



Louisiana Housing Corporation

TO: LHC Board of Directors
FROM: Marjorianna Willman, Executive Director
SUBJECT: July Executive Director's Report
DATE: August 7, 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board,

I am pleased to offer this update on LHC's business and activities:

Administrative/Human Resources

- Davis Bacon was monitored by HUD and LHC received high marks with no concerns or findings noted. There is a need to backfill a position which was mentioned.
- LHC's website includes the last five years of the Louisiana Legislator Auditor's annual financial reports (FY22-23, FY21-22, FY20-21, FY19-20, & FY18-19).
- An update on Willowbrook will be provided during the Administrative Committee Meeting.

Program Activity

- LHC is continuing discussions with the SBC and LLA, a working group is being established.
- LHA received an additional \$939,000 for additional housing vouchers.
- LHC awarded \$205,552,345 for the 2nd round of the PRIME-3 Program
 - 19 projects awarded for the development of 2,132 units
- LHC attended CHDO meetings throughout July statewide including the Shreveport, Alexandria, Plaquemine, New Iberia, Lafayette, Opelousas, and Baton Rouge areas, visiting 11 CHDOs and 12 cities visited.
- LHC held a public hearing for the HUD's Preservation & Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE).
- LHC participated in the groundbreaking for Bayou Grande Phase III in Shreveport
 - This is a new 122-unit affordable housing development.
- LHC joined the YWCA of Greater Baton Rouge to celebrate the completion of Providence Place
 - \$3.8M development composed of 12 units designed to provide affordable housing for survivors of domestic violence
 - \$1.5M through the 2016 Floods Neighborhood Landlord Rental Program (NLRP) utilizing CDBG funds through OCD
 - City of Baton Rouge also secured HOME funds of \$1,160,561
- LHC celebrated with CHDO partner St. Mary/Vermilion Community Action Agency for the groundbreaking of St. Mary Hope Apartments.
 - Newly constructed 4 units within two duplexes
 - \$949,887 awarded through the HOME Program

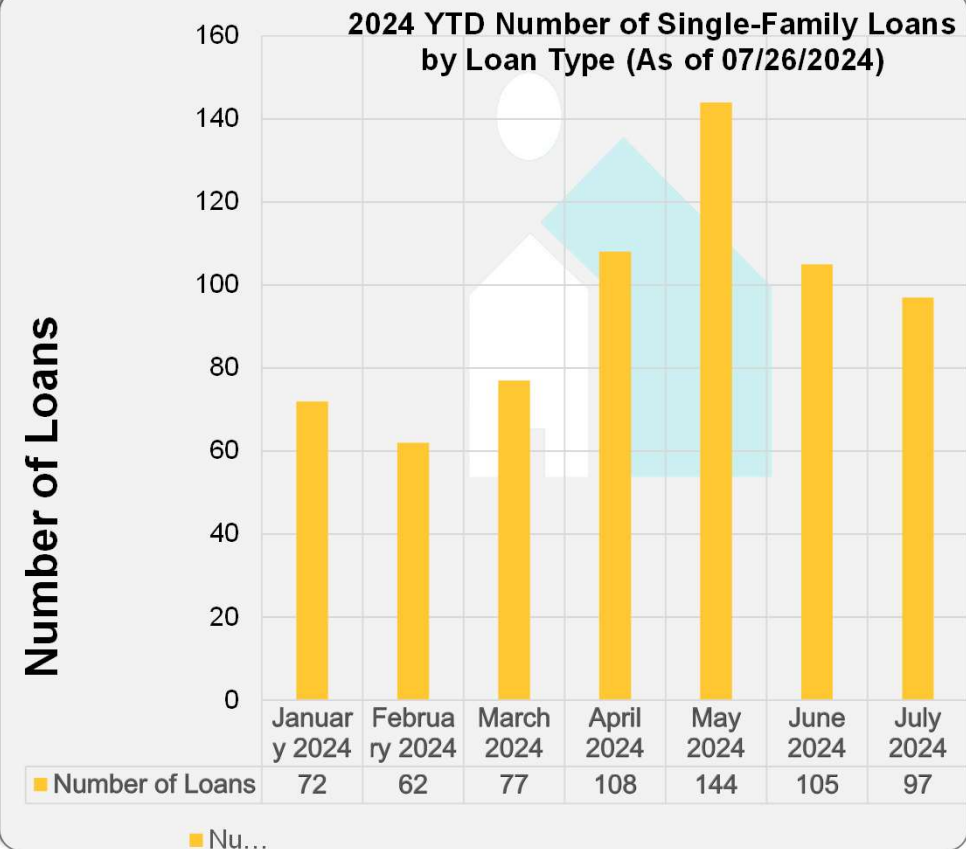
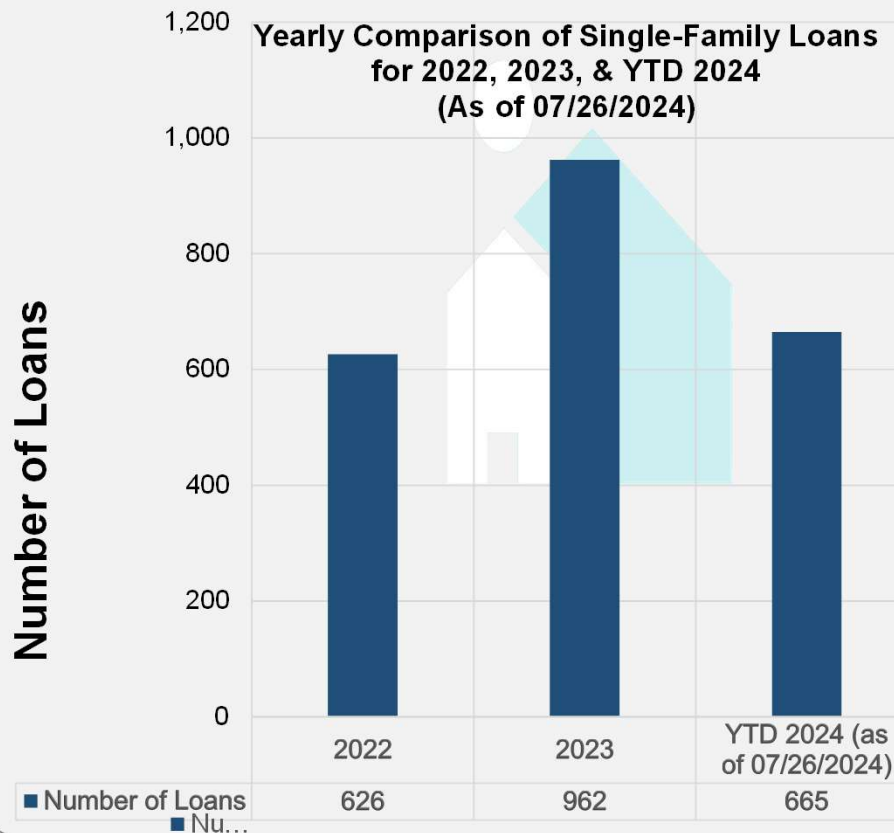
- LHC staff has completed the proposed budget and is recommending no changes to the HOME programs and providing operating assistance for 2023 and 2024.
- The 2025 QAP has been revised to include the Governor's priorities, the revisions will be discussed in detail at the Programs Committee meeting.
- LHC attended the 87th LMA Annual Convention in Shreveport, LA.
- LHC has instructed its participating lenders on the transition from Standard Mortgage Corporation to Lakeview/Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC as the master servicer.
- LHC's Executive Director Willman served as a panelist at the New Orleans Real Estate Brokers Association.
- LABS, LHC's training center, presented training tools for career and technical education students along with hosting an Energy Auditor Training session.
- LHC presented NSPIRE and HOTMA in speaking sessions for the 2024 LAHMA Annual Conference in Biloxi, MS.

Upcoming Events

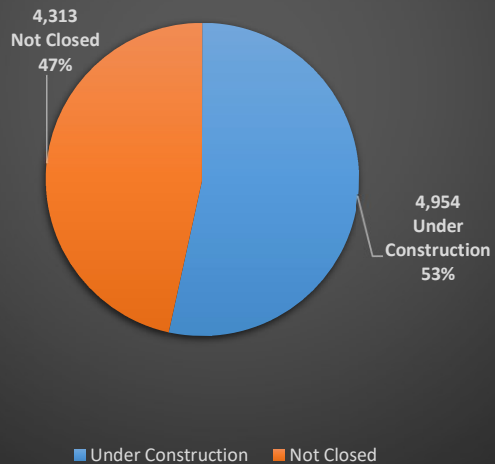
- September 18th – 20th: LHC Board of Directors 2024 Retreat/Orientation
- September 23rd – 27th: Energy Auditor Training at LABS

Supplemental documents in this report include the following listed below:

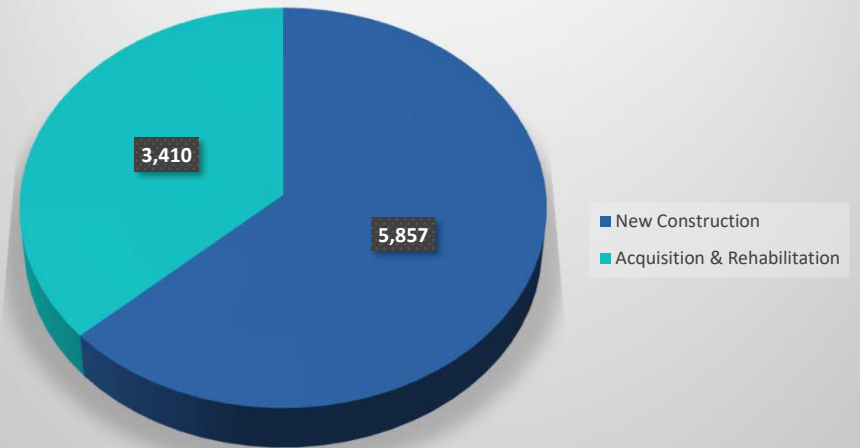
- Single-Family Loan Production
- Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Unit Counts that are Pending ("Pipeline")
- Data Sheet for Single-Family and LIHTC Pipeline
- June 2024 Monthly Report for LHC's three multifamily properties (Mid City Gardens, Village de Jardin, and Willowbrook)
- Recommendations from the LLA on Cost Containment and LHC's Response



**LIHTC Pipeline Units by Status
(as of 07/29/2024)**



LIHTC Pipeline Number of Units



**Total Number of Units:
9,267**



Loan Number and Production Amounts (2022, 2023, & 2024 YTD as of 07/26/2024)

Year	Number of Loans	Loan Production Amount
2022	626	\$108,299,816
2023	962	\$173,051,138
YTD 2024 (as of 07/26/2024)	665	\$123,579,880

2024 Number and Production Amount of Single-Family Loans (By Month) as of 07/26/2024

Year	Number of Loans	Loan Production Amount
January 2024	72	\$13,345,435
February 2024	62	\$11,418,275
March 2024	77	\$14,212,694
April 2024	108	\$20,303,015
May 2024	144	\$27,064,124
June 2024	105	\$19,574,377
July 2024	97	\$17,661,960
TOTALS	665	\$123,579,880

LIHTC Pipeline Units by Status (As of 07/29/2024)

Status	Number of Units
Under Construction	4,954
Not Closed	4,313
TOTAL	9,267

LIHTC Pipeline Units by Construction Type (As of 07/29/2024)

Status	Number of Units
New Construction	5,857
Acquisition & Rehabilitation	3,410
TOTAL	9,267



Property Address: 1690 North Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Model Units: 0
Down Units: 0

Total Units: 60
1 Bedroom: 16
2 Bedrooms: 24
3 Bedrooms: 20

Management Company: Rampart Multifamily
Property Manager: Sylvia Dunn
Property Manager Email: midcitygardens@rampartmgt.com
Property Manager Phone 225-302-5544



Occupancy Data	Current Occupancy Rate	Expected Net New Tenancy	Forecasted Occupancy Rate
	98.33%	+ 1	100%

REVENUE FOR THIS MONTH			
Rental Income	Tenant Other Income	Other Income	Total Revenue
\$42,183	\$940	\$0	\$43,123

EXPENSES FOR THIS MONTH						
Cleaning, Repairs/Maint, & Make Ready	Payroll & Admin	Mgt Fees	Marketing	Services (Sec/Pest) & Utilities	Taxes & Insurance	Total Operating Expenses
\$11,583	\$10,375	\$1,798	\$989	\$11,396	\$3,686	\$39,827

NET INCOME FOR THIS MONTH		
Net Operating Income	Capital Reserve & Replacement Expenditures	Net Income (Before Depreciation & Amoritization)
\$3,296	\$1,446	\$1,850

YTD DATA				
YTD Revenue	YTD Expenses	YTD Net Operating Income (before depreciation)	YTD Capital / Reserve Exps.	YTD Net (after capital exps.)
\$465,821	\$484,544	-\$18,723	\$31,443	-\$50,166

Prepared by LHC Policy & Reporting Dept.



Property Address: 8800 Lake Forest Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70127

Total Units: 224

1 Bedroom: 134

2 Bedrooms: 90

Model Units: 0

Down Units: 0

Management Company: Rampart Multifamily
Property Manager: Tennille Esnault
Property Manager Email: tesnault@rampartmgt.com
Property Manager Phone 504-309-8011



Occupancy Data	Current Occupancy Rate	Expected Net New Tenancy	Forecasted Occupancy Rate
	99.55%	+ 1	100%

REVENUE FOR THIS MONTH			
Rental Income	Tenant Other Income	Other Income	Total Revenue
\$183,085	\$3,237	\$864	\$187,186

EXPENSES FOR THIS MONTH						
Cleaning, Repairs/Maint, & Make Ready	Payroll & Admin	Mgt Fees	Marketing	Services (Sec/Pest) & Utilities	Taxes & Insurance	Total Operating Expenses
\$29,128	\$28,825	\$8,741	\$849	\$71,008	\$20,591	\$159,142

NET INCOME FOR THIS MONTH		
Net Operating Income	Capital Reserve & Replacement Expenditures	Net Income (Before Depreciation & Amortization)
\$28,044	\$36,448	-\$8,404

YTD DATA				
YTD Revenue	YTD Expenses	YTD Net Operating Income (before depreciation)	YTD Capital / Reserve Exps.	YTD Net (after capital exps.)
\$2,168,058	\$1,849,577	\$318,481	\$193,077	\$125,404

Prepared by LHC Policy & Reporting Dept.



Louisiana Housing Corporation

Willowbrook Apartments

Monthly Report: June 2024

Property Address: 7001 Bundy Road
New Orleans, LA 70127

Total Units: 408

1 Bedroom: 216

2 Bedrooms: 192

Model Units: 2

80 units at 80% AMI

Down Units: 24

Management Company: Rampart Multifamily

Property Manager: Aloha Ratleff

Property Manager Email: aratleff@rampartmgt.com

Property Manager Phone 504-218-7750



Occupancy Data	Current Occupancy Rate	Expected Net New Tenancy	Forecasted Occupancy Rate
	91.18%	+ 10	94%

REVENUE FOR THIS MONTH			
Rental Income	Tenant Other Income	Other Income	Total Revenue
\$294,842	\$7,528	\$1,272	\$303,642

EXPENSES FOR THIS MONTH						
Cleaning, Repairs/Maint, & Make Ready	Payroll & Admin	Mgt Fees	Marketing	Services (Sec/Pest) & Utilities	Taxes & Insurance	Total Operating Expenses
\$49,519	\$40,004	\$12,668	\$7,590	\$88,013	\$22,151	\$219,945

NET INCOME FOR THIS MONTH		
Net Operating Income	Capital Reserve & Replacement Expenditures	Net Income (Before Depreciation & Amortization)
\$151,952	\$160,399	-\$8,447

YTD DATA				
YTD Revenue	YTD Expenses	YTD Net Operating Income (before depreciation)	YTD Capital / Reserve Exps.	YTD Net (after capital exps.)
\$3,663,664	\$2,243,019	\$1,486,867	\$1,383,952	\$102,915

**Net Income reflects Non-Operating Property Loss Expense **Prepared by LHC Policy & Reporting Dept.



Louisiana Housing Corporation

August 5, 2024

Ms. Victoria Hayes, Director
Office of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor
P.O. Box 94397
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Director Hayes:

Thank you and the entire team for the workaround cost containment specifically related to Multifamily Revenue Bond financed developments. Louisiana Housing Corporation ("LHC") agrees that additional measures should be established. We are currently revising the 2025 Qualified Allocation Plan, which governs the approval of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits ("LIHTC"), to include a more robust cost containment policy. Nonetheless, all related factors must be considered when determining whether a project's total development costs ("TDC") are reasonable. Additionally, there should be an avenue to approval for developments that exceed ordinary cost measures. Projects with proposed attributes that will contribute to the overall well-being of a community such as being part of a redevelopment or revitalization plan for a community, significant blight reduction and/or serve to provide multiple public benefits may have extraordinary costs that are justifiable.

Please find below responses to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's Recommendations for your consideration:

1. Affordable Housing:

What does the average Louisiana household spend to purchase a home? "Affordable housing" should not be significantly more than the working class is paying out of pocket for housing.

- a. We recommend defining this term to prevent developments that fall within the luxury price point.**

The median home sales price in Louisiana is \$226K (Zillow, May 2024) or \$268K (Redfin, June 2024). This reflects the median price across the entire state, irrespective of age, condition, location, size, or other factors. While it would appear that an average or median of what Louisianans are paying to purchase single-family homes might be a good reference point, there are reasons it is not a good reference point:

- (1) New construction is built to a higher standard than the median; disaster-resilient housing is above median. Housing located outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area is above the median. These are all characteristics of the affordable housing the state invests in.

- (2) The purchase price of a home is not the same as the cost of a home. While the public cost of affordable housing (i.e., TDC per unit) is represented as an up-front cost, ownership of housing has costs which occur over time. The cost of multifamily development must be compared to the cost of a purchased home, inclusive of taxes, insurance, and maintenance (and in cases where residents have special needs--supportive services), over time.

In addition to these general dynamics, there are several specific factors and considerations that drive the cost of affordable housing.

- (1) **Insurance**—Dramatic increases in the cost of insurance have left existing properties with expenses exceeding revenues. In affordable housing, rents cannot simply increased to address this imbalance. LHC has begun to require insurance reserves in multifamily properties. These reserves provide a cushion when and if insurance costs rise significantly, but they also increase the development cost of the property at the onset. If insurance costs become more stable these reserves can be recaptured by LHC.
- (2) **Reserves**—All financial partners insist on various reserves to cushion a property against downturns and unexpected issues during the lifecycle of their investments. These reserves are a significant cost, which is reflected up front in the TDC of a project. The purchase of a single-family home does not come with funded reserves in the event of income loss, increased operating costs, or repair and replacement of building systems.
- (3) **Construction Costs**—The use of federal funds in housing (which is the funding source that critically supports the State's investments) requires construction wages comply with the Davis-Bacon Act, which are generally higher than local wages. This alone drives up construction costs significantly. New construction single family homes (market rate) are built without federal funds, and the construction labor costs are lower.
- (4) **Soft Costs and Financing Costs**—While tax exempt bonds provide lower interest rates, there are significant placement fees which are capitalized (paid up front reflecting higher TDC). The use of bond financing is required to access federal 4% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. Additionally, the price of a new single-family home is represented before financing costs (i.e., the purchase of a home is the sales price, but does not reflect closing costs and other transactional costs). The TDC of affordable, multifamily properties includes these significant costs. Lastly, each affordable housing project requires multiple financing sources to partner in a complex, multi-year project; consequently, there are significant legal costs within the development budget to ensure these parties partner effectively.

2. Cost Containment:

Evaluate total development costs against the market.

- a. **We recommend requesting a detailed cost estimate from the architect (listed as part of the development team) to be submitted with the bond application.**

Estimations of hard construction costs by developers--when framing transactions in an application for gap financing--rely on past experience, discussions with builders and the architect, the latest trends in pricing and other factors. In stable markets, these estimations are generally reliable (actual hard costs are typically within range of the estimate at application). Factors to consider, include:

- The LHC employs a scoring approach through the PRIME Program that disadvantages high-cost transactions. Awards are prioritized toward transactions that have the lowest ratio of Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) to TDC.
- Developers are strongly incentivized to estimate accurately. If the cost estimate is high, the corresponding request for CDBG is high, and this negatively impacts the scoring. If the cost estimate is low, the transaction will be inadequately sourced (i.e., it will need additional funds to cover the higher-than-normal costs).
- At completion of construction (when the property is 'placed into service'), the LHC funds the lesser of (a) the awarded CDBG, or (b) the gap between total actual costs and other sources. That is, if a deal was awarded \$6 million, and at completion the cost review establishes that total costs were \$30M and other sources are \$25M, then the CDBG is limited to \$5M. In this way, regardless of the awarded amount, the CDBG cannot exceed the financing gap. If the total costs are \$32M and other sources are \$25M and the CDBG award is \$6M, the developer must come out of pocket for the \$1M shortfall. When there is no CDBG (LIHTC only) the tax credits may be similarly downsized at completion based on actual costs.

The LHC appreciates concerns about high construction costs. These concerns should be viewed in the overall context of controls, incentives and disincentives, risks and obligations, and other dynamics inherent in the overall process.

- b. We recommend requiring an appraisal to be submitted with the bond application.**
- c. These documents should be cross-checked against recommendation one.**

The LHC requires appraisals to justify the acquisition cost of land and buildings. Market lenders providing primary debt require appraisals to ensure that their loans do not exceed a particular 'loan to value' ratio. Considerations include regarding the use of appraisals to determine value:

- (1) Appraisals estimate value based on either the 'comparable sales' approach or the 'income' approach. The comparable sales approach (common in single-family home appraisals) looks at what similar properties have sold for (adjusted for condition, features, location, etc.) Income-producing real estate is appraised differently and uses an approach in which the net income is determined, and a multiple of this (the 'cap rate') is applied based on market conditions.
- (2) Affordable housing carries use restrictions which limit the rents which can be charged. These limitations correspond to lower income, and this corresponds to lower value (relative to the cost to build). For example, if there are two identical buildings and one is 'market' and the other has a 30-year affordability commitment, the market building will have more value because it can produce greater income through its higher rents.
- (3) As a result, the 'market value' of affordable housing is limited by its very nature.
- (4) It is not unusual for an affordable housing development to 'cost more than it's worth' in a market sales value sense. But affordability itself has value. That is, there are 100 units, and the average (restricted, affordable) monthly rent is \$400 below market, and there is a 35-year use agreement, the 'affordability value' of that property would be $100 \times \$400 \times 12 \text{ (months)} \times 35 \text{ (years)}$, or

\$16.8M. This very real value is not reflected in an appraisal, but it is central to the public-investment economics of the transaction.

The LHC recommends consideration of these factors when determining the utility of requiring appraisals accompany bond applications.

3. Effective Allocation of IRS Credits:

- a. Intended to offset rent loss**
- b. Excess allocation – donation – violation of Article VII**
- c. Primary benefit must be to the public – LA is not receiving max benefit**
- d. Recommendations 1 & 2 should correct this issue.**

The LHC follows detailed requirements set for in §42 of the Internal Revenue code related to the allocation of credits, and its programs and policies are governed by it. Each ‘tax credit allocating agency’ (the LHC is the sole allocating agency for the State of Louisiana) establishes these rules in its annual QAP.

These rules protect against any ‘excess allocation’. While credits are allocated to an awardee by the LHC (at award) based on estimates of eligible costs, the LHC follows IRS requirements to ensure that at completion the final credits are not more than are legitimately generated by actual eligible costs incurred.

The primary and ultimate beneficiary is the income-qualified Louisiana renter whose rent is materially below market rate. The LIHTC investor (which owns the property) benefits because the federal tax credits they have purchased are worth more than the purchase price to acquire them. However, absent this benefit there would be no incentive for them to invest in the development of affordable housing, which is central to the design of the LIHTC program (leveraging private investment in low-income housing).

Regarding the reference to Article VII, all Low-Income Housing Tax Credits are federal credits, and are not credits against taxes imposed by the State of Louisiana. Additionally, there is no ‘donation’—while credits are allocated to a single-asset entity limited partnership that allocation is on the condition they be sold toward generating equity toward the development of the housing.

4. Projects Fully Covered by Public Funds:

- a. Layering of different government programs can create scenarios where public funds are used to outright purchase real estate for private citizens/developers.**
- b. This may not comply with Article VII of Louisiana’s constitution (prohibition against donating public funds to private entities...LA has no ownership interest & not receiving a 30-year benefit)**
- c. We recommend implementing a maximum percentage of public funds that can be applied to a single project.**

All affordable housing approved by LHC is housing developed in a ‘public/private partnership’ in which public financing is combined with private ownership subject to affordability restrictions. The LIHTC program is the most impactful program nationally: 53,032 projects and 3.65 million housing units have been placed into service between 1987 and 2022. The U.S. invests in the creation of affordable housing

through the foregone tax revenue represented by these tax credits. Notably, land itself is not a cost which generates equity, so technically the cost of acquiring land itself is not paid for with the credits.

In these arrangements, Louisiana does not have an ownership interest, but it does have a regulatory interest and control, toward ensuring that the public good (affordability) promised by these investments is effectively achieved. Credits purchased by investors with their up-front investment of equity are claimed each year for ten years. Over a fifteen-year period (ten 'credit' years, plus a five-year period during which non-compliance can be retroactively enforced) the LHC monitors properties to ensure compliance with the use restrictions (rent and income limits, as well as physical condition standards). If there is non-compliance, the LHC must notify the IRS, and the IRS may disallow the taxpayer (property owner) from claiming the credits on their tax returns. As a consequence of this 'non-compliance' risk, the owner is highly incentivized to ensure the property meets the requirements of the regulatory agreement it has with the LHC. This regulatory enforcement system, with the 'teeth' of the IRS behind it, has proven over nearly 30 years to be a highly effective means of ensuring the public benefit is achieved.

In the financing of a tax credit transaction, the credits are an indirect source which lead to the direct source of the capital (equity) which is invested by the owner (investor) to acquire the credits. CBDG (and other forms of 'soft' or 'gap' financing such as HOME and Housing Trust Funds) are more clearly a public source of funds. These are almost exclusively Federal funds and are not donated—they are loaned—with corresponding repayment obligations and regulatory requirements.

The percentage of public funds required by a property varies. Factors include:

- (1) The 'depth' of affordability (properties serving extremely low-income populations generally require greater levels of public investment);
- (2) The level of market debt which can be supported (more in parishes with higher median incomes, less in parishes with lower median incomes; larger units produce higher rents, whereas smaller units (i.e., seniors housing) do not);
- (3) The total development costs of the transaction; and
- (4) Market issues such as interest rates, insurance premiums, and other factors.

The LHC believes it is useful to track and measure the public cost of any transaction, and to quantify this relative to public policy achievements. However, a blanket limit on the percentage of public funds is likely only to obstruct transactions with high policy outcomes (deeply affordable, resilient construction, etc.).

5. Accountability During the 30-Year Compliance Period:

- a. **Properties typically sold at year 16**
- b. **Developers entitled to 100% of profit from the sale**
- c. **If not sold at 16 years, LHC can approve new rounds of tax credits with an extended compliance period**
- d. **LHC stated that properties are typically rundown at 16 years and require significant improvements**

- e. **Project cash flows submitted with bond applications support sufficient capital to operate and maintain the facility for the full compliance period**
- f. **We recommend holding developers accountable for the full 30-year compliance period. If properties are not in livable condition at year 16, new tax credits should not be approved, as compliance has not been met.**

Fundamentally, the LHC agrees that projects should be viable for the full period of affordability, without the need for additional public financing. However, there are a number of reasons this is not always an option.

Properties typically sold at Year 16—the basic structure of LIHTC investment is that the investor/owner receives tax credits over a 10-year period, in return for 15 years of compliance. After this 15-year period expires the basic investment premise (tax credits in return for an equity investment) has been achieved, and the real estate itself no longer has ‘investment value’ for the original investor.

Developers are entitled to 100% of profit from the sale—this is not the case. Concerns about windfall proceeds to sellers are not justified by the rules and requirements concerning these sales. Additionally, at Year-15 all properties are encumbered with an extended affordability period of at least an additional 15 years (many are longer). Consequently, the value of the property in Year-15 is severely constrained by its rent restrictions. Most often, properties transfer after Year-15 for an amount equal to the sum of existing debt plus any exit tax liability the seller faces.

If not sold at 16 years, LHC can approve new rounds of tax credits with an extended compliance period—All LIHTC properties can be re-syndicated after Year-15, but doing so requires a sale to new ownership. The original owner Year 1-15 cannot hold the property and receive new tax credits.

LHC stated that properties are typically rundown at 16 years and require significant improvements—All properties require periodic capital investments. In a pure market situation, it is typical for properties to be sold or refinanced periodically (5–10-year cycles) as rents rise and debt capacity increases. In these sales or refinancing transactions, a significant portion of the capital goes to upgrades and repairs of major building systems.

Affordable multifamily housing is significantly restricted in how it is refinanced, and how capital is raised. To address this inability to access capital, the timing and cost of replacements for major capital items are projected and all projects are required to make deposits into a Reserve for Replacement account monthly in order to provide adequate resources for the periodic replacement of building systems over time.

Historically, because of the ability to re-syndicate at Year-15, many properties nationwide have been structured for 15-year viability. That is by requiring only the replacement reserve deposits needed for 15 years of replacement needs, the property requires less public capital to initially develop. In PRIME funding initiatives, the LHC has required higher reserve deposits which are consistent with longer-term viability, resulting in properties we expect to be less dependent on re-syndication in the middle of the 30-year affordability period. One consequence of this is that the properties require more public investment initially to develop (greater reserves correspond to less debt capacity which corresponds to greater need for public

investment). However, earlier properties were developed with reserve deposit requirements more typical of 15-year cycles of viability, and some of these properties lack sufficient reserves for likely capital replacement needs during the remaining period of affordability.

An additional consideration is the maturity of primary debt, which often coincides with the 15-year investment period of the tax credit investor. Lending institutions generally look to manage long-term risk by providing loans which mature at 15-18 years. Longer maturities are difficult to obtain and require FHA insurance and very long processing times. Consequently, at Year-15, not only is the investor looking to exit the transaction, but also the lender is expecting a 'balance due on maturity'. All these considerations and factors combine for the need for recapitalization of the property during the period of affordability. The LHC underwrites deals at award to establish the likely refinancing risks at this future event, toward funding transactions which are less likely to require additional investments of public capital to realize the benefits of the 30-year use agreement.

Once again, thank you for being a partner in advancing affordable housing for the State of Louisiana. Fiscal responsibility is absolutely key; however, it is equally important to understand factors not inherent to private market rate home sales. Please consider the aforementioned responses when finalizing your recommendations. Feel free to contact me for further discussion or to answer any questions.

Sincerely,



Marjorianna Willman
Executive Director LHC

xc: Stephen I. Dwyer, Chairman, LHC Board of Directors
John C. Fleming, MD, Louisiana State Treasurer
Renee' Fontenot Free, LHC Board Member Official Designee
Steven J. Hattier, LHC Programs Committee Chairman
Bradley Sweazy, Advisor to the LHC Board of Directors
Gina Campo, Executive Director, Louisiana Office of Community Development
Louis Russell, LHC Chief of Multifamily Production

LIHTC Program Recommendations

1. Affordable Housing:

What does the average Louisiana household spend to purchase a home? “Affordable housing” should not be significantly more than the working class is paying out of pocket for housing.

- a. We recommend defining this term to prevent developments that fall within a luxury price point.

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- a. We recommend requiring a detailed cost estimate from the architect (listed as part of the development team) to be submitted with the bond application.
- b. We recommend requiring an appraisal to be submitted with the bond application
- c. These documents should be cross checked against recommendation 1.

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- d. Recommendations 1 & 2 should correct this issue.

4. Projects Fully Covered by Public Funds:

- a. Layering of different government programs can create scenarios where public funds are used to outright purchase real estate for private citizen/developers.
- b. This may not comply with Article VII of Louisiana’s constitution (prohibition against donating public funds to private entities...LA has no ownership interest & not receiving a 30-year benefit)
- c. We recommend implementing a maximum percentage of public funds that can be applied to a single project.

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- e. Project cash flows submitted with bond applications support sufficient capital to operate and maintain the facility for the full compliance period
- f. We recommend holding developers accountable for the full 30-year compliance period. If properties are not in livable condition at year 16, new tax credits should not be approved, as compliance has not been met.