413>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/4430GHSGG.pdf>

b. Wetlands:

- i. The applicant must engage an EP and begin evaluating the potential for wetlands on a project site as early as possible in the process of preparing an application so that if a Jurisdictional Determination (JD) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is required as set forth herein, the EP has sufficient time to meet the deadlines set forth herein. For purposes of the Phase I ESA Report, wetlands, streams, lakes, and other water bodies are defined according to the USACE Wetlands Delineation Manual (1987) and related guidance documents. The Phase I ESA report must include a United States Fish & Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) National Wetlands Inventory (“NWI”) Map with project-site boundaries clearly marked and consistent with the boundaries on all other figures. The EP must also field verify to confirm whether or not the project-site contains wetlands, streams, lakes or other water bodies, including both jurisdictional “waters of the United States” and non-jurisdictional waters and wetlands. If on any portion of the project-site (including integral offsite development areas) evidence of any wetlands, streams lakes or other water bodies are suspected to be present (based on the EP’s field observations; aerial photographs; water bodies shown on the USGS topographic map; wetlands or other aquatic resources on the NWI map; or hydric soils on the soils map), then (1) a delineation report for the project-site prepared by a qualified professional to demonstrate the absence of wetlands, streams, lakes, or other water bodies on the site, and (2) a JD from USACE will also be required to confirm the absence of wetlands, streams, lakes, or other water bodies. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the applicant is not required to provide a JD from USACE where the presence of hydric soils is the only indication of potential jurisdictional waters, and a qualified professional certifies in the delineation report that there are no hydric soils on the project-site based on field observation.
- ii. If the project-site is to be subdivided from or is a smaller tract of an existing tax parcel so as to remove all wetlands, streams, lakes, or other water bodies from the project site, a JD from USACE will also be required. Any delineation studies or assessment reports prepared for the project site or adjoining properties by the EP must be submitted with the application.
- iii. To the extent a JD must be obtained for the project site or adjoining properties, a valid JD from USACE must be provided within 60 days after the date of submission of an application to AHFA; and the application must include a copy of the request for JD to USACE along with proof of submission.
- iv. FOR ANY PROJECTS INVOLVING HOME FUNDS OR ANY NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS INVOLVING HOUSING CREDITS: No portion of the project-site may contain wetlands, streams, lakes, or other water bodies (which also includes waters of the United States) including any integral offsite development areas (e.g., offsite areas required for ingress, egress, or parking). If the presence of all such water bodies is not sufficiently ruled out in the Phase I ESA Report, AHFA reserves the right to terminate the application.
- v. FOR ANY PROJECTS INVOLVING HOUSING CREDITS SOLELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE REHABILITATION OF EXISTING MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL RENTAL HOUSING ONLY: The project-site may contain wetlands, streams, lakes or other water bodies including any integral offsite development areas (e.g., offsite areas required for ingress, egress, or parking). HOWEVER, if a delineation report is required pursuant to the foregoing Paragraph 9.b.i, the applicant must provide a JD from USACE in accordance with the foregoing Paragraph 9.b.iii, indicating that future activities conducted in connection with the project-site (including without limitation demolition, construction, rehabilitation,

and operation) will not impact any jurisdictional waters and will not require any permits administered by USACE.

- c. Floodplains (100 year (zones A or V), 500 year (zones B, C or X(shaded))): The Phase I ESA must include a FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (“Firmette”) with site boundaries clearly marked and consistent with the boundaries on all other figures. For Housing Credit Only projects, no buildings (residential or any other use) on the site can be located within the 100-year floodplain. AHFA will allow the acquisition/rehabilitation of an existing building already located in a floodplain if acceptable evidence of flood insurance is provided at time of application. For any projects receiving HOME Funds, no portion of the site, including integral offsite development areas (e.g., offsite areas required for ingress, egress, or parking), can be located within the 100-year flood plain.
- d. Noise Abatement & Control: The Phase I ESA must include (1) a completed HUD “Noise (EA) - Partner Worksheet” found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/noise-abatement-and-control/>; and (2) a completed HUD “Day/Night Noise Level Calculator” assessment found at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2830/day-night-noise-level-assessment-tool/>.

The noise level assessment must identify whether:

- There is a civil airport within five miles of the site.
- There is a military airport within 15 miles.
- There is a major road (average daily traffic count of 10,000 or more vehicles) within 1,000 feet of the site.
- There is a railroad track within 3,000 feet.

Anticipated noise levels must be measured from the project-site boundaries. Outside noise levels less than or equal to 65 dB and all interior noise levels less than or equal to 45 dB are considered “Acceptable Noise Levels”. Noise levels must be projected out to a period of 10 years beyond the date of the Phase I ESA. The Phase I ESA must include figures illustrating the location of the site boundary relative to the noise source (with distances included on each figure).

For all projects involving HOME, HOME-ARP, and HTF funds that exceed Acceptable Noise Levels, mitigating measures MUST be incorporated into the project to reduce anticipated noise levels below Acceptable Noise Levels utilizing HUD approved mitigation measures. See generally, <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/noise-abatement-and-control/>.

For all projects involving Housing Credits (but not HOME, HOME-ARP, and HTF funds) that exceed Acceptable Noise Levels, mitigating measures should be incorporated into the project to the fullest extent practicable and in accordance with HUD environmental criteria and standards contained in Subpart B (Noise Abatement and Control) of 24 CFR Part 51 and related guidance. The Phase I ESA may provide a detailed explanation as to why mitigating measures are not practicable for projects involving Housing Credits; however, AHFA retains sole discretion to determine whether such explanation is sufficient.

If in accordance with the above, mitigation measures are proposed to reduce noise levels at the project site, a noise mitigation plan must be submitted with the Phase I ESA. The noise mitigation plan must include: (a) details regarding the specific plan and its compliance with

all applicable HUD noise mitigation guidelines (b) estimated mitigation costs and (c) sound transmission classification tool (STraCAT) and/or barrier performance module; found at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/noise-abatement-and-control/>.

- e. Airport Clear Zones & Accident Potential Zones: The Phase I ESA must (1) include both a completed HUD “Airport Hazards - Partner Worksheet” and a completed HUD “Airport Runway Clear Zones Partner Worksheet” found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/airport-hazards>, and (2) attach a map (e.g., Google Earth or Google Street map) indicating the location of the project site and any airport(s) in the vicinity of the project site. AHFA will not approve an application for HOME Funds if any part of the project site is located within the runway protection zone/clear zone of a civilian airport (RPZ/CZ) or accident potential zone of a military airport (APZ). Note: Civil clear zone is 2,500 feet (0.47 miles) from the end of the runway (RPZ/CZ); military clear zone is 15,000 feet (2.8 miles) from the end of the runway (APZ). The Phase I ESA must answer the following questions:

- Is the project site located within an RPZ/CZ or APZ?
- Is the site located within a flight path?
- What is name of and distance to the airport nearest to the project site?

10. Aboveground Storage Tanks: All aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) containing 100 or more gallons of explosive or flammable liquid or gas within 1 mile of the project site must be identified in the Phase I ESA Report via database search AND field verification. The report should separately describe ASTs not listed on the database search but identified via field verification. The Phase I ESA Report must describe the contents, size, and distance of each AST to the nearest perimeter point of the project site. The EP must certify that the EP field-verified the distance of the ASTs to the nearest perimeter point of the project site. The Phase I ESA Report must also demonstrate that an acceptable separation distance (“ASD”) between any ASTs and the perimeter of the project site will be met for people as well as buildings using the HUD-approved ASD calculations. If any ASTs are determined to be less than the HUD-approved ASD, the Phase I ESA must describe the most current mitigation measures approved by HUD that are proposed to be installed and a cost estimate for any such measures.<sup>4</sup>

11. The EP must obtain from the Applicant a completed User Questionnaire as required in the ASTM Standard to include with the Phase I ESA Report.

12. The EP must complete Addendum B-4 (The Letter of Reliance) on the EP’s letterhead and submit as Appendix H.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR EVERY PHASE II ESA SUBMITTED TO AHFA:

1. All Phase II ESA Reports must fully address all RECs identified in the Phase I ESA Report (including any RECs that AHFA determines should have been identified in the Phase I ESA but were not); must be completed in accordance with the most current versions of ASTM E1903,

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<sup>4</sup> Attach the results of the HUD ASD Calculator tool found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/asd-calculator>. HUD approved acceptable mitigation measures currently can be found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/explosive-and-flammable-facilities/>. Complete and submit the HUD “Explosives - Partner Worksheet” found at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/explosive-and-flammable-facilities/>.



AEIRG, and the ARBCA guidance; and must demonstrate that all environmental conditions associated with the project are appropriate for unrestricted residential use (as defined by ADEM under Alabama Administrative Code regulation 335-15-1.02(ddd), other than the sole exceptions described on Page B-1 of this Addendum B.

2. All Phase II ESA Reports must also include all applicable investigation elements detailed in Section 2.3 of the AEIRG and provide the basis for the sampling strategy employed (see Section 2.3.7 of the AEIRG, February 2017).
3. If the EP believes or contends that any Chemicals of Concern (“COC”) detected are consistent with or in line with “background conditions,” the EP shall provide a basis for such an opinion. Methods for doing so include, but are not limited to, the U.S.G.S. studies for COCs in the same geographic region and sufficient background samples to be analyzed and evaluated under the current version of AEIRG.

#### REQUIREMENTS FOR EVERY REMEDIATION OR MITIGATION PLAN SUBMITTED TO AHFA:

1. Excepting only plans for radon resistant new construction, for all remediation or mitigation measures that have been or are recommended to be performed to resolve any environmental issue identified in a Phase I ESA or Phase II ESA, the following must be submitted at the time of application: (a) details regarding the specific remediation plan; (b) all applicable final regulatory authority approvals required for the implementation of the remediation plan; (c) a detailed line item summary of estimated costs with supporting quotes; (d) information regarding the expected source of funding for conducting the remediation activities; (e) a projected schedule for approved remediation activities; and (f) a copy of any proposed environmental covenants documenting any planned institutional or engineering controls.
2. To the extent there are conflicting or inconsistent guidelines or methods between regulatory agencies concerning the environmental matter at issue, the EP shall follow the most stringent standard and certify that this standard has been satisfied.

**(MUST BE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL’S LETTERHEAD)**

**Addendum B-2**

**Engagement Letter**

Click here to enter a date.

[Applicant]

RE: Phase I ESA Report [or subsequent Environmental Reports] for:

Applicant

Development Name

Development Address

Dear [Applicant]:

Please accept this letter setting forth the terms of engagement (“Engagement Letter”) under which our Firm will provide environmental consulting services to you and your company for purposes of conducting a Phase I ESA Report [or subsequent Environmental Reports] for the Development Project at the designated address set forth above.

It is our Firm’s understanding that the nature and scope of the environmental professional services to be provided to you are as follows:

1. Our Firm has been engaged by [APPLICANT] to conduct a Phase I ESA at the Development location specified above in conformance with the scope and limitations of both the current ASTM Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process and AHFA’s Environmental Policy Requirements.
2. Our Firm certifies that the Phase I ESA Report will be conducted and completed by an Environmental Professional (as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 312.10(b)) and the Phase I ESA, once completed, will also be certified in this same manner.
3. Our Firm understands that the information contained in the Phase I ESA Report will be used by Alabama Housing Finance Authority (“AHFA”) in considering proposed financing of residential development/rehabilitation of the property and, therefore, AHFA may rely upon the Phase I ESA Report in its entirety as if it were originally issued to AHFA. While AHFA will be entitled to rely upon the Phase I ESA Report in its entirety, the Applicant will be solely responsible for any and all fees and expenses associated with completing this scope of engagement.
4. Our Firm understands the AHFA Insurance Requirements that are required for this scope of work and these insurance requirements have been satisfied and addressed as follows:
  - a. The Firm has Professional Liability and/or Errors and Omissions insurance coverage in the minimum amounts of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per event or occurrence;
  - b. The Firm has Worker’s Compensation Insurance and Public Liability Insurance for bodily injury and property damage which may be suffered by third parties and members of the public in the minimum amounts of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per event or occurrence; and<sup>5</sup>
  - c. The Firm has Comprehensive General Liability and Property Damage Insurance for bodily injury and property damage in the minimum amounts of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

Our Firm understands that it shall provide a copy of its Insurance Certificate or Accord demonstrating that it satisfies the AHFA Insurance Requirements and listing or scheduling

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<sup>5</sup> Where applicable, it is acceptable for the following to be used instead: Per the attached documentation, the Firm has only [#] employees and is exempt from Alabama Workers’ Compensation Laws.

AHFA as an additional insured for the Comprehensive General Liability and Property Damage insurance policies.

5. Our Firm understands that to the extent recommendations are being provided by the EP to the Applicant concerning Phase I ESA work to be performed, mitigation or abatement measures, or additional assessment (“Additional Work”), those recommendations for Additional Work shall be provided to AHFA at the time of Application. Further, our Firm understands that the Applicant shall not have the authority to authorize or instruct the EP or our Firm to implement such recommendations without AHFA’s express written concurrence.
6. Our Firm also understands that once the Applicant submits its Application to AHFA, none of the Applicant, the EP (or our firm), the current property owner or any agent of said parties may undertake or conduct any Choice Limiting Activity at the Development project site. For avoidance of doubt, our Firm will seek written authorization for any Additional Work from AHFA before proceeding. In addition, our Firm understands that once the Applicant submits its Application to AHFA, our Firm shall not engage in communications with the Applicant and or any governmental or regulatory agencies concerning Additional Work and any related activities concerning the Development project site without first obtaining written authorization from AHFA (except when responding to any written request by AHFA to the Applicant for additional information regarding or clarification of the Phase I ESA). Our Firm appreciates the opportunity to work with the Applicant and AHFA in undertaking the Phase I ESA engagement and looks forward to working with you.

DRAFT

**Addendum B-3**

**AHFA Required Environmental Report Format**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** .....

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    1.2 TIER 1 VAPOR ENCROACHMENT SCREENING (must include discussion of results).....

    1.3 AHFA NON-SCOPE SUMMARY.....

    1.4 RECOMMENDATIONS (If there is a potential for contamination to be present on the subject property, regardless of on-site or off-site sources of the contamination, recommendations for additional testing or assessment must be included) .....

    1.5 OTHER .....

**2.0 INTRODUCTION** .....

    2.1 PURPOSE OF SERVICES (MUST state EP understands that the purpose of the Phase I ESA is to ascertain whether the property is environmentally suitable for construction/rehabilitation of multi-family residential housing) .....

    2.2 DETAILED SCOPE OF SERVICES .....

    2.3 SIGNIFICANT ASSUMPTIONS.....

    2.4 PROJECT-SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS.....

    2.5 SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS .....

    2.6 RELIANCE (Must indicate AHFA can rely on report) .....

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**3.0 USER-PROVIDED INFORMATION** .....

    3.1 TITLE RECORDS .....

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    4.1 METHODOLOGY AND LIMITING CONDITIONS .....

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    4.3 EXTERIOR OBSERVATIONS .....

    4.4 INTERIOR OBSERVATIONS .....

    4.5 CURRENT AND PAST USES OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY (including property ownership history).....

    4.6 CURRENT AND PAST USES OF ADJOINING PROPERTIES.....

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**5.0 RECORDS REVIEW** .....

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5.1.1 Topography, Surface Water, and Hydrogeology.....

5.1.2 Geology .....

5.1.3 Soils.....

5.2 DATABASE REPORT (Discuss all listed regulated facilities, other notable facilities, and orphan facilities) .....

5.2.1 Search Distances - Distances should be measured from the subject property boundary. Use the default search distances outlined in the current ASTM Standard except for the following listings which shall be searched at distances greater than the ASTM standard:

- Federal Delisted NPL Sites: 1.0 mile
- Aboveground Storage Tanks: 1.0 mile
- Underground Storage Tanks: 0.5 mile
- Historic Auto Facilities: 0.5 mile
- Historic Dry Cleaners: 0.5 mile

.....

5.2.2 Mappable Sites (EP must field-verify the distance to any facilities identified) .....

5.2.3 Unmappable Sites.....

5.3 STANDARD HISTORICAL INFORMATION (Check with local government, library, fire department, courthouse, etc.) .....

5.4 STANDARD HISTORICAL RESOURCES (include all documents in Appendix D).....

5.4.1 Aerial Photographs .....

5.4.2 City Directories (must include site and surrounding properties in all directions).....

5.4.3 Sanborn® Fire Insurance Maps.....

5.4.4 Historical Topographic Maps.....

5.5 OTHER HISTORICAL SOURCES .....

**6.0 INTERVIEWS.....**

6.1 STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (MAYOR, FIRE DEPARTMENT, LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ETC.) (Interviews will be conducted first in person, if unavailable then by phone, then via written communication. Verify which method used and include name, contact information, and date of interview) .....

6.2 APPLICANT/DEVELOPER .....

6.3 PROPERTY OWNERS .....

6.4 SITE MANAGER, OCCUPANTS, & LOCAL RESIDENTS .....

6.5 OTHERS.....

**7.0 ADDITIONAL AHFA REQUIRED ELEMENTS.....**

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7.2 ASBESTOS .....

7.3 LEAD-BASED PAINT.....

7.4 MOLD.....

7.5 RADON .....

7.6 WETLANDS .....

7.7 FLOODPLAINS .....

7.8 NOISE ABATEMENT & CONTROL .....

7.9 AIRPORT CLEAR ZONES & ACCIDENT POTENTIAL ZONES (Must provide detailed summary for each item).....

7.10 STATEMENT FROM EP THAT SUBJECT PROPERTY MEETS REQUIREMENTS OF 24 CFR 58.5(i)(2) .....

7.11 OTHER.....

**8.0 EVALUATION (FINDINGS, OPINIONS, AND CONCLUSIONS).....**

8.1 PHASE I ESA .....

8.2 ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIONS, LIMITATIONS, EXCEPTIONS, DEVIATIONS, AND DATA GAPS .....

8.3 CONCLUSIONS AND ASTM STATEMENT (Must certify EP conducted the Phase I ESA in accordance with the current ASTM Standard and AHFA’s Environmental Policy Requirements) (Must state whether the property is suitable for or may satisfy the residential use standard based upon EP’s best professional judgment) .....

8.4 EP STATEMENT (40 CFR PART 312) AND SIGNATURE .....

8.5 OTHER .....

**9.0 REFERENCES.....**

**APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A FIGURES (SITE BOUNDARIES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED AND CONSISTENT ON ALL FIGURES)**

- i. GOOGLE EARTH MAP
- ii. TAX MAP
- iii. SITE LOCATION MAP
- iv. SCHEMATIC SITE PLAN
- v. TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
- vi. NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP
- vii. FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

NOTE: Items i., ii., and iii. must include:

- a). An area large enough to display the location of the site and adjoining properties including existing streets.
- b). Identification of environmental concerns, where applicable, including off-site sources or locations that have the potential to adversely impact the property.
- c). Boundaries of floodplains, wetlands, drainage features, jurisdictional waters, and/or potential waters of the State on or potentially impacted by proposed activities at the site.)
- d). A North arrow.

- APPENDIX B PROPERTY RECORDS AND USER QUESTIONNAIRE
- APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL LIEN/ACTIVITY USE LIMITATIONS RESEARCH
- APPENDIX D ENVIRONMENTAL DATABASE REPORT
- APPENDIX E HISTORICAL RECORDS DOCUMENTATION
- APPENDIX F SITE AND VICINITY PHOTOGRAPHS
- APPENDIX G INTERVIEW DOCUMENTATION (Document the interviewee’s contact information and date of interview)
- APPENDIX H AHFA RELIANCE LETTER (Addendum B-4 on EP letterhead)
- APPENDIX I ENGAGEMENT LETTER/CONTRACT (Addendum B-2 on EP letterhead)
- APPENDIX J PROFESSIONAL RESUMES/PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

APPENDIX K AHFA-REQUIRED ELEMENTS:

K.1 VAPOR ENCROACHMENT SCREENING DOCUMENTATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH ASTM E2600-22

K.2 PROOF OF INSURANCE – AHFA MINIMUMS OR ABOVE (AHFA must be listed as Insured)

K.3 SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

K.3A ASD Calculator Sheets and figure illustrating location of all ASTs within 1 mile of the site and their distance from the site boundary

K.3B Asbestos Testing Results with laboratory analytical data reports and documentation that the testing was completed by an accredited asbestos inspector licensed in Alabama (include copy of proof of accreditation)

K.3C Lead-Based Paint Testing Results with laboratory analytical data reports

K.3D Radon Testing Results (must include sample location map, number of units tested, number of units on the site, and documentation that the radon testing was completed by a certified Radon Professional (include copy of the Radon Professional's proof of certification)

K.3E Wetlands Delineation Report and Request for Jurisdictional Determination (as applicable)

K.3F Floodplains documentation and evidence of flood insurance (as applicable)

K.3G Noise Evaluation (must include current HUD Partner Worksheets, DNL Calculator Sheets (to include a 10-year noise projection), figures clearly illustrating the site boundary and noise source (with distances to each source clearly indicated on the figures), and, if required, mitigation measures, cost estimate, and STraCAT and/or Barrier Performance Module.

K.3H Airport Hazards with all required Airport Hazard Worksheets, Runway Clear Zones, and a Google Earth (or equivalent) map illustrating the site location relative to each airport within the specified distances.

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**Addendum B-4  
Letter of Reliance**

**MUST BE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL'S LETTERHEAD**

Click here to enter a date.

Alabama Housing Finance Authority  
7460 Halcyon Pointe Drive, Suite 200  
Montgomery, AL 36117

RE: Phase I ESA Report [or subsequent Environmental Reports] for:

Development Name

Development Address

Development City, State Zip

Please find enclosed the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) Report [or subsequent Environmental Reports] for the subject property dated [Click here to enter a date] to the Alabama Housing Finance Authority (AHFA).

It is my understanding that the information contained in the ESA Report(s) will be used by AHFA in considering proposed financing of residential development/rehabilitation of the property and, therefore, AHFA may rely upon the ESA Report in its entirety as if it were originally issued to AHFA.

I certify that the attached is a true, correct and complete copy of the ESA Report and that the report represents my professional opinion of the site as of this date. I also confirm the evaluation, recommendations, and conclusions contained in the ESA Report have been performed in conformance with the scope and limitations of both the current ASTM Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process and AHFA's Environmental Policy Requirements.

Last, I also certify by my signature below that [INSERT NAME] meets the definition of an Environmental Professional as defined by 40 C.F.R. § 312.10(b) and has performed the environmental investigations described above.


Sincerely,

Environmental Professional Name

Environmental Professional Company Name



**Addendum C**

 **Alabama Housing Finance Authority's  
2025-2026 Design Quality Standards and Construction  
Manual**

DRAFT

# **Alabama Housing Finance Authority’s 2025 – 2026 Design Quality Standards and Construction Manual**

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- I. Introduction
- II. Requirements for All Approved Projects
- III. Attached New Construction Rental Units
- IV. New Construction Single-Family Rental Units
- V. Inspections and Reports

**WITHOUT LIMITING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS HOME ACTION PLAN, ALL DETERMINATIONS, CALCULATIONS, JUDGMENTS, ASSESSMENTS OR OTHER DECISIONS MADE BY AHFA UNDER THIS ADDENDUM, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION RELATED APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, AHFA FORMS AND THE HOME ACTION PLAN ITSELF, SHALL BE MADE IN AHFA’S SOLE AND ABSOLUTE DISCRETION.**

## **I. Introduction**

***All projects must be designed and constructed in accordance with the following Building Codes and Accessibility Requirements***

- A. Building Codes:** All Projects must be designed and constructed in accordance with current locally adopted International Building Code or International Residential Code at the time construction is permitted or no earlier than the 2009 IBC or IRC in the absence of a local building department, the International Energy Conservation Code of Alabama, any more restrictive local building codes or ordinances, and any local disaster mitigation standards.
- B. Accessibility Standards:** All Projects must be designed and constructed in accordance with the applicable requirements of the Fair Housing ACT<sup>3</sup>, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act<sup>4</sup>, 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, and IBC Chapter 11 and code referenced ICC ANSI A117.1.
- C. Special Accommodations:** Projects may opt to exceed building codes and design quality standards to provide customized and other special accommodations, as applicable, for persons with disabilities, specifically when using National Housing Trust (HTF) or HOME-ARP funding sources.

Any deviations from these standards must have the written approval of AHFA prior to submitting an application for funding during the Competitive or Non-Competitive Application Cycles. The request for approval, with all supporting documentation, must be submitted to AHFA at least 30 days prior to submitting a final application for funding. Once the project begins construction and through the end of construction of project, any deviation must have written approval before any work commences or any deviation is made on the construction site. Any deviation requested and approved will be charged the appropriate fee. A complete list of fees is located at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com).

## **II. Requirements for All Approved Projects**

### **A. Site Specific Criteria:**

- 1.) Per Addendum B, no portion of any HOME proposed sites can be located within a 100-year flood plain or contain any wetlands, streams, lakes, or other water bodies (which also includes waters of the United States) including any integral offsite development areas (e.g., offsite areas required for ingress, egress, or parking). Under certain conditions as specified in Addendum B, portions of Housing Credit

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<sup>3</sup> Reference to the HUD-approved FHA Safe Harbor selected must be included in the construction documents.

<sup>4</sup> Reference to the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard in this document may alternatively be satisfied by the application of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design with exceptions not deemed as equivalent in 24CFR Part8 [Docket No. FR-5784-N-01] effective May 24, 2014.

proposed sites can be located within a 100-year flood plain or contain wetlands, streams, lakes, or other water bodies (which also includes waters of the United States).

- 2.) New Construction projects in all zones will require radon resistant new construction practices in all buildings pursuant to the radon requirements in the most recent version of HUD's Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide.<sup>5</sup> Radon testing results must be provided for all rehabilitation projects in accordance with the most recent version of HUD's Multifamily Accelerated Processing (MAP) Guide. For the most current radon information see: [www.adph.org/radon](http://www.adph.org/radon).
- 3.) New Construction Rental Units: All new construction developments must submit a complete site-specific soils report, not more than one year old at the time of submission of final plans and specifications, bound within the project specifications. The soils report must reflect the results of laboratory tests conducted on a minimum of 1 soil boring per planned building location and a minimum of 2 soil borings at the planned paved areas of the development. A registered professional engineer or a certified testing agency with a current license to practice in the State of Alabama must prepare the report.
- 4.) New Construction Single-Family Rental Homes: All developments must submit a complete site-specific soils report, not more than one year old at the time of submission of final plans and specifications, bound within the project specifications. The soils report must reflect the results of laboratory tests conducted on a minimum of 1 soil boring for every 2 single family buildings and a minimum of 2 soil borings at the planned paved areas of the development. A registered professional engineer or a certified testing agency with a current license to practice in the State of Alabama must prepare the report.
- 5.) Rehabilitation of an Existing Building: Projects adding any new building foundations must submit a foundation specific soils report. The soils report must reflect the results of laboratory tests conducted on a minimum of one soil boring per planned building location and a minimum of 2 soil borings at the planned paved areas of the development. A registered professional engineer or a certified testing agency with a current license to practice in the State of Alabama must prepare the report.

**B. Site Located Outside Municipal City Limits:**

- 1.) A proposed new construction site or existing project may be located outside a municipality's city limit but must be within the local police or sheriff jurisdiction.
- 2.) A proposed site or existing project that is located in the police jurisdiction of a local municipality must comply with applicable Zoning restrictions as if located within that municipality's city limit.
- 3.) Domestic water and fire water service must be provided to the development by the local utility service provider.

**C. Project Standards:**

- 1.) Clubhouse/Community Building Standards:

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/4430GHSGG-BM.PDF>

The eligible square footage of the project's clubhouse/community building or space(s) is 3,000 square feet heated and cooled (inclusive of the office area, community laundry, community meeting room, restrooms, kitchens, etc.). The clubhouse/community building or space(s) may exceed 3,000 square feet heated and cooled but any square footage exceeding this amount will not be included in the Eligible Basis used to calculate the Housing Credit. The clubhouse/community building or space(s) is required to meet all applicable accessibility standards.

2.) Elderly Project Standards:

All 100% Elderly projects must be one-story structures. Exception: Projects may have more than one story, provided elevators are to be installed to service all upper-level apartments. Design exceptions, or deviations, must be reviewed by AHFA on an individual basis.

3.) Required Unit Amenities:

All projects are required to have the following unit amenities for all units:

- Range
- Refrigerator with Ice Maker
- Dishwasher
- Microwave
- Washer and Dryer Connections
- Heater
- Air Conditioner
- Ceiling Fans

All units must include an exterior storage closet with a minimum area of sixteen (16) square feet and either a single coated wire shelf that spans the length of the closet or a grouping of smaller coated wire shelves. Developments designed with all interior unit access must provide the additional required exterior storage for each unit in the interior of the building(s). It may be located inside the unit, on the tenants' floor, or in a common area. All exterior and interior storage must be lockable.

4.) Modular Construction:

Modular units are to be constructed in component sections and assembled by a manufacturer in a controlled environment. The component sections are to be assembled on a conventional permanent foundation at the project site. Finish work is to be completed on site. Modular units must be constructed to meet applicable building codes, AHFA's specifications and Design Quality Standards stated herein. A modular home manufacturer's warranty must be provided.

5.) Drawing Submission Criteria:

The following documents must be prepared by a registered architect, surveyor, or engineer licensed to practice in the State of Alabama.

- a. Site Plan: The following items must be shown.
  - i. Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet or larger.
  - ii. North arrow.

- iii. Locations of existing buildings, utilities, roadways, parking areas if applicable.
- iv. Existing site/Zoning restrictions including setbacks, rights of ways, boundary lines, wetlands, and flood plain.
- v. All proposed changes and proposed buildings, parking, utilities, and landscaping.
- vi. Existing and proposed topography of site.
- vii. Finished floor height elevations and all new paving dimensions and elevations.
- viii. Identification of all specialty apartment units, including, but not limited to, designated handicapped accessible and sensory impaired apartment units.
- ix. Provide an accessible route site plan with applicable details.

b. Floor Plans:

- i. Scale: 1/4 inch = 1 foot or larger for typical units.
- ii. Show room/space layout, identifying each room/space with name and indicate finished space size of all rooms on unit plans.
- iii. Indicate the total gross square foot size, and the net square foot size for each typical unit.

For projects involving removal of asbestos and/or lead paint, identify location and procedures for removal.

c. Elevations:

- i. Scale: 1/8 inch = 1 foot or larger. (3/32 inch will be acceptable for buildings that 1/8 inch would require the buildings to be drawn with match lines)
- ii. Identify all materials to be used on building exteriors and foundations.

d. Title Sheet:

Indicate Building Codes and Accessibility Standards that are applicable for the project.

6.) Building Thermal Envelope Testing Requirements:

The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate not exceeding 5 air changes per hour. Testing shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM E 779 or ASTM E 1827 and reported at a pressure of 0.2 inches w.g. (50 Pascals). Testing shall be conducted by a certified HERS rater and written reports signed by the rater showing compliance are to be provided to the Owners. Owners must furnish copies to AHFA for record. Testing shall be performed at any time after creation of all penetrations of the building thermal envelope. During testing:

- a. Exterior windows and doors, fireplace and stove doors shall be closed, but not sealed, beyond the intended weather-stripping or other infiltration control measures.
- b. Dampers including exhaust, intake, makeup air, backdraft and flue

dampers shall be closed, but not sealed beyond intended infiltration control measures.

- c. Interior doors, if installed at the time of the test, shall be open.
- d. Exterior doors for continuous ventilation systems and heat recovery ventilators shall be closed and sealed.
- e. Heating and cooling systems, if installed at the time of the test, shall be turned off.
- f. Supply and return registers, if installed at the time of the test, shall be fully open.

7.) Duct Leakage Testing Requirements:

The total leakage of the ducts shall be measured by a certified HERS rater in accordance with Section R403.3.3 of the International Energy Conservation Code of Alabama. Written reports signed by the rater showing compliance are to be provided to the Owner who will furnish copies to AHFA for inclusion with Observation Reports sent to AHFA. Testing shall be as follows:

- a. Rough-in test: The total leakage shall be less than or equal to 4 cubic feet per minute (113.3 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29 m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned floor area where the air handler is installed at the time of the test. Where the air handler is not installed at the time of the test, the total leakage shall be less than or equal to 3 cubic feet per minute (85 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29 m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned floor area.
- b. Post-construction test: Total leakage to the outside shall be less than or equal to 4 cubic feet per minute (113.3 L/min) per 100 square feet (9.29 m<sup>2</sup>) of conditioned floor area.

***Testing Protocol & Situational Exemption***

**Air and Duct Leakage Testing Requirements in Rehabilitation Projects**

Units are required to achieve a 20% improvement over existing conditions based upon pre-rehabilitation duct leakage and air dwelling unit air filtration rates or meet the code required duct and envelope leakage rates. All projects must complete pre-rehab duct leakage and dwelling air infiltration test to determine a baseline. To arrive at the pre-rehabilitation leakage rates, a sampling of units (that includes at least one of each unit type in its various configurations within the property but not less than 25% of all units) must have pre-rehabilitation duct leakage and dwelling unit air infiltration performance testing, utilizing RESNET-approved performance testing methodologies, conducted upon them prior to the rehabilitation of the property.

1) Exterior Building Standards:

(i) Exterior Finishing Materials:

- a) Exterior building coverings: very low maintenance materials are required. Acceptable materials include:
  - a) Brick;

- b) High quality vinyl siding with a minimum thickness of .044 and a lifetime non-prorated limited warranty (50 year) transferable;
- c) Cementitious siding and trim material; or
- d) Engineered composite siding and trim material.

All siding materials listed above are required to be 12 inches above the finished floor elevation of the building ground floor, with the exception of concrete patio and covered breezeway areas. Brick, decorative block or cultured stone must be used as an apron material.

- b) Fascia and soffit: Must be prefinished vinyl, prefinished aluminum, cementitious trim or engineered composite trim. Material used for soffits must be perforated or vented.
- c) Window frames and sashes are to be constructed of vinyl-clad wood, solid extruded vinyl, fiberglass, or aluminum and all windows are required to have screens.
- d) Materials for entry doors are to be metal-clad wood, fiberglass, or metal insulated construction. “Peepholes” and deadbolt locks are required in entry doors. Dead bolt locks on entry doors must have “thumb latch” on interior side. Double keyed dead bolt locks are prohibited. Minimum clear width of all exterior doors must be 34 inches.
- e) All attics shall be vented.

(ii) Other Exterior Standards:

- a) Address numbers are to be clearly visible.
- b) Metal flashing or 20 mil polyethylene when used in conjunction with a self-adhering polyethylene laminate flashing, must be installed above all exterior door and window units.
- c) A lighted project sign including the Fair Housing logo is required. Depending on the placement as it relates to the access of the property from the public road, the project’s sign may require the project’s name and Fair Housing logo on both sides of the sign.
- d) Continuous asphalt or concrete paved access road must be provided to the entrance of the development.
- e) Mailboxes, playground, and all exterior project amenities must meet the accessibility requirements of the applicable accessibility standards. All exterior project amenities that have exposed components used as part of the structure must be constructed so that no wood is exposed. Concealment shall be with materials such as aluminum or vinyl siding or cementitious materials. Decorative rails and/or guard rail systems used shall be code compliant systems of vinyl, fiberglass, or metal. Wood railings are not allowed. Gazebos and picnic shelters shall have table(s) with attached bench seating.
- f) No above ground propane tanks allowed on the site.
- g) Storm Water retention basins (existing, shared and/or newly constructed) must be located within the property and include fencing around the entire perimeter with a lockable maintenance



gate. The retention area will be maintained and managed in a manner to provide safety to the tenants. Including preventing vermin, insect and reptile infestation, vegetation overgrowth, and must be kept free of all trash and debris.

2) Interior Building and Space Standards:

(i) Kitchen spaces:

- a) A minimum 6 1/2-inch deep double bowl stainless steel sink is required in each unit. For Handicapped accessible units, a 5-inch deep sink with offset drains shall be used.
- b) Each unit must be equipped with a 2.5 lb. ABC rated dry chemical fire extinguisher readily accessible in the kitchen and mounted to accommodate handicapped accessible height in accessible units. Each unit must also contain either fire protection canisters above the cooktop surface or temperature limiting plates on the cooktop surface.
- c) New cabinets must have dual sidetrack drawers and no laminate or particleboard fronts for doors or drawer fronts. Cabinets must meet the ANSI/KCMA A161.1 performance and construction standard for kitchen and vanity cabinets. Cabinets must bear the certification seal of KCMA (Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association).
- d) An energy efficient light fixture (4-foot long fluorescent fixture or an equivalent LED light fixture(s) is required.
- e) The following appliances, where provided, must be Energy Star rated: Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Washer, and Dryer.
- f) A grease shield is required behind ranges on the wall, unless a full hard tile splash is provided.

(ii) Bathroom Spaces:

- a) Tub/shower units must have minimum dimensions of 30-inch width by 60- inch length and be equipped with anti-scald valves. Integral wood blocking in walls as per Fair Housing guidelines is required unless integral factory reinforcement is provided. All tubs in designated handicap accessible units must come complete with “factory-installed grab bars” where the tub surrounds are reinforced. If the tub surrounds are not factory reinforced fiberglass, hard tile, cultured marble or composite materials; solid wood blocking must be installed to meet Fair Housing guidelines.
- b) Water closets must be installed to comply with applicable accessibility guidelines.
- c) Mirror length must extend to top of vanity backsplash with top of mirror a minimum of 6’-0” above finish floor. Framed decorative mirrors or medicine cabinets with mirrors are allowed with a minimum size of 14” x 24”.
- d) Vanity cabinets with drawers or a vanity cabinet without drawers and a linen cabinet with drawers. All cabinets in designated handicap accessible units must be installed in compliance with applicable accessibility guidelines.

- (iii) Hallways must have a minimum clear width of 36 inches or greater as per applicable accessibility standards.
- (iv) Separately switched overhead lighting is required in each room. Energy Star Ceiling fans with light kits are required in the living room and each bedroom. Where the ceilings are 9' or greater, the fan must be Energy Star rated. For Handicapped Units, a separate wall switch that operates the light independently from the fan speed control must be provided. Light kits for all ceiling fans must be furnished with Energy Star LED lamps.
- (v) Window treatments are required for all windows.
- (vi) Sliding glass doors are prohibited in residential units.
- (vii) All smoke detectors must be hard-wired with battery back-up. The number of smoke detectors installed must meet the applicable building code based on the project and unit design. Units with an attached garage must have a combo smoke/carbon monoxide detector installed.
- (viii) Buildings and/or units with gas mechanical systems or appliances must install carbon monoxide detectors. The number of carbon monoxide detectors installed must meet the applicable building code based on the project and unit design. Units with an attached garage must have a combo smoke/carbon monoxide detector installed.

3) Plumbing and Mechanical Equipment:

- (i) Water heaters must be placed in drain pans with drain piping plumbed to the outside or to an indirect drain connected to the sanitary sewer system. Water heater T&P relief valve discharge must meet applicable building code requirements. Additionally:
  - a) Electric water heaters must be high efficiency with a minimum 0.93 Uniform Energy Factor (UEF) for a 30-gallon tank or minimum .92 UEF for a 40-gallon tank.
  - b) Gas water heaters must be high efficiency with a minimum 0.60 Uniform Energy Factor (UEF) for a 30-gallon tank or minimum .58 UEF for a 40-gallon tank.
- (ii) Through-wall HVAC units are not permitted in residential units except in efficiency units.
- (iii) CPVC supply piping is not allowed for interior space in-wall or overhead services.
- (iv) HVAC units and water heaters are not permitted in attic spaces. HVAC units must be installed in Mechanical Closets with insulated walls located within the living unit. Water heaters are to be located within the living unit.
- (v) HVAC refrigeration lines must be insulated.
- (vi) HVAC Equipment must meet or exceed current EPA Standards for the Southeastern Region.

**VIII. Attached New Construction Rental Units**

The following outline of minimum standards must be used in designing Housing Credit and HOME Funds projects of twelve or more attached units.

**A. Minimum Building Standards:**

1) Minimum Apartment Unit Net Area Requirements:

Net area is measured from the **interior finished face** of the exterior wall to the **interior finished face** of the common or tenant separation wall.

Minimum Bedroom Net Area is measured from the interior faces of all walls surrounding each bedroom, excluding closets, mechanical rooms, and storage rooms.

<u>Unit Type</u>	<u>Number of Bathrooms</u>	<u>Minimum Unit Net Area*</u>	<u>Min. Bedroom Net Area</u>
1 Bedroom	1	725 s.f.	120 s.f.
2 Bedroom	1	900 s.f.	120 s.f.
2 Bedroom	1.5	925 s.f.	120 s.f.
2 Bedroom	2	975 s.f.	120 s.f.
3 Bedroom	2	1,200 s.f.	120 s.f.
4 Bedroom	2	1,455 s.f.	120 s.f.

*\*Note 1: Net unit areas do not include outside storage, covered porches, patios, balconies, etc.*

Exceptions to the minimum area requirements:

Single-Room Occupancy (“SRO”) projects

2) Exterior Building Standards:

(i) Exterior Finishing Materials:

- a) Roofing materials: Anti-fungal shingles or metal roof with 30-year warranty or better must be used. (Single-Ply roofing membrane systems with a 30-year product warranty may be acceptable with approval by AHFA).
- b) Roof gable vents must be made of aluminum or vinyl materials.
- c) All attics shall be vented.
- d) All primary entries must be within a breezeway or have a minimum roof covering of 3-feet deep by 5-feet wide, and must be designed to divert water away from the entry door. Entry pads measuring 4 feet by 4 feet and made of impervious material with a slope that meets Fair Housing and ADA standards are required at each exterior entry.
- e) All breezeways must be constructed of concrete floor/decking material.
- f) Exterior shutters are required on all 100% brick or vinyl siding buildings. The shutters must be on the front of the buildings visible from the parking areas.
- g) Stairway components, such as stringers, treads, and risers must be constructed from steel or concrete. All project steps must include a kick plate in between each step beginning at the first step nearest to the ground and ending at the nearest step at the balcony or landing. Handrails and pickets must be constructed from steel or aluminum.
- h) Patio and porch/balcony components used as part of the building must have concrete slabs or decks and must be constructed so that no wood is exposed. Concealment must be with materials such as aluminum, vinyl, cementitious materials trim or engineered composite trim. Structural wood columns must be at a minimum 6” x 6” pressure treated columns concealed as noted above or properly sized columns of steel, fiberglass, high density urethane or aluminum. Decorative rails and/or guard rail systems used at porches and patios must be code compliant systems of vinyl, fiberglass, steel, or aluminum. Wooden support posts must be installed to prevent degradation (rotting) to ends of posts and to provide for structural and anchoring of post to slab. Wood railings are not allowed.

(ii) Other Exterior Standards:

- a) Adequate exterior lighting is required in all covered exterior breezeways/walkways. Exterior lighting fixtures are required at all entry doors. The fixtures must be controlled from the interior of the unit. Exterior light fixtures at apartment unit entry doors in apartment buildings with enclosed, heated, and cooled corridors

- are not required when the corridor lighting remains on all the time.
- b) One and one-half parking spaces per living unit required for family units, one space per unit for elderly units, two parking spaces for single family homes, and two parking spaces for each duplex, unless local code dictates otherwise, and no designated street parking allowed.
  - c) A landscaping plan must be submitted indicating areas to be sodded and landscaped. Landscaping plan(s) must follow any applicable municipal landscape ordinance. At a minimum, 20 feet of solid sod must be provided (if ground space allows) from all sides of every building and between all buildings and paved areas. All disturbed areas must be seeded. Landscaping around and between the buildings is allowed. At a minimum, provide one 2” caliper tree per unit (minimum height (6’) for qualifying multi-trunk trees) and 6 1-gallon shrubs per unit.
  - d) Concrete curbing is required along all paved areas throughout the development site, including parking areas. (Valley curbs are not allowed)
  - e) Sidewalk access to all parking spaces must be provided. Where the accessible route on the site crosses a vehicular roadway, crosswalk lines are required. They shall not be less than 6 inches or greater than 24 inches in width.
  - f) A minimum of one trash dumpster or compactor enclosed on a minimum of 3 sides is required. All exposed components used as part of the structure must be constructed so that no wood is exposed. Concealment shall be with materials such as aluminum or vinyl siding or cementitious materials. The trash dumpster/compactor enclosure must meet applicable accessibility standards and have a concrete apron. If the dumpster itself is not accessible, trashcans must be placed within the enclosure for use by handicap tenants.
  - g) All parking must be asphalt or concrete. An asphalt or concrete paving recommendation letter must be provided with the reservation items by a geotechnical engineer.
  - h) All sidewalks and walkways must be concrete and at least 36 inches wide. All public buildings, clubhouse/community building and amenities must be connected to the dwelling units by a sidewalk or walkway.
  - i) Mailboxes, playground, and all exterior project amenities must meet the accessibility requirements of the applicable accessibility standards. All exterior project amenities that have exposed components used as part of the structure must be constructed so that no wood is exposed. Concealment shall be with materials such as aluminum or vinyl siding or cementitious materials. Decorative rails and/or guard rail systems used shall be code compliant systems of vinyl, fiberglass, or metal. Wood railings are not allowed. Gazebos and picnic shelters shall have table(s) with attached bench seating.
  - j) All utilities located on site must be underground.
- 3) Interior Building and Space Standards:

(i) Wall Framing:

- a) Walls may be framed using metal studs in lieu of wood.
- b) Sound proofing or sound batt insulation is required between the stud framing in tenant separation walls. A sound rating of Sound Transmission Class (STC) 54 is required.
- c) Sound proofing between floors is required to achieve a rating of (STC) of not less than 50 and an Impact Insulation Class (IIC) of not less than 50.

(ii) Insulation Requirements:

- a) Exterior wall insulation must have an overall R-13 minimum for the entire wall assembly.
- b) Roof or attic insulation must have an R-38 minimum.
- c) Vapor retarders must be installed if recommended by project architect.

(iii) Kitchen spaces:

- a) A pantry closet or pantry cabinet is required in each unit. The pantry must be 1'6" x 1'6" deep and/or pre-manufactured millwork pantry cabinets that are 1' x 2'-6" deep with a minimum five shelves, located in or adjacent to the kitchen.

(iv) All interior doors to habitable spaces in all units not subject to a Fair Housing accessibility standard must have a minimum clear width of 30 inches.

(v) Floor Finishes:

- a) Carpet materials must meet FHA minimum standards.
  - a) Low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) flooring finishes (maximum VOC levels of 100 grams/liter).
  - b) Resilient flooring materials must meet FHA minimum standards.

(vi) All units pre-wired for cable television hook-ups in the living room and 1 per bedroom.

(vii) Low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) wall finishes (maximum VOC levels of 50 grams/liter).

## **IX. New Construction Single Family Rental Homes**

The following outline of minimum standards must be used in designing Housing Credit and HOME Program projects of twelve or more units and consist of single-family. All single-family homes must be new construction.

### **A. Minimum Building Standards:**

1) Minimum Home Net Area Requirements:

Minimum Bedroom Net Area is measured from the interior faces of all walls surrounding each bedroom, excluding closets, mechanical rooms, and storage rooms.

<b>Unit Type</b>	<b>Number of Bathrooms</b>	<b>Minimum Unit Net Area*</b>	<b>Minimum Bedroom Net Area*</b>
3 Bedroom	2	1,200 s. f.	120 s. f.
4 Bedroom	2	1,455 s. f.	120 s. f.

*\*Note 1: Home areas do not include outside storage, covered porches, patios, balconies, etc.*

- 2) All single-family rental homes must have a minimum of 30 feet of building facing the front street. These 30 feet must be the sum of all front-facing dimensions adjacent to conditioned space and can include the “common” wall which is part of a front-facing garage as long as this wall is front-facing and conditioned on one side.
- 3) All single-family rental homes must have a minimum of 30 feet front yard building set-back from the curb. Each home must have a minimum of 10-foot side yards. (Minimum width of lot shall be fifty (50) feet.) Both lot width and side yard setbacks can be modified with the following exception: A 10-foot side yard setback on one lot side and a “zero lot line” setback on the other (thus, a forty (40) foot minimum lot width) will be allowed with a front-facing garage.
- 4) All single-family rental homes must have a minimum of 3 different front and rear elevation designs. No identical front elevations may be built next to each other.
- 5) All single-family rental homes must have a minimum of 3 different color schemes.

**B. Exterior Building Standards:**

- 1) Exterior Finishing Materials:
  - (i) Roofing materials: Anti-fungal shingles or metal roof with 30-year warranty or better must be used.
  - (ii) Roof gable vents must be made of aluminum or vinyl materials. All roof penetrations must be located on the rear most section of the roofline.
  - (iii) Exterior shutters are required at the front elevation on all single-family homes.
  - (iv) Units where a conventional wood frame foundation system is used, a non-wood “maintenance-free” composite decking material may be used at porches above a pressure treated wood framing system.
- 2) Other Exterior Standards:
  - (i) Exterior lighting is required at entry doors.
  - (ii) Address numbers are to be clearly visible.
  - (iii) 2 parking spaces for each home.
  - (iv) A landscaping plan must be submitted indicating areas to be sodded and landscaped. Landscaping plan(s) must follow any applicable landscape municipal ordinance. At a minimum, 20 feet of solid sod must be provided (if ground space allows) from all sides of every home and between all homes and paved areas. All disturbed areas must be seeded. At a minimum, provide one 2” caliper tree per unit (minimum height (6’) for qualifying multi-trunk trees)

and 6 1-gallon shrubs per unit.

- (v) Concrete curbing is required along all paved areas throughout the development site, including parking areas. 6 inch raised curbs and gutter design is required. No valley curbs allowed.
- (vi) Sidewalk access to the front door and the driveway must be provided.
- (vii) A minimum of 1 trash dumpster or compactor enclosed on a minimum of 3 sides is required. All exposed components used as part of the structure must be constructed so that no wood is exposed. Concealment shall be with materials such as aluminum or vinyl siding or cementitious materials. The trash dumpster/compactor enclosure must meet applicable accessibility standards and have a concrete apron. If the dumpster itself is not accessible, trashcans must be placed within the enclosure for use by handicap tenants. Individual trash receptacle at each home may be provided instead of a single trash dumpster. If individual trash receptacles are used, provide a concrete pad for receptacle to sit on. At HC Units the individual trash receptacle must be placed on an accessible route away from the front door.
- (viii) All community parking must be asphalt or concrete. An asphalt or concrete paving recommendation letter must be provided with the reservation items by a geotechnical engineer.
- (ix) All sidewalks and walkways must be concrete and at least 36 inches wide. All public buildings, community building and amenities must be connected to the dwelling units by a sidewalk or walkway on one side of the street throughout the development.
- (x) All driveways must be concrete.
- (xi) All onsite utilities must be underground.

**C. Interior Building and Space Standards:**

- 1) Wall Framing:  
Walls may be framed using metal studs in lieu of wood.
- 2) Insulation Requirements:
  - (i) Exterior wall insulation must have an overall R-13 minimum for the entire wall assembly.
  - (ii) Roof or attic insulation must have an R-38 minimum.
  - (iii) Vapor retarders must be installed if recommended by project architect.
- 3) Kitchen spaces:
  - (i) A pantry closet or pantry cabinet is required in each unit. The pantry must be 1'6" x 1'6" deep with a minimum five shelves, located in or adjacent to the kitchen.
  - (ii) Vanity cabinets with drawers or a vanity cabinet without drawers and a linen cabinet with drawers must be installed in all units. All cabinets in designated handicap accessible units must be installed in compliance with applicable



accessibility guidelines.

- 4) Floor Finishes:
  - (i) Carpet materials must meet FHA minimum standards.
    - Low VOC flooring finishes (maximum VOC levels of 100 grams/liter).
  - (ii) Resilient flooring materials must meet FHA minimum standards.
- 5) Other Interior Standards:
  - (i) All interior doors to habitable spaces in unit(s) subject to Fair Housing Guidelines must have a minimum clear width in compliance with the applicable Fair Housing design standards. All interior doors to habitable spaces in designated handicap accessible units must have a minimum width of 36 inches. All interior doors to habitable spaces in all other units must have a minimum clear width of 30 inches.
  - (ii) Low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) wall finishes (maximum VOC levels of 50 grams/liter).
- 6) Plumbing and Mechanical Equipment:
  - (i) Electric water heaters must be high efficiency with a minimum 0.93 Uniform Energy Factor (UEF) for a 30-gallon tank or minimum .92 UEF for a 40-gallon tank.
  - (ii) Gas water heaters must be high efficiency with a minimum 0.60 Uniform Energy Factor (UEF) for a 30-gallon tank or minimum .58 UEF for a 40-gallon tank.
  - (iii) Through-wall HVAC units are not permitted in single-family homes.
  - (iv) CPVC supply piping is not allowed for interior space in-wall or overhead services.
  - (v) HVAC refrigeration lines must be insulated.
  - (vi) HVAC equipment must be placed so that their operation does not interfere with the comfort of the adjacent dwellings. HVAC equipment must meet or exceed current EPA Standards for the Southeastern Region.

## **X. For Attached Rehabilitation of an Existing Building**

The following outline of minimum standards must be used in designing Housing Credit (not applicable to projects with HOME Funds) projects of twelve or more units.

### **A. Minimum Building Standards:**

- 1) Minimum Apartment Unit Net Area Requirements:

Net area is measured from the interior finished face of the exterior wall to the interior finished face of the common or tenant separation wall.

1 Bedroom Unit	600 s.f.
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2 Bedroom Unit	775 s.f.
3 Bedroom Unit	1,000 s.f.

Minimum Bedroom Net Area is measured from the interior faces of all walls surrounding each bedroom, excluding closets, mechanical rooms, and storage rooms.

No units may contain a bedroom of less than 90 square foot.

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*\*Note 1: Net unit areas do not include outside storage, covered porches, patios, balconies, etc.*

**B. Exterior Building Standards:**

- 1) Exterior Finishing Materials:
  - (i) No Mansard Roofs are allowed. Roofing materials: Anti-fungal shingles or metal roof with 30-year warranty or better must be used.
  - (ii) Exterior shutters are required on all 100% brick or vinyl siding buildings. The shutters must be on the front of the buildings visible from the parking areas.
  - (iii) Handrails and pickets must be constructed from steel or aluminum.
  - (iv) Patio and porch/balcony components used as part of the building must have concrete slabs or decks and must be constructed so that no wood is exposed. Concealment must be with materials such as aluminum, vinyl, cementitious materials trim or engineered composite trim. Structural wood columns must be at a minimum 6" x 6 pressure treated columns concealed as noted above or properly sized columns of fiberglass, steel, high density urethane or aluminum. Decorative rails and/or guard rail systems used at porches and patios must be code compliant systems of vinyl, fiberglass, steel or aluminum. Wooden support posts must be installed to prevent degradation (rotting) to ends of posts and to provide for structural and anchoring of post to slab. Wood railings are not allowed.
- 2) Other Exterior Standards:
  - (i) Adequate exterior lighting is required at entry doors.
  - (ii) A landscaping plan must be submitted indicating areas to be sodded and landscaped. Landscaping plan(s) must follow any applicable landscape municipal ordinance. At a minimum, 20 feet of solid sod must be provided (if ground space allows) from all sides of every building and between all buildings and paved areas. All disturbed areas must be seeded. If bare spots or erosion exist in current landscaping, the area must be sodded. Landscaping around and between the buildings is allowed. At a minimum, provide one 2" caliper tree per unit (minimum height (6') for qualifying multi-trunk trees) and 6 1-gallon shrubs per unit.
  - (iii) Sidewalk access to all parking spaces must be provided. Where the accessible route on the site crosses a vehicular roadway, crosswalk lines are required. They shall not be less than 6 inches or greater than 24 inches in width.
  - (iv) A minimum of 1 enclosed on a minimum of 3 sides trash dumpster or

compactor is required that is enclosed. All exposed components used as part of the structure must be constructed so that no wood is exposed. Concealment shall be with materials such as aluminum or vinyl siding or cementitious materials. The trash dumpster/compactor enclosure must be ADA accessible and have a concrete apron. If the dumpster itself is not accessible, trashcans must be placed within the enclosure for use by handicap tenants.

- (v) All parking must be asphalt or concrete. An asphalt or concrete paving recommendation letter must be provided with the application by a geotechnical engineer.
- (vi) All sidewalks and walkways must be concrete and at least 36 inches wide. All public building, community building and amenities must be connected to the dwelling units by a sidewalk or walkway.

3) Interior Building and Space Standards:

(i) Insulation Requirements:

Roof or attic insulation must have an R-38 minimum.

(ii) Kitchen spaces:

- a) A pantry closet or pantry cabinet is required in each unit. The pantry must be 1'6" x 1'6" deep with a minimum five shelves, located in or adjacent to the kitchen.
- b) All appliances must be Energy Star rated.
- c) A grease shield is required behind ranges on the wall, unless a full hard tile splash is provided.

(iii) All interior doors to habitable spaces in unit(s) subject to Fair Housing Guidelines must have a minimum clear width in compliance with the applicable Fair Housing design standards. All interior doors to habitable spaces in designated handicap accessible units must have a minimum clear width of 36 inches. All interior doors to habitable spaces in all other units must have a minimum clear width of 30 inches.

(iv) Floor Finishes all flooring must be replaced:

- a) Carpet materials must meet FHA minimum standards.
  - Low VOC flooring finishes (maximum VOC levels of 100 grams/liter)
- b) Resilient flooring materials must meet FHA minimum standards.

(v) All units pre-wired for cable television hook-ups in the living room and 1 per bedroom.

4) Plumbing and Mechanical Equipment:

- (i) Units with existing washer/dryer connections must replace and install new water supply fixtures and valves.

## XI. Inspections and Reports

AHFA will engage a third-party construction consultant to review the final plans and specifications prior

to construction for each approved project to ensure that it meets all applicable requirements of AHFA's Design Quality Standards and Construction Manual. The applicant/Ownership Entity, project architect and general contractor will certify that the project meets the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and all additional accessibility requirements at the time of the submittal of the final plans and specifications, the completion of the project and the issuance of the IRS Form 8609. In addition to the plans and specification review, AHFA has the right to inspect the project during the following phases of development:

- A. During construction;
- B. At the completion of construction and
- C. Prior to issuance of the IRS Form 8609.

The applicant will be responsible for the actual cost of work completed by AHFA designated consultants.

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## Alabama Housing Finance Authority's

### 2025 HOME Action Plan

#### Compliance Monitoring Procedures, Requirements, Penalty and Suspension Criteria

As referenced in Section VI G “Compliance Monitoring” of the HOME Action Plan for 2024 funds (HOME Action Plan), the AHFA Compliance department will conduct monitoring procedures and requirements to ensure Ownership Entity and Project compliance with the HOME regulations. These compliance monitoring procedures apply to all buildings Placed-In-Service in Alabama, which have received an allocation of HOME Funds from AHFA. A complete outline of AHFA’s compliance requirements is in AHFA’s Compliance Manual available at [www.ahfa.com](http://www.ahfa.com).

#### I. Compliance Monitoring Procedures, Requirements and Fees:

- A. AHFA will require each Responsible Owner of a HOME Project to maintain records for each qualified HOME building in the Project. These records must show, for each year in the HOME Affordability Period, the information required by the record-keeping provisions contained in the HOME regulations, incorporated herein by reference. AHFA will require Responsible Owners to retain the records documenting compliance with the HOME regulations for each year as described above for at least 5 years past the end of the HOME Affordability Period.
- B. Each Ownership Entity must enter by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month all tenant events (move in, move out, transfer out, and recertification) into the AHFA DMS Authority Online (AHFA DMS) for the prior month. AHFA also recommends AHFA DMS users check the tenant data entered or imported for completeness and errors by using the Export Events feature.

If, at the time of notification for inspection, the tenant events in AHFA DMS do not match the information in the household file inspected by AHFA for more than 25% of the household files inspected, both the Ownership Entity and the Management Company (including owners and managers of the Management Company) will be subject to a 1-point deduction.

The tenant data in AHFA DMS must match the following household file information:

- Same household
- Same move-in date
- Same move-in income
- Recertification (dated within 120 days before the effective date)

By the first business day of February, all tenant events from January 1st through December 31st of the previous year must be entered into AHFA DMS and finalized. A point deduction, as described in Section II E 1 of Addendum D, will be applied to the Ownership Entity of a Project for failing to enter all tenant events as required.

- C. By the first business day of March each year, AHFA must receive from the Responsible Owner of each HOME Funded Project combined with Housing Credits or each HOME only funded Project, the applicable Annual Owner's Certification (AOC), under penalty of perjury, as provided in Section 1.42-5(c)(1) of the Treasury Regulations. The AOC must be completed using AHFA DMS or other approved method as provided by AHFA's Compliance department. A point deduction as described in Section II E 2 of Addendum D will be applied if a Responsible Owner fails to provide an AOC by the first business day of March. AHFA will notify the IRS of an Ownership Entity's failure to submit an AOC for each HOME Funded Project combined with Housing Credits no later than forty-five (45) days after the end of the timeframe allowed for correction of the failure to certify. AHFA will notify the IRS by filing Form 8823, Low-Income Housing Credit Agencies Report of Noncompliance for the 15-Year Compliance Period. Additionally, AHFA may notify HUD if deemed appropriate. Once the AOC is received, AHFA will review for compliance with the requirements of Section 42 and/or AHFA's AOC requirements for HOME Funded Projects.
- D. Each Ownership Entity of AHFA HOME Funded Projects must submit to AHFA an annual audited financial statement prepared by a licensed Certified Public Accountant for each Project by the first business day of May of each year. All financial statements must be sent electronically by e-mail, flash drive, thumb drive or memory stick. **Paper financial statements will not be accepted.** Failure to submit an annual audited financial statement prepared by a licensed Certified Public Accountant within 30 days after written notification of non-receipt by AHFA will result in a \$500 late fee.
- E. If the Ownership Entity received Housing Credits, a copy of the IRS Form 8609 with Part II completed by the Ownership Entity must be submitted to AHFA the first year Housing Credits are claimed for a building. Failure to submit a copy of the IRS Form 8609 with Part II completed by the Ownership Entity to AHFA within 60 days after written notification of non-receipt by AHFA will result in a \$500 fee.
- F. The Responsible Owner must maintain a written Capital Maintenance Plan (CMP) for each Project that received HOME Funds. The CMP must comply with 24 C.F.R. during the term of the HOME Loan. All Projects receiving HOME Funds must make available to AHFA a CMP for review, upon request. Projects that received HOME Funds in 2012 and after **must** submit a CMP to AHFA by May 1<sup>st</sup> each year. At a minimum, and without limiting the foregoing, the CMP must be in a manner as defined by AHFA and include the following components:
- 1.) **Annual Physical Needs Summary:** This summary shall provide an estimate of all the planned and anticipated repairs, replacements, and significant deferred and other maintenance items that will need to be addressed within the next 12 months. It should take into consideration anticipated unit turn-over, physical assessment of grounds/amenities/common areas, and any deferred maintenance items (including reason for deferment). Funding sources for this work must be identified. This summary serves as the short-term action plan for the property management and as a reporting tool for AHFA and the Ownership Entity. Documentation of repairs (e.g., receipts, before/after photos, completed work orders, etc.) must be maintained through the course of the year. Any additional repairs, replacements, or maintenance completed during the course of the year should also be documented. In addition to the current summary, a copy of the previous year's summary must be provided to AHFA. The previous year's summary must include all repair, replacement, or maintenance

performed with the funding source identified or current status of outstanding items with planned remedy, estimated timeline for completion, and funding source identified.

- 2.) **Long-Term Physical Needs Summary:** This summary shall provide an estimate of the repairs and replacement items beyond the first year which are required to maintain the development's physical integrity over the term of the HOME Loan. Items to be addressed include major structural systems (e.g., stairs, balconies, pavements, sidewalks, etc.) and interior components (e.g., appliances, flooring, lighting/plumbing fixtures, etc.) which, based on the expected useful life (EUL), require replacement during this period. Prior to the Loan closing, the Responsible Owner shall present to AHFA, for review and approval, a sample version of the capital maintenance tracking system intended for use over the term of the HOME Loan. This maintenance tracking system should be continually updated by management and should address units during turn over as well as units Occupied by long-term tenants. Sources of funding for the planned replacements must be identified.
  - 3.) **Analysis of Reserves for Replacement:** This analysis will provide an estimate of the initial and monthly deposit to the Replacement Reserve Account needed to fund the development's long-term physical needs during the term of the HOME Loan. This plan will account for inflation, the existing Replacement Reserve balance, and the Expected Useful Life (EUL) of major building systems. This analysis should include the costs of 12-month annual physical needs, but not any work items that would be considered an operating expense.
- G. AHFA will inspect each active HOME Project on an annual basis during the HOME Affordability Period. AHFA will inspect each required HOME Project in accordance with the AHFA Compliance Manual located at [www.AHFA.com](http://www.AHFA.com).
  - H. Each Ownership Entity must allow AHFA or its designated representative to perform additional on-site inspections of any HOME Funded unit or building in a Project through the end of the HOME Affordability Period. These inspections are in addition to any review of tenant files or units under Paragraph G. Inspections performed outside of Paragraph G will be at the expense of the Ownership Entity. Each unit or building inspection will be performed using the physical condition standards published by HUD.
  - I. AHFA will promptly notify the Ownership Entity in writing if AHFA is not permitted to inspect HOME Project units or buildings as described in Paragraphs G and H. Fees as described in Chapter 1 Section 1.4 of AHFA's Compliance Manual will apply if a Project's records are not available for review during the date and time for which AHFA established with the Ownership Entity and/or Management Company.
  - J. AHFA will promptly notify the Ownership Entity in writing if the Project does not comply with the HOME regulations. The Ownership Entity will be notified in writing of the stipulated period to supply missing documentation or to correct noncompliance commencing on the date of the notification letter. AHFA may notify HUD of an Ownership Entity's noncompliance.
  - K. AHFA will charge fees to cover the administrative expenses in monitoring compliance and the expenses incurred in carrying out its duties as the Housing Credit agency, including, but not limited to, reasonable fees for legal and professional services. (Reference Chapter 1 Section 1.4 of AHFA's Compliance Manual.)

- L. Compliance with the requirements of the HOME regulations and the Fair Housing Act is the responsibility of the Ownership Entity of the building for which HOME Funds are loaned or granted. Each Ownership Entity of each building for which HOME Funds are loaned or granted is also responsible for compliance with the accessibility, adaptive design, and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act.
- M. AHFA's obligation to monitor for compliance with the requirements of the HOME regulations does not make AHFA or the State of Alabama liable to any Ownership Entity or to any shareholder, officer, director, partner, member, or manager of any Ownership Entity or of any entity comprising any Ownership Entity for an Ownership Entity's non-compliance therewith.
- N. It is the policy of AHFA to immediately report to the appropriate federal department and the cognizant inspector general of such department any indication of fraud, waste, abuse, or potentially criminal activity pertaining to federal funds.
- O. The Ownership Entity must submit a copy of any health, safety, or building code violation reports issued by any regulatory or third-party entity to AHFA's Compliance department. AHFA will apply applicable point deductions for items of noncompliance found in any third-party report in accordance with Section II I of this Addendum. If AHFA becomes aware of any health, safety, or building code violation reports issued by any regulatory or third-party entity which were not submitted to AHFA's Compliance department within 30 days of the date the Ownership Entity received the report, AHFA will charge the Ownership Entity a \$500 fee.
- P. If Ownership Entity/Responsible Owner or Management Company acquires a Project and discovers the Project will require extensive file corrections, tenant data corrections, building or unit repairs, it must submit a report to AHFA within 60 days of taking possession of the Project. The report, which must be in a form acceptable to AHFA, must include both sufficient details of the repairs to be completed and a deadline to complete the repairs. If the repairs are not completed by the deadline, the point deductions will be assessed as described in Section II of Addendum D.

## **II. Penalty Scoring and Suspension Criteria**

- A. AHFA has identified specific compliance protocols in Section II I of this Addendum as automatic penalty point deduction items, which for the rest of this document will be referred to as point deduction items, when noncompliance is discovered.
- B. AHFA expects, at a minimum, that each Ownership Entity and Management Company will develop a routine inspection process to ensure the items defined in Section II I are regularly inspected by their respective staff on an ongoing basis. The point deduction item categories address health and safety concerns, sanitary nature and habitable living conditions of each unit and Project. Since AHFA will generally provide up to a 15-day notice when scheduling compliance inspections, no cure period will be allowed for the point deduction items defined under Section III.
- C. An Ownership Entity or Management Company is required to notify AHFA immediately upon the occurrence of a disruption/discontinuation of any service/amenity, tenant events, or upon the occurrence of any property damage to the Project. Such notification is required to be in a report, in a form acceptable to AHFA, which details the circumstances as well as the plan of corrective action. The plan of corrective action must include both sufficient



details of how the issue will be resolved and a deadline for resolution acceptable to AHFA. If the report is submitted immediately upon occurrence, AHFA initially will not deduct points. However, point deductions will be assessed against the Ownership Entity and Management Company (inclusive of owners and managers) if AHFA determines said report was not submitted timely or if the issue is not resolved by the deadline. If AHFA determines that the disruption/discontinuation of any service/amenity, tenant events, or the property damage is a result of deferred maintenance or negligence, appropriate point deductions will be assessed.

- D. Inspections will be performed by AHFA, its designated representative, or other unrelated third party. At the conclusion of the onsite inspection, AHFA will provide a general verbal summary of the deficiencies identified during the inspection to the representatives of the Ownership Entity and/or Management Company who are present at that time. AHFA will provide a formal written notice regarding all applicable deficiencies and will specify the timeframe(s) in which the Ownership Entity will be required to cure all deficiencies.
- E. Point deductions for late or nonsubmittal of an AOC or tenant data will be assessed to the Ownership Entity for the 2025 Competitive Application Cycle as follows:
  - 1.) 1 point will be deducted for each Project for which the Responsible Owner fails to enter required tenant data into AHFA DMS by 5:00 p.m. CST the first business day of February of each year.
  - 2.) 1 point will be deducted for each Project for which the Responsible Owner fails to submit a correct and complete AOC to AHFA's Compliance department by 5:00 p.m. CST the first business day of March of each year.
- F. Points will **not** be deducted from a 2025 applicant's score until the total of all point deductions accumulated during 2024 (January 1 through December 31) exceeds 4 points. If an applicant's total of all point deductions is 5 points or more, then the total of **all** point deductions **will be** deducted from an applicant's score on their 2025 application(s).
- G. AHFA will review any third-party inspection reports received from any local, state, federal or financial entity/institution with an interest in the Project which identify noncompliance issues as defined in the HOME Action Plan. AHFA will assess applicable point deductions for items of noncompliance found in any third-party inspection report in accordance with Section III of this Addendum.
- H. The following criteria will be applied to Ownership Entity and/or Management Company of record:
  - 1.) Should any of the negative actions listed in Section IV D or Section IV J 2 of the 2025 HOME Action Plan occur after a 2025 Application Package has been submitted and prior to approval by AHFA, AHFA has the right to terminate the Application Package.
  - 2.) If an Ownership Entity is assessed a cumulative total of 10 points or more for all AHFA Projects audited and/or inspected from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, the Ownership Entity will be **suspended immediately** from applying for any AHFA-funded program (Housing Credits, HOME Funds, Housing Trust Fund or Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds) from the time the Ownership Entity is notified of the suspension through December 31, 2025.

- 3.) If an Ownership Entity is suspended after a 2025 Application Package has been submitted but prior to approval by AHFA, any Application Package for which Ownership Entity is included will be **terminated immediately**.
- 4.) If a Management Company is assessed a cumulative total of 10 points or more for all AHFA Projects audited and/or inspected from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, the Management Company will be **suspended immediately** from participating in any AHFA-funded program applications (Housing Credits, HOME Funds, Housing Trust Fund or Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds) from the time the Management Company is notified of the suspension through December 31, 2025.
- 5.) If a Management Company is suspended after a 2025 AHFA-funded program application has been submitted, and the application is later funded, the Ownership Entity for the newly funded Project must replace the suspended Management Company with a Management Company which is **not** currently under suspension.
- 6.) Any transfer of management requests which involve a suspended Management Company will be rejected until the suspended Management Company (inclusive of owners and managers) has completed a compliance audit/inspection year (January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>) without a suspension.
- 7.) If an Ownership Entity or Management Company fails to correct any noncompliance issues related to inspections and/or annual certifications, both will be immediately suspended until the noncompliance issues are corrected.
- 8.) If an Ownership Entity is prohibited from participating for 5 consecutive calendar years, the Ownership Entity will be permanently banned from applying for any AHFA-funded programs (Housing Credits, HOME Funds, Housing Trust Fund or Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds).
- 9.) If a Management Company is prohibited from participating on any application for 5 consecutive calendar years, the Management Company will be permanently banned from participating on any program applications for any AHFA-funded programs (Housing Credits, HOME Funds, Housing Trust Fund or Multifamily Housing Revenue Bonds). Any transfer of management requests which involve a permanently banned Management Company (inclusive of owners and managers) will be rejected.

- I. The following point deduction items discussed in Subsections 1.), 2.), and 3.) below are not intended to supplant the physical condition standards provided by HUD and/or applicable local or other building codes. Point deductions for funding applications in 2025 will be determined based upon audits and inspections conducted from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, and will be based on the point deduction items listed in Addendum D of AHFA's 2024 QAP and HOME Action Plan.

The point deduction items listed below are applicable to audits and inspections conducted from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, to the Ownership Entity and Management Company of record with AHFA at the time of the inspection.

Point deductions for this HOME Action Plan will be based on the following methodology:

1.) Health and Safety Deficiencies - 1 point per occurrence (or collectively per Project audited if the same deficiency) will be assessed for health and safety deficiencies, if cited as a finding at the time of inspection.

- Point deductions resulting from any deficiencies listed below will be assessed automatically upon discovery, regardless of whether the identified deficiencies have been cured.
- Furthermore, 2 additional points will be deducted if the Ownership Entity fails to cure the deficiencies within the timeframe specified in the deficiencies notice from AHFA.

The deficiencies that will result in point deductions under this paragraph are as follows “Health and Safety Deficiencies”:

(a) Project Site and Common Areas

- (i) Exposed electrical wiring or electrical hazards in tenant accessible areas.
- (ii) Tripping hazards related to sidewalks, parking lots, or other accessible exterior routes.
- (iii) Missing, broken or loose handrails or steps.
- (iv) Boarded, broken or missing windows.
- (v) Missing or damaged entry/exist doors or bathroom doors.

(b) Units

- (i) Missing, non-charged or empty fire extinguishers (for Projects funded under the 1999 HOME Action Plan and thereafter) for more than 25% of the total units inspected. Any findings related to this category that total 25% or less will be subject to the penalty criteria as defined in Section II I 3 herein.
- (ii) Missing or non-working smoke detectors for more than 25% of the total units inspected. A missing or non-working smoke detector is defined as not having at least 1 operable smoke detector per floor for each unit inspected. Any findings related to this category that total 25% or less will be subject to the penalty criteria as defined in Section II I 3 herein.
- (iii) Missing fire canisters above the cooktop surface or temperature limiting plates on the cooktop surface (applies to Projects funded under the 2013 HOME Action Plan and thereafter) for more than 25% of the total units inspected. Any findings related to this category that total 25% or less will be subject to the penalty criteria as defined in Section II I 3 herein.
- (iv) Exposed electrical wiring or electrical hazards in tenant accessible areas for more than 25% of the total units inspected. Any findings related to this category which total 25% or less will be subject to the penalty criteria as defined in Section II I 3 herein.
- (v) Insect infestation (based on visible presence, damage, or reports) for more than 25% of the total units inspected. Any findings related to this category that total 25% or less will be subject to the penalty criteria as defined in Section II I 3 herein.

- (vi) Failure to inform AHFA staff in advance of any inspection of any unit(s) of a Project which is currently infested and/or being treated for bed bugs or other similar infestation.
- (vii) Boarded, broken, or missing windows or bathroom or bedroom entry doors in more than 25% of the total units inspected. Any findings related to this category that total 25% or less will be subject to the penalty criteria as defined in Section II I 3 herein.
- (viii) Missing, broken or loose handrails or steps.

2.) Project and Unit Deficiencies – 1 point per occurrence (or collectively per Project audited if the same deficiency) will be assessed for each of the units inspected for any of the deficiencies listed below, if cited as a finding at the time of inspection.

- Point deductions resulting from any deficiencies listed below will be assessed automatically upon discovery, regardless of whether the identified deficiencies have been cured.
- Furthermore, 2 additional points will be deducted if the Ownership Entity fails to cure the deficiencies within the timeframe specified in the deficiencies notice from AHFA.

The deficiencies that will result in point deductions under this paragraph are as follows “Project Deficiencies”:

- (a) A Project amenity listed in the Ownership Entity’s application which is found to be missing without evidence of immediate notification to AHFA.
- (b) A unit amenity listed in the Ownership Entity’s application which is found to be missing or damaged in more than 25% of the total units inspected. Any findings related to this category that total 25% or less will be subject to the penalty criteria as defined in Section II I 3 herein.
- (c) Units which have been vacant for more than 30 days and are not immediately available for occupancy. A unit which is suitable for occupancy should at a minimum include removal of the previous household’s items (furniture, clothing, and trash), repairs completed to the walls and floors, cleaned carpets and walls and general maintenance completed to the unit which creates an overall market readiness.
- (d) Noncompliance issues, that have not incurred an automatic point deduction, found in more than 25% of inspected units.

3.) Other General Deficiencies - 2 points per occurrence (or collectively per Project audited if the same deficiency is cited) will be assessed for other general deficiencies if cited as a finding at the time of inspection or review of finalized tenant events by AHFA, its designated representative or other unrelated third party and is uncured after the end of the written specified timeframe to cure the deficiencies. All timeframes for curing deficiencies will be submitted in writing. General deficiencies include all violations or deficiencies not listed in the preceding paragraphs that are cited as findings during the AHFA onsite audits.

- J. If an Ownership Entity/Responsible Owner with less than 3 Projects funded with AHFA Housing Credits or HOME Funds submits an application for funding, AHFA reserves the right to apply the penalty criteria as specified herein in Section II of Addendum D to non-AHFA funded Projects. Violations in reports provided by AHFA, its designated representative or other unrelated third-party reports will be subject to the penalty criteria as specified herein in Section II of Addendum D. The 4-point threshold in Section II F of Addendum D does not apply to non-AHFA funded Projects.

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