



LOUISIANA HOUSING CORPORATION		PERSONNEL POLICY NO. 46	
SUBJECT: EXTRAORDINARY QUALIFICATIONS/ CREDENTIALS			
Review Dates:	09/2014; 05/2018		
Approval:		Kevin Brady	Date: 5/15/18
Approval:		E. Keith Cunningham	Date: 5/15/18

SUMMARY OF CHANGES		
Date	Author	Change Description
05/18	K. Brady	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy required updating in compliance with Civil Service 2018 Compensation Redesign Program. Changes made reflect the language used in the policy template provided by Civil Service. • Separated Part D. Extraordinary Qualifications/ Credentials from HR Policy 07 Filling Vacancies. • Removed a lot of repetitive information and moved information for better flow and understanding. • Change maximum 6.5(g) authority from 3rd quartile to midpoint of pay range.

I. Policy.

In accordance with State Civil Service Rule 6.5(g), Extraordinary Qualifications/ Credentials, the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) reserves the right to offer salaries above the minimum to applicants who possess extraordinary qualifications and/or credentials only when such action is necessary to recruit those persons to work for LHC. LHC will consider similar pay adjustments for current employees who possess the same or substantially similar qualifications.

Specific verification of the extraordinary qualifications/ credentials possessed and evidence of how those extraordinary qualifications/ credentials would be particularly beneficial to help fill the position is required.

II. Applicability.

This policy applies to the LHC classified employees and prospective employees.

III. Implementation.

This policy becomes effective upon signature of the Appointing Authority and approval of State Civil Service. This and subsequent revisions shall become effective on the date revisions are approved and signed by the Appointing Authority and approval of State Civil Service.

IV. Posting.

This policy shall be posted in one or more visible locations to assure that it is accessible to all employees. The Appointing Authority must assure that the posting and any subsequent revisions remain in place permanently or are replaced when appropriate.

V. Factors for Consideration.

When determining and setting an appropriate salary upon hire, the factors listed below shall be taken into consideration.

- **Market Relativity:** a comparison of the new hire's pay relative to the midpoint or market rate for his/her position.
- **Internal Equity:** a criterion that takes into consideration the relationship of one employee's salary to the salaries of other employees who have comparable levels

of education and experience and perform similar duties and responsibilities, within a work unit, division or agency.

- **Work Experience/Education:** a new hire's relevant work history and academic qualifications as related to the job.
- **Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:** special qualifications, competencies, and/or prerequisites needed to successfully perform the tasks required of a job.
- **Recruitment/retention Issues:** issues related to jobs that may warrant higher salaries because of difficulty in recruiting or retaining employees with qualifications or credentials that are highly sought after.

Pay ranges are divided into quartiles to aid in determining employee hiring rate placement within prescribed salary range. There are four points in the range to consider.

- **Minimum:** the entry point for a grade and is appropriate for someone who is new to the position, when there is an abundant supply of talent, and low turnover.
- **First quartile:** the progress point for a pay range and is usually appropriate for someone who is experienced and performing all the duties of the position, or when there are challenges in the supply of talent, and some turnover.
- **Midpoint:** the advance point (midpoint or market) and is usually appropriate for a seasoned employee who is performing competently in their job over many years, or when there is a limited supply of talent and significant turnover.
- **3rd Quartile to Maximum:** the point up to the maximum for a grade that is usually appropriate for an employee with a level of experience and expected performance that will significantly exceed both the requirements of the job and the performance of most other employees. Hiring at this rate should be rare and factors such as a scarce supply of talent, and critical turnover should be considered.

Minimum	1st Quartile	Midpoint	3rd Quartile to Maximum
Meets minimum qualifications	Previous related experience	Subject Matter Expert	Hiring above the midpoint/ market should be rare, but may be justified by the following:
No prior experience	Demonstrated ability to perform duties	Exhibits broad and deep knowledge of job and related areas	-Difficult to recruit applicants to the position
Requires additional training to build knowledge and skills	May require additional training to perform duties independently	Senior-level job expertise with no training required	-Highly qualified with industry leading expertise
			-Sought after educational background and experience

Employees hired at the first level of a career progression group should not typically be hired on 6.5(g) since the minimum qualifications for the majority of first level jobs require no experience. To justify a 6.5(g) payment an applicant must have extraordinary job-related qualifications, which would likely qualify the applicant for the cap of the career progression group.

VI. Provisions.

1. Provisions of Rule 6.5(g) can be used for a candidate only upon probation or job appointment.
2. Pay can be set under Rule 6.5(g) above the minimum but not to exceed the midpoint of the pay range for the job.
 - a. The employee may be paid upon hiring or at any time within one year of the hire date.
 - b. If paid after the hiring date, the pay change must be prospective.

3. Extraordinary qualifications/ credentials shall be verified and documented as job related. The Appointing Authority shall verify any extraordinary qualifications/ credentials which the request for a higher minimum salary upon appointment of a candidate will be based.

Any request for pay to be set above the minimum under Rule 6.5(g) must be submitted on a Personnel Action request form by the Appointing Authority with verified credentials attached and written justification for the requested pay. The Appointing Authority must approve the requested salary before it is officially offered or paid.

4. In requesting similar pay adjustments for current employees occupying affected job titles and who possess the same or similar qualifications/ credentials, the Appointing Authority will verify those superior credentials in the same manner as for a candidate.
 - a. Upon approval by the Appointing Authority, salaries of current employees who occupy positions in the affected jobs and possess the same or substantially similar qualifications may be adjusted up to but not to exceed the amount of the percent difference between the special hiring rate and the minimum of the pay grade. The same verification process used for the applicant is required, and formal documentation must be created and available for audit.
 - b. Such adjustments shall only be made on the same effective date that the higher rate is given to the newly hired employee.
5. If an employee with permanent status resigns and is then rehired into either the same position or into the same job title of a job with a lower maximum at the same agency, the employee shall not be eligible for an increase under this rule unless there has been a break in service of at least 30 days.
6. If an employee with permanent status resigns and is then rehired into a job with a lower maximum at any other agency, the employee shall not be eligible for an increase under this rule unless there has been a break in service of at least 30 days.



7. Requests for exceptions to this rule must be approved by the State Civil Service Commission.