

# 2022 - 2023 4% Qualified Allocation Plan



IOWA FINANCE  
AUTHORITY

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## **PART A – REQUIREMENTS FOR FOUR PERCENT (4%) TAX CREDITS WITH TAX-EXEMPT BONDS**

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### **SECTION 1. TAX-EXEMPT BOND FINANCED PROJECTS CREDIT RESERVATION AND ALLOCATION PROCESS**

Thank you for your interest in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program. The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) administers this program in Iowa, as specified in Iowa Code Section 16.35.

The QAP consists of 4 parts: (1) Part A - Requirements for Four Percent (4%) Tax Credits; (2) Part B – Terms and Conditions; (3) Part C – Threshold Requirements for Building, Construction, Site and Rehabilitation; and (4) Part D – Glossary of Terms.

Under IRC Section 42(h)(4), Projects financed with tax-exempt bonds may be entitled to thirty percent (30%) present value Tax Credits not subject to the State Ceiling. The requirements for a Project using tax-exempt bond financing are as follows:

**1.1. Private Activity Bond Cap (CAP).** The bonds to finance the Project shall have received an allocation of CAP pursuant to IRC Section 146 and Iowa Code Chapter 7C. Tax Credits are allowed for the portion of a Project's Eligible Basis that is financed with the tax-exempt bonds. If fifty percent (50%) or more of a Project's aggregate basis (land and building) is so financed, the Project is eligible for Tax Credits for up to the full amount of Eligible Basis. CAP allocation is limited to the greater of fifty five percent (55%) of the aggregate basis or \$25,000,000. The allocation of the CAP shall be after the 42M letter is issued.

**1.2 Allocation through IFA.** Projects financed with tax-exempt bonds are required to apply to IFA for an allocation and for a determination that the Project satisfies the requirements of the QAP. If the Project utilizes a federal lending program or a lending program available through Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, IFA may accept the underwriting and market study information approved by that lending Entity.

**1.3 Application Criteria.** A Project using tax-exempt financing shall satisfy all of the underwriting and threshold requirements. A market study, completed within the past six months, is required to be submitted by a disinterested third party analyst. The market study may be submitted within 30 days after the Application is submitted. If IFA believes there is inadequate demand or proposed occupancy rates that would impact long-term financial feasibility, IFA may require a written analysis of the market study by a market study analyst of IFA's choosing. The Applicant shall agree to pay the cost of the written analysis. The Ownership Entity shall fulfill all post-award requirements and keep the Project in compliance for the Compliance Period and the Extended Use Period, if applicable. The Project shall be subject to the compliance monitoring requirements of Section 4.11 – Compliance.

**1.4 Application Process.** Applicants shall submit the Application package through the online Application system. Applicants are advised to check IFA's website periodically for any amendments or modifications to the Application Package.

**1.4.1** The Applicant shall submit a request for Tax Credits to IFA after the issuer of the bonds has approved an "inducement" resolution for the Project. If the Project is seeking mortgage insurance through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), or credit enhancement from another source, the Applicant shall submit the request to IFA after the FHA or the credit enhancer has approved a preliminary mortgage amount.

**1.4.2** The Tax Credit request shall be submitted in accordance with the QAP and the online Application. These QAP and Application requirements, including fees, will also be used in the IRS Form 8609 Application Package.

**1.4.3** IFA shall review the Application, determine whether the Project is eligible and meets the requirements of the QAP, then make an initial determination of the Project's Tax Credit amount.

**1.4.4** If a Project satisfies the QAP requirements, as determined by IFA, IFA shall provide the Applicant and the bond issuer with an IRC Section 42(m) letter confirming that the Project satisfies the requirements of the QAP and stating the preliminary amount of Tax Credits for the Project. At the time the letter is sent, IFA will request that the issuer confirm IFA's determination of the Tax Credit based upon the bond issuer's determination of the minimum amount of Tax Credits necessary to assure the financial feasibility of the

Project and its viability as a qualified low-income housing Project throughout the Tax Credit Period. In the event IFA is the bond issuer, its' own calculations shall be deemed sufficient to fulfill this requirement.

**1.4.5** The Applicable Percentage is established at either the month in which the building is Placed-in-Service, or at the Ownership Entity's election, the month in which the bonds are issued. If the latter is desired, the election statement shall be signed by the Ownership Entity, notarized and submitted to IFA before the close of the fifth calendar day following the month in which the bonds are issued.

**1.4.6** The Project shall be Placed-in-Service no later than 24 months following the date of the bond issuance. IFA may, on a case-by-case basis, allow a Project to exceed the 24 month requirement. All requests to exceed this requirement on a four percent (4%) Tax Credit Project shall be required to go before the IFA Board of Directors for approval.

**1.4.7** Projects are required to enter into a Land Use Restrictive Agreement (LURA) for a 30-year period, which will govern the low-income use and any other QAP requirements and will follow the same final allocation Application process as Projects awarded Tax Credits in the nine percent (9%) round. A Project may request a Qualified Contract at the time period defined by Code. It is at IFA's sole discretion to approve or disapprove the request.

**1.5 Site Visits.** IFA shall make site visits as it deems necessary to review the proposed Project and to verify any of the information provided by the Applicant. Applicants may or may not be notified of a site visit. If deemed necessary by IFA, Applicants shall provide building access for inspection.

**1.6 Authorization Forms.** IFA may request an executed IRS Form 8821, Tax Information Authorization Form, for each Developer for sharing of information between IFA and the IRS. Members of the Qualified Development Team (QDT), as determined by IFA, shall execute an Authorization to Release Information as part of the online Application.

**1.7 Fees.** IFA shall collect fees for the LIHTC Program as outlined in Appendix D – Fee Schedule. Electronic payment of the fees is required. An Application shall not be accepted unless the Application fee accompanies the Application. The reservation fee will be due within 30 calendar days after the Tax Credit Reservation Date. If the date that the reservation fee is due falls on a weekend or holiday, the fee is due on the next business day. If the reservation fee is not received, IFA may withdraw the Tax Credit Reservation from the Applicant. IFA will not issue an IRS Form 8609 until the initial compliance monitoring fee is paid in full. All fees are nonrefundable except if the Applicant withdraws the Application within three business days of receipt by IFA, the Application fee will be reimbursed.

Please refer to Appendix D – Fee Schedule of the Application Package.

**1.8 Discretion by the Board.** The Executive Director, subject to bond approval by the Board, may determine whether to award Tax Credits to a Project proposing to use tax-exempt financing and four percent (4%) Tax Credits pursuant to the QAP.

**1.9 Joint Review.** IFA reserves the right to conduct joint reviews with other funding sources including any other party, loan or grant program. IFA may contact other sources to obtain information regarding the materials contained in the Application to either verify the information or to obtain independent information regarding a Project. The information will be available for review after the Applications have been evaluated and Tax Credits have been reserved.

**1.10 Document Timeliness.** All supporting documentation required by the Application shall not be more than 180 days old, unless otherwise noted, on the date that the Application is submitted to IFA. Exceptions allowed would include documents not specifically produced for the Application, such as a valid purchase agreement, deed, land title document, Articles of Incorporation.

**1.11 Opinions and Certifications.** The Applicant shall file certifications and professional opinions in support of the Application. All certifications, opinions and documents submitted by attorneys, the Applicant, or other professionals shall be based on an independent investigation into the facts and circumstances regarding the proposed Project. Any opinion submitted by any professional that is not based on an independent investigation of the facts and circumstances of a proposed Project will not be accepted. All certifications shall be in the form specified by IFA. The certifications shall be made under penalty of perjury.

**1.12 Ownership of and Costs Associated with Applications.** IFA shall become the owner of the Application. IFA is not responsible for any costs incurred by the Applicant.

**1.13 Public Information.** The contents of all Applications shall be placed in the public domain and be opened to review by interested parties subject to the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 22. IFA may treat all information submitted by the Applicant as a public record unless the Applicant properly requests that the information be treated as confidential information at the time the Application is submitted. Any request for confidential treatment of information shall be included in a cover letter with the Application and shall enumerate the specific grounds in Iowa Code Chapter 22 or other provisions of law that support treatment of the material as confidential and shall indicate why disclosure is not in the best interest of the public. The request shall also include the name, address, and telephone number of the Person authorized by the Applicant to respond to any inquiries by IFA concerning the confidential status of the materials. In the event IFA receives a request for the release of information that includes material the Applicant has marked as confidential, IFA shall provide a written notice to the Applicant regarding the request. Unless otherwise directed by a court of competent jurisdiction, IFA will release the requested information within 20 days after providing the written notice of the request to the Applicant. The Applicant's failure to request confidential treatment of material pursuant to this Section may be deemed by IFA as a waiver of any right to confidentiality.

**1.14 Qualified Residential Rental Property.** The Applicant shall certify that the Project as proposed is a Qualified Residential Rental Property. IFA reserves the right to require the Applicant to supply a legal opinion that the Project as proposed is a Qualified Residential Rental Property.

**1.15 Prohibition of Applying Within the Initial 15-Year Compliance Period.** Once a Project has been issued an IRS Form 8609, the Project is prohibited from applying for LIHTC credits until after the 15th year has been completed (of the initial 15 year Compliance Period).

## **SECTION 2. UNDERWRITING**

The Applicant shall demonstrate that the Project is financially feasible and viable using the least amount of Tax Credits. Underwriting will be completed by IFA during the Application review process. IFA may adjust the amount of Tax Credits based upon the underwriting. Underwriting shall be completed for a Project prior to the time a reservation is awarded and before an IRS Form 8609 is issued. The pro forma cash flow is part of the Application. If a gap in financing is discovered after underwriting the Project, the gap may be filled from no more than sixty-five percent (65%) of the Developer's Fee. IFA may require the Applicant to provide annual financial statements or credit reports for the Project Developer.

The Applicant shall provide information regarding loans, grants, equity contributions, the anticipated value received from syndicators, equity partners or private funding sources for the Tax Credits.

The following minimum financial underwriting requirements apply to all Projects. Projects that cannot meet the minimum requirements, as determined by IFA, will not receive Tax Credits.

### **2.1 Underwriting Standards.**

**2.1.1 Escalators.** Projects will be underwritten with income escalating at a minimum of two percent (2%) and operating expenses escalating at a minimum of three percent (3%), with a minimum spread of one percent (1%) required between the income and expense escalators. Management fees will escalate at the same rate as income.

**2.1.2 Vacancy Rate Standards.** Projects will be underwritten at a seven percent (7%) vacancy rate. Projects with 25 Units or less will be underwritten at a ten percent (10%) vacancy rate. IFA will allow a five percent (5%) vacancy rate if the Property has maintained a ninety-five percent (95%) or higher annual occupancy rate for the previous three years, and is currently occupied at a minimum of ninety-five percent (95%).

**2.1.3 Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) Standards.** All Projects DSCR between 1.15 and 1.70 DSCR for the first 15 years. Existing debt that will be assumed by the Ownership Entity shall be disclosed in the threshold Application.

**2.1.4 Interest Rates.** IFA reserves the right to underwrite the Project at current market interest rates.



**2.1.5 Amortization Schedule.** IFA will underwrite using a 30-year minimum amortization on the first mortgage debt.

**2.1.6 Existing Reserve Accounts.** Cash from Project reserve accounts transferred to the Ownership Entity with the acquisition of a Project shall not be allowed in eligible basis.

**2.1.7 Net Rent Increases.** IFA shall limit net rent increases to a maximum of six percent (6%) per Unit, between the Threshold Application and the IRS Form 8609 Application unless the Project has an executed Federal Project-Based Rental Assistance Contract.

**2.1.8 Historic Tax Credits.** Applicants shall use the maximum amount of state and federal historic tax credits as awarded by the appropriate allocating agency as a funding source. Applicants shall not create a sub recipient of the Federal Historic Tax Credits in order to become eligible for more Tax Credits.

**2.1.8.1 State Historic Tax Credits (SHTCs).** State Historic Tax Credits may be listed as a source of funds, provided that the Applicant can demonstrate that the equity received from these credits will be received prior to the issuance of the IRS Form 8609. If the Applicant does not have a commitment for State Historic Tax Credits, a General Partner loan commitment is required.

## **2.2 Operating and Replacement Reserves.**

**2.2.1 Operating Reserve.** The operating reserve will be the greater of: (1) \$1,500 per Unit; or (2) six months of debt service, operating expenses and real estate taxes. At the time of the issuance of the IRS Form 8609, the operating reserve cannot exceed eight months of debt service, operating expenses and real estate taxes. The operating reserve shall be in place for the first 15 years and be used solely to cover operating deficits. The Applicant shall include a narrative explaining how the operating reserve will be established. The operating reserve shall be fully funded within six months from the date IFA sent the IRS Form 8609 to the Ownership Entity.

**2.2.1.1** The operating reserve can be funded by deferring the Developer's fees of the Project.

**2.2.1.2** The Ownership Entity may fund the operating reserve using an irrevocable letter of credit. The letter of credit will be released after the end of the 15-year period described in Section 2.2.1 – Operating Reserve. If a letter of credit is used, the proceeds shall not be included in the Project costs. The fees associated with obtaining the letter of credit may be included in Project costs.

**2.2.1.3** The requirement for the operating reserve is a compliance issue and may be satisfied using the terms and conditions of the operating reserve required by lenders or other funders financing the Project, provided the reserve is equal to or greater than the reserve required by Section 2.2.1 – Operating Reserve. Applicants shall submit to IFA a verification that the terms and conditions of the operating reserve required by lenders or other funders financing the Project has or will be satisfied at the time a building is Placed-in-Service. If the operating reserve will be established with the final equity payment, a letter from the syndicator or investor will be required.

**2.2.2 Replacement Reserve.** All Family Projects shall budget replacement reserves of \$350 per Unit per year escalating at the same rate as operating expenses. All Older Persons Projects shall budget replacement reserves of \$300 per Unit per year escalating at the same rate as operating expenses.

**2.2.2.1** The Application will include a narrative explaining how the replacement reserve will be escrowed and used only for the replacement of capital components of the Project. The replacement reserve shall be shown on the pro forma.

**2.2.2.2** The requirement for the replacement reserve is a compliance issue and may be satisfied using the terms and conditions of the replacement reserve required by lenders or other funders financing the Project provided the reserve is equal to or greater than the reserve required by Section 2.2.2 – Replacement Reserves. Applicants are required to submit to IFA a verification that the terms and conditions of the replacement reserve required by lenders or other funders financing the Project has or will be satisfied at the time a building is Placed-in-Service.

**2.3 Deferred Developer Fees.** Developer fees can be deferred to cover a gap in funding sources as long as: (1) the entire amount will be paid within 15 years and meets the standards required by the IRS to stay in basis; and PART A – REQUIREMENTS FOR FOUR PERCENT (4%) TAX CREDITS WITH TAX-EXEMPT BONDS

(2) the deferred portion does not exceed sixty-five percent (65 %) of the total amount as of the full Application. If the deferred Developer fee cannot be paid within 15 years, IFA will consider the unpaid amount to be a Developer contribution to the Project. Each of these will be determined by IFA. Nonprofit organizations shall include a resolution from their Board of Directors allowing such a deferred payment obligation to the Project. The deferred Developer fee shall be paid from the net cash flow and not be calculated into the minimum Debt Service Coverage Ratio.

## **2.4 Financing Commitment.**

**2.4.1 Construction and Permanent Financing.** The Applicant shall provide a letter of intent for construction and permanent financing from a lending institutions on the institution's letterhead. The permanent financing commitment letter shall clearly state the term of the loan, the fixed interest rate, the amortization period, fees, prepayment penalties, anticipated security interest in the Property and lien position.

**2.4.2 Other Financing.** For all other sources, a commitment for funding shall be made in advance. This includes existing grants, loans, tax credits, etc. Documentation that specifies the value of the commitment, the purpose the funds can be used for, and time limitations related to the commitment shall be provided from the entity making the commitment. The Owner contribution letter shall be an unconditional and non-expiring commitment to the Project.

**2.4.3. Other Commitments.** For tax increment financing, tax abatement and Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption (URTE), a resolution adopted by the city council that allows the creation of a TIF district or an URTE, subject to the Project being awarded Tax Credits, is required.

**2.4.4 General Partner Contribution.** A minimum required contribution of \$100 by the General Partner/managing member shall be included in the funding sources in the Application.

**2.4.5 Operating Income During Construction.** Acquisition/Rehab Projects shall include an estimate of the Project's operating income during construction as a funding source.

**2.4.6 Financing for Paved Roads.** If the path from the proposed Property entrance to a paved road is de minimis, as determined solely at IFA's discretion, then the Applicant will be allowed to provide a binding commitment for both the construction and financing of the paved road, using funds outside of the Tax Credit development budget. The cost of construction of the paved road shall not be included in the Project costs, and the construction of the paved road shall be completed prior to the issuance of an IRS Form 8609. The Ownership Entity cannot be financially obligated for the cost of the road.

**2.4.7 Financing for Utilities.** The Applicant shall certify that all Utilities are or will be physically available to and have adequate capacity for the proposed Project. If Utilities are not available to the site on the date the Application is submitted, the Applicant shall supply adequate evidence that demonstrates that the Utilities will be available by start of construction. This evidence shall include the appropriate funding source the Applicant will utilize for the Utility extension. Any charges for the extension of services that are not normal extensions may not be included in Eligible Basis. Utilities shall be available at the site prior to the issuance of an IRS Form 8609. The site plans shall clearly show the locations of existing Utilities to the site. The Application shall verify the Utilities are adequate to serve the Project or shall provide costs to upgrade in the Scope of Work.

## **2.5 Developer, Builder and Other Fees.**

**2.5.1 Developer Fees.** Developer fees (including overhead and profit, Consultant Fees) shall not exceed the percentages described below. For new construction, the Developer's Fee is calculated as a percentage of Total Project Costs minus land, Developer's Fee, Developer's overhead and profit, Consultant Fees and Project reserves. Fees paid to parties who have an Identity of Interest shall be fully disclosed, and at IFA's discretion, will be included in the allowable Developer fee. For acquisition/rehabilitation or rehabilitation Projects, the Developer's fee is listed in the schedule below. The fees will be limited to the lesser of the calculations using the total development costs or the Developer fee per Unit Cap:

Total Development Costs	
Project Type	Fee Limit
<b>New Construction Projects:</b>	
First 36 Units within the Project	Not to exceed 14%
Remaining Units within the Project above 36	Not to exceed 12%

Acquisition/Rehabilitation or Rehabilitation Projects:	
Rehabilitation Portion of Acq/Rehab or Rehab Projects, including Adaptive Reuse, Historic, and Preservation Projects	The following percentages are based on the Total Project Costs minus land, building purchase (existing structures), Developer' Fee, Developer's overhead and profit, Consultant Fees, and Project reserves.
First 36 Units within the Project	Not to exceed fifteen percent (15%)
Remaining Units within the Project above 36	Not to exceed thirteen percent (13%)

Acquisition Portion of Acq/Rehab Projects, including Adaptive Reuse, Historic, and Preservation Projects	Not to exceed 5% of the purchase cost of the buildings (existing structures).
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Developer Fee per Unit Cap				
New Construction/Adaptive Reuse				
Studio	1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms
\$15,000	\$19,000	\$22,500	\$26,500	\$29,000

Acquisition/Rehab				
Studio	1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms
\$11,500	\$13,500	\$16,000	\$20,000	\$20,000

**2.5.2 Builder and General Contractor Fees.** Builder and general contractor fees will be limited to a total of twelve percent (12%) of the Hard Construction Costs. This fee is limited to ten percent (10%) of Hard Construction Costs if an Identity of Interest exists between the Owner, the builder and general contractor.

**2.5.3 Professional and Other Fees.** IFA reserves the right to limit professional fees and other fees related to services rendered to the Project. Fees paid to parties who have an Identity of Interest shall be fully disclosed, and at IFA's discretion, will be included in the allowable Developer fee.

**2.6 Subsidy Layering Review.** If the Project loan will be FHA-insured, IFA shall complete a HUD-required subsidy-layering review to assure that the Project complies with HUD guidelines pursuant to Section 911 of the 1992 Housing and Community Development Act (combining Tax Credits with HUD assistance).

**2.7 Special Considerations for Projects Located in Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) and Difficult Development Areas (DDA).** The Code allows the possibility of receiving a Tax Credit Reservation boost of thirty percent (30%) for areas defined by HUD as a QCT or DDA. Applicants may request the higher basis, but IFA reserves the right to determine the Tax Credit Allocation amount required for feasible development. Refer to Appendix C - QCTs & DDAs of the Application Package.

**2.7.1 Community Service Facility.** Tax Credits may be awarded to that portion of the building used as a Community Service Facility, not in excess of ten percent (10%) of the total Eligible Basis, if the building is located within a QCT. A "Community Service Facility" may include childcare, workforce development, healthcare, etc., and shall be designed primarily to serve individuals whose income is sixty percent (60%) or less of AMI.

**2.8 Minimum Set-Aside Elections.** The Applicant shall make a minimum set-aside election of income and rent levels of those listed below.

Any Owner election made in regards to the minimum set-aside election requirement for a qualified low-income housing project under IRC Section 42(g) is irrevocable once made in the Threshold Application.

If a Project fails to meet its Owner-elected minimum set-aside standard at the end of a year, it is not a qualified low-income housing project for the year under IRC Section 42(g)(1)(C) and this noncompliance must be reported on IRS Form 8823. The Owner may be subject to the loss of Tax Credits.

**2.8.1 20-50 Test.** At a minimum twenty percent (20%) or more of the residential Units in a Project are both rent-restricted and occupied by individuals whose income is fifty percent (50%) or less of AMI; or

**2.8.2 40-60 Test.** At a minimum forty percent (40%) or more of the residential Units in a Project are both rent restricted and occupied by individuals whose income is sixty percent (60%) or less of AMI; or

**2.8.3 Average Income Test (Income Averaging).** At a minimum forty percent (40%) or more of the residential Units in a Project serve households earning as much as eighty percent (80%) AMI, as long as the average income/rent limit in the property is sixty percent (60%) or less of AMI. The average income test is not available for Scattered Site Projects.

### **SECTION 3. THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS - ALL DEVELOPERS\OWNERSHIP ENTITIES**

To be considered for a Tax Credit Reservation, a Project shall demonstrate that it meets the requirements described in this Section.

**3.1 Complete Application.** In order for IFA to review an Application fairly and accurately, it shall be complete. If there is not adequate information provided to review the Application, and upon request from IFA to the Applicant, adequate information is not submitted, then IFA shall reject the Application.

**3.2 Qualified Development Team.** The Applicant is required to identify the Qualified Development Team (QDT) and to provide a narrative describing the function of the QDT team members. The narrative shall explain how the QDT possesses the necessary experience to successfully complete the proposed Project and all other projects under construction, and that it has developed projects of comparable size and financing complexity.

The qualifications of the QDT will be evaluated again at the reservation of Tax Credits and the Tax Credit Reservation may be revoked, at the sole discretion of IFA, if the QDT is not qualified to successfully complete the proposed Project. The management company/manager shall have at least three years of Section 42 management experience and are currently managing a Section 42 Property. IFA reserves the right to request the audited financials of the management company.

IFA may require a financial background check of the Project Developer, General Partner/managing member, and the management company, or the Affiliates of any of the foregoing. If the background check discloses any financial difficulties, risks or similar matters that IFA believes might substantially impair or harm the successful development and operation of the Project as a qualified low-income housing Project, IFA may:

1. Refuse to allow the QDT member to participate in the Tax Credit Program; and/or
2. Reject or disqualify an Application and cancel any Tax Credit Reservation: and/or
3. Demand additional assurances that the development, ownership, operation or management of the Project will not be impaired or harmed (such as performance bonds, pledging unencumbered assets as security, opinions of financial solvency by an independent certified public accountant, or such other assurances as determined by IFA).

**3.2.1 Tax Credit Investor.** A Project with a Tax Credit investor who has an Identity of Interest with an Owner Representative of the Project shall have a third party asset manager that is pre-approved by the IFA LIHTC Manager. A direct investor shall have a LIHTC asset management department with at least three years' experience.

**3.2.2 New Applicant.** An Applicant that has never been allocated Tax Credits in any state is only eligible to receive an award of Tax Credits for one Project. A new Applicant shall complete at least one LIHTC Project in which all LIHTC Units have been leased at least once and has received an IRS Form 8609, in Iowa or any other state, before being allowed to submit a subsequent Application. It is recommended that new Applicants attend an in-person meeting with the LIHTC manager to review the QAP and the Application process prior to submitting an Application.

**3.3 Location and Site Requirements.** The proposed Project shall be located in an incorporated city at Application submission. The Applicant shall be ready to proceed with the Project by documenting site control and site suitability. Refer to Part C – Threshold Requirements for Building, Construction, Site and Rehabilitation for related requirements.

**3.4 Scattered Sites.** The Applicant shall submit a composite Application reflecting the total of all sites as well as separate site specific exhibits for each site included in the Project. A Scattered Site is a Project where multiple buildings with similar Units are not located in proximity to one another, but are owned by the same party and financed under the same agreement(s). A Scattered Site Project may be new construction, acquisition, rehabilitation or a combination of these types. For Scattered Site Projects, all Units shall be qualified LIHTC Units. Scattered Sites cannot elect the average income test.

**3.5 Adequate Market.** The market study and analysis shall only be used to demonstrate that there is adequate sustained demand for the proposed Project, and that the construction or rehabilitation of the additional affordable Units will not have an adverse impact on the existing affordable Units and affordable Units under development in the market area.

**3.6 Appraisals.** IFA reserves the right to acquire an appraisal at the Applicant's expense, if reasonable cause exists to question the fair market value of the land and/or buildings acquired.

**3.6.1 Land or Building Acquisition with an Identity of Interest.** For land or buildings which are acquired from a party with an Identity of Interest, at Application submission IFA will commission an appraisal by an MAI certified appraiser who is not a related party and is currently in good standing. The appraisal shall specify an allocation of value between land and buildings.

**3.6.2 Acquisition/Rehab Projects.** For Acquisition/Rehab Projects requesting acquisition credits, at Application submission IFA will commission an appraisal by an MAI certified appraiser who is not a related party and is currently in good standing. The appraisal shall specify an allocation of value between land and buildings.

**3.7 Preliminary Costs and Scope of Work for Acquisition/Rehab, Rehab Projects, and Adaptive Reuse Projects.** The Applicant shall provide a Scope of Work for the Project that includes a cost estimate for the Hard Construction Costs.

**3.8 Displacement of Residential Tenants.** IFA will accept Applications that have displaced (or will displace) tenants, although involuntary permanent displacement of existing tenants is strongly discouraged. IFA reserves the right to reject any Application that fails to minimize permanent displacement of tenants and/or provide an adequate relocation plan. A formal relocation plan shall be submitted with the Application if the Project scope requires any form of temporary or permanent relocation of existing tenants. The proposed relocation plan shall provide an overview of the need for relocation, a proposed timeline, an estimated budget, and other information as requested in the Application to document that the need for temporary or permanent relocation of existing tenants is adequately addressed. If a federal funding source is used, the most restrictive relocation plan requirements shall be followed.

**3.9 Confirmation of Eligibility—Acquisition/Rehabilitation.** The Applicant is required to confirm eligibility under IRC Section 42(d) (2) (B) (ii) (the 10-year rule) by listing each building address, the date the building was Placed-in-Service by the Applicant from whom the building was or will be acquired, the date the building was or is planned for acquisition by the Applicant, and the number of years between the date the building was last Placed-in-Service and the expected date of acquisition. If the number of years for any building is less than 10 years, the Applicant shall explain any exception under the Internal Revenue Code which would make the building eligible for Tax Credits under IRC Section 42(d)(2)(B)(ii).

**3.10 Rehabilitation Standards.** The Applicant shall provide information regarding Rehabilitation Expenditures for each building as specified in Part C – I – Rehabilitation Standards.

**3.11 Building Standards.** Preliminary site plan, floor plans and elevations are to be submitted with the Application to IFA for all of the buildings in the proposed development. The Applicant shall meet local, state and federal standards that apply to the Project, and meet IFA's minimum development characteristics. For additional requirements and a list of the minimum development characteristics, refer to Part C – Threshold Requirements for Building, Construction, Site and Rehabilitation.

**3.12 Market Rate Standards.** Market rate single family homes shall not be allowed in any Project. Market rate Units shall be dispersed throughout the property rather than segregated.

**3.13 Senior Projects Standards.** Senior Projects are not allowed anything greater than 2 bedrooms per unit. If layered with an existing Federal Program, the senior occupancy restrictions for the Federal Contract shall apply.

**3.14 Next Available Unit Rule.** All buildings that contain residential rental Units shall have at least one Low-Income Unit. The LIHTC Available Unit Rule (AUR) or sometimes referred to as the Next Available Unit Rule (NAUR) shall apply to all buildings in the Project. Each buildings Applicable Fraction shall be maintained throughout the Compliance Period and the Extended Use Period.

**3.15 Acknowledgements.** The Applicant shall acknowledge the following:

1. The commitment to notify Public Housing Authority (PHA) of Vacancies.
2. The notification of the Chief Executive Officer of the Local Jurisdiction where the proposed Project is located. IFA will send a summary of the characteristics of the proposed Project to the Chief Executive Officer.
3. The Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan requirement and shall submit the plan to IFA no less than 120 days prior to the Placed-in-Service Date. The Property shall maintain an AFHMP throughout the Compliance Period and Extended Use Period. A new plan shall be established and approved by IFA every five years or as prescribed by HUD, whichever is stricter.
4. All awarded Projects shall be listed on Iowa's free rental housing locator at [www.iowaHousingSearch.org](http://www.iowaHousingSearch.org). The Applicant shall list the Property no less than 120 days prior to the Placed-in-Service Date. The Property shall maintain the listing throughout the Compliance Period and Extended Use Period. Failure to list the property is an unsatisfactory performance issue with IFA and may deem the party ineligible for future rounds. IFA reserves the right to change this requirement if a free rental housing locator is no longer maintained.
5. In order to comply with Section 8.27 of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Owner shall lease Accessible Units designed for persons with disabilities to tenants requiring the accessibility features of the unit. The Applicant shall agree to require a lease addendum to be executed by a tenant(s) occupying that Accessible Unit, who does not require such Accessible features. In the lease addendum, the tenant shall agree to move to a comparable non-accessible Unit upon the request of the Owner with moving expenses to be paid by the Owner. The lease addendum shall be submitted no less than 120 days prior to the Placed-in-Service Date. The Property shall maintain the lease addendums throughout the Compliance Period and the Extended Use Period.
6. Owners shall develop and make public written tenant selection policies and procedures that include descriptions of the eligibility requirements and income limits for admission. The tenant selection plan shall include whether or not there is an elderly restriction or preference in the admission of tenants. The restriction or preference must cite the supporting documentation to ensure nondiscrimination in the selection of tenants. The policy shall show a preference for Persons with a Disability. The plan also shall be consistent with the purpose of improving housing opportunities and be reasonably related to program eligibility and the rental applicant's ability to perform the obligations of the lease. The tenant selection plan shall be submitted at least 120 days prior to the first Unit Placed-in-Service. The Property shall maintain the plan throughout the Compliance Period and Extended Use Period. The plan shall be provided and reviewed by IFA every five years.

**3.16 Ineligibility.** If you have been determined ineligible under any IFA Program you are ineligible to apply for four percent (4%) Tax Credits until you are determined to be eligible. Significant Parties and Affiliates thereof are subject to being deemed ineligible to participate in the LIHTC program as set forth in Appendix E – Ineligibility.

## **SECTION 4. POST RESERVATION REQUIREMENTS**

Once a Tax Credit Reservation has been awarded, the following additional requirements will apply. Failure to comply with any provision of this Section may result in revocation of the Tax Credit Reservation, withholding of the IRS Form 8609 or issuance of an IRS Form 8823.

### **4.1 Construction.**

**4.1.1** Construction shall begin on a Project within 18 months from the Tax Credit Reservation Date. If the Ownership Entity does not comply with this requirement, Tax Credit Reservation shall be considered invalid and a new Application shall be required.

**4.1.2** IFA may periodically request a status report on the Project's construction timeline.

PART A – REQUIREMENTS FOR FOUR PERCENT (4%) TAX CREDITS WITH TAX-EXEMPT BONDS

**4.1.3** Final plans and specifications shall be submitted to and approved by IFA before commencing site work and construction. Plans shall meet and have incorporated all applicable building standards and codes, and IFA's minimum development characteristics. Final plans shall incorporate any and all remediation plans to address detrimental site characteristics.

**4.1.4** The Ownership Entity shall promptly inform the IFA LIHTC Manager of any changes or alterations which deviate from the final plans and specifications.

**4.1.5** Acquisition/Rehab and Rehab Projects shall submit a complete Capital Needs Assessment with the threshold Application. The CNA shall be prepared by a third party that regularly provides CNA's as a basic or core service. The third party may be a member of the Qualified Development Team with prior approval by IFA, but may not be the Ownership Entity or Developer.

**4.1.6** For existing structures, the Ownership Entity shall provide with the submittal of the final construction documents and prior to the start of rehabilitation, a copy of the energy audit conducted by a certified home energy rater. Appropriate specifications to meet IECC standards or alternate cost-effective energy improvements shall be included in the final work rehabilitation order and shall be submitted with the plans and specifications for approval before starting construction.

**4.1.7** A pre-construction meeting shall be held shortly before the start of construction. An IFA representative shall attend this meeting and be given 10 days advance notice. The agenda for the meeting and a project schedule shall be provided to IFA at that time. Construction meeting minutes will be provided to IFA within 30 days of such meeting. A copy of the contractor's initial pay application with a schedule of values shall be provided when executed.

**4.2 Changes to the Application After Award.** After the Tax Credit Reservation is made, the Ownership Entity may request a change to the Application, subject to the written consent of the IFA LIHTC Manager. This request shall be made solely for the purpose of showing changes as described by the following:

**4.2.1** A minor change, as determined by IFA at its sole discretion, in the nature of the Project or changes in partnership members, shareholders, or limited liability members.

**4.2.2** Any changes beyond this, the Applicant needs to request a new Tax Credit Reservation.

**4.3 Material Changes.** If, upon the submission of the IRS Form 8609 Application it is determined that the Project is not substantially the same as the Project described in the Application, the Project will not receive an allocation of Tax Credits, or the amount of the Tax Credits will be adjusted. It is expected that the Project will be the same as originally awarded under this QAP.

**4.3.1** Generally, changes in the total number of Low-Income Units, number of bedrooms per Unit mix, tenant mix (low-income/market rate) and amenities are deemed to be material and not permitted.

**4.3.2** Changes in the number of buildings and Units contained in each building will be allowed if changes are required by local regulatory codes and the Applicant has obtained written approval from IFA prior to making the changes.

**4.3.3** Failure to notify IFA of a material change may result in the revocation or reduction of the Tax Credit Reservation, withholding of the IRS Form 8609, the issuance of an IRS Form 8823 or a State Issued Notice of Noncompliance.

**4.3.4** Any Owner election made in regard to the minimum set-aside for a qualified low-income housing project under IRC Section 42(g) is irrevocable once made in the Threshold Application. No change in the minimum set-aside requirement is permitted.

**4.4 Changes to the Ownership Entity.**

**4.4.1 Transfers.** The Tax Credit Reservation is not transferable. IRS Form 8609 allocations will be issued only in the name of the Ownership Entity named in the Application. Transfers subsequent to the issuance of the IRS Form 8609 allocation are subject to the LURA and to the provisions of IRC Sections 42(d)(7) and 42(j) of the Code.

**4.4.2 Changes to Ownership Entity Structure.** The Ownership Entity shall notify IFA prior to any change to the structure of the Ownership Entity (such as a change in a General Partner, change in the ownership of a corporation or change in the membership of a limited liability company) after the Tax Credit Reservation is issued. Any change in the Ownership Entity shall meet the requirements described in the QAP before IFA shall consent to the change. If the requirements outlined in the QAP are not met, the request may not be approved. It is at IFA's sole discretion to approve or disapprove the request.

**4.5 Post-Closing Submittal.** Applicant shall submit evidence of site ownership and final closing documents to the online Application within thirty (30) days of Syndicator/Direct Investor closing.

**4.6 Prior to Placed-in-Service Date.** The Prior to Placed-in-Service documents shall be submitted and accepted prior to the IRS Form 8609 Application submission. At least 120 days prior to the first Unit's Placed-in-Service Date, a copy of the following shall be submitted to IFA.

1. Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan Package.
2. Documentation that the Project is listed on Iowa's free rental housing locator at the [Iowa Housing Search website](#).
3. A commitment to notify PHA of vacancies.

**4.7 Marketable Title Requirement.** The Ownership Entity shall provide adequate evidence that the Ownership Entity's title in the real estate on which the Project is to be located is a marketable title pursuant to Iowa Land Title Examination Standards, or other applicable law. Adequate evidence of marketable title is demonstrated by either: (1) a title opinion of an attorney authorized to practice law in Iowa showing marketable title in the Ownership Entity; or (2) a title guaranty certificate issued by the Iowa Title Guaranty Division of IFA showing the Ownership Entity as the guaranteed. In the case of leased land, a copy of the recorded lease shall be provided.

**4.8 IRS Form 8609.** All Applicants requesting an IRS Form 8609 allocation shall submit all items described in IFA's current IRS Form 8609 Application package. The final review is conducted after the development has been Placed-in-Service. IFA will again review financial feasibility, revised costs and the equity requirement based on information provided by the Applicant in the final Application to determine the appropriate amount of Tax Credits to be allocated. Payment of any fees referenced in Part C – Fee Schedule are due prior to issuance of an IRS Form 8609.

The Ownership Entity shall complete Part B and return a copy of the fully executed IRS Form 8609 to IFA within 60 days of IFA sending the IFA executed IRS Form 8609. The Owner's completed IRS Form 8609 shall match the terms agreed upon in the LURA. Failure to submit the fully executed IRS Form 8609, within 60 days of IFA sending the IFA executed IRS Form 8609, may result in a State Issued Notice of Noncompliance.

All on-site property management staff will complete Mental Health First Aid training approved by the Iowa Department of Human Services and/or an Olmstead Consumer Taskforce approved Disability awareness training program, such as may be offered by a Center for Independent Living. The date for the Certificate of Training shall be current at the time that the IRS Form 8609 Application is submitted.

The following certifications are to be submitted with the IRS Form 8609 Application:

1. If the Project meets the criteria set forth in Section 3.8 – Displacement of Residential Tenants, a copy of the final relocation plan and copy of the notice to existing tenants shall be provided to IFA at the time of the IRS Form 8609 Application.
2. For new construction Projects with three stories or less, (or 4 stories or more with each Unit having its own heating, A/C and water heating), a home energy rating performed by a certified energy rater is required on each building after it is completed to verify that actual construction meets IECC and IFA's energy related requirements have been installed. A home energy rating report as performed by a certified HERS rater. The Project shall receive a final HERS index of 70 or less.
3. For new construction Projects with four stories or more, documentation by an independent licensed engineer that the Project meets or exceeds ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2010.
4. For existing structures, an energy audit by a certified energy rater that verifies that the selected energy performance measures established in the final rehabilitation work order were installed correctly.
5. Certificate of Occupancy for new construction and adaptive reuse for each building. Architect's certification of completion for Rehab Projects for each building.



**4.9 Operating and Replacement Reserves.** Within six months from the date IFA sends the IFA executed 8609, the Ownership Entity shall provide IFA with verification that the Operating and Replacement Reserve accounts have been funded, and the terms and conditions have been met.

**4.10 Annual Audited Financials.** Tax Credit recipients shall submit annual audited financial statements for the Project within 120 days of the close of the Project's fiscal year, beginning the year after they have received the IRS Form 8609. IFA may require more frequent financial statements, such as an income and expense statements and balance sheets not more than 30 days old. The more frequent financial statements need not be audited. Year-end statements shall be certified by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). IFA requires annual audited financials submitted through the online asset management portal.

**4.11 Compliance.** IFA shall establish procedures for monitoring compliance during: (1) the Compliance Period with the provisions of IRC Section 42 and for notifying the Internal Revenue Service of any noncompliance; and (2) the Compliance Period and the Extended Use Period with the provisions of the LURA and the QAP under which they were awarded. Each Ownership Entity is required to comply with the requirements described in this Section, the Treasury Regulations governing Section 42, Revenue Procedure 97-11, Iowa Code 562A – Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Law and the compliance manual adopted by IFA.

**4.11.1 Record Keeping.** For each year in the Compliance Period and the Extended Use Period, if applicable, the Ownership Entity or its successor in interest shall keep records for each qualified low-income building in the Project, consistent with the Treasury Regulations governing Section 42. The Ownership Entity or its successor in interest shall retain these records for each building in the Project for at least six years after the due date (with extensions) for filing the federal income tax return for that year. The records for the initial taxable year shall be retained for at least six years after the due date for filing the federal income tax return for the last year of the Compliance Period and Extended Use Period, if applicable, of the building.

**4.11.2 Annual Certifications.** The Ownership Entity shall make all necessary annual certifications required by IFA for the preceding 12-month period, as described in the Treasury Regulations governing Section 42.

**4.11.3 Review and Inspections.** IFA shall review the certifications submitted in conformance with the Treasury Regulations governing Section 42 effective on the effective date of this QAP. IFA shall have the right to inspect the Projects in conformance with the standards set forth in the Treasury Regulations governing Section 42. IFA shall provide 48-hour advance notice to the Ownership Entity to inspect any individual Units in a Project. The Ownership Entity shall provide 24-hour advance notice of the inspection to the tenants in the Low-Income Units. Otherwise, advance notice to the Ownership Entity is not necessary for purposes of the inspection provisions set forth in the Treasury Regulations governing Section 42. The owner certifications and reviews of compliance reports shall be made annually. The physical inspection and tenant file reviews shall be made once every three years covering the 15-year Compliance Period under IRC Section 42(i)(1). IFA may require that certifications, reviews and inspections be made more frequently, provided that all months within each 12-month period are subject to certification. The reviews, audits and inspections shall continue through the length of the Extended Use Period.

**4.11.4 Notice of Noncompliance.** IFA will provide prompt written notice to the Ownership Entity of a Project if found to be out of compliance. The notice will describe the events of noncompliance and advise the Ownership Entity of the Project of the time period to correct the events of noncompliance.

**4.11.5 Correction Period.** The correction period shall not exceed 90 days from the date the notice of noncompliance is sent to the Ownership Entity. IFA may extend the correction period for up to six months, but only if IFA determines there is good cause for granting the extension. During the 90-day time period, or an extension thereof, the Ownership Entity shall supply any missing certifications and bring the Project into compliance with the provisions of IRC Section 42.

**4.11.6 Notice to Internal Revenue Service.** IFA will send a written notice to the Internal Revenue Service along with an IRS Form 8823 in the event of a finding of noncompliance by an Ownership Entity. Copies of the IRS Form 8823 and the Internal Revenue Service notice will be forwarded to the Ownership Entity.

**4.11.7 Delegation of Monitoring.** IFA may retain an agent or other private contractor (the "authorized delegate") to perform compliance monitoring. The authorized delegate shall be unrelated to the Ownership Entity of any building that the authorized delegate monitors.

**4.11.8 Liability.** Compliance with the requirements of IRC Section 42 is the responsibility of the Ownership Entity of the building for which the Tax Credits are allowable. IFA's obligation to monitor for compliance with the requirements of IRC Section 42 shall not make IFA liable for an Ownership Entity's noncompliance.

**4.11.9 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).** Title VI of the 2013 VAWA Act, Safe Homes for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking, expanded the applicability of the ACT to the LIHTC program. VAWA protects both child and adult victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. All LIHTC Owners and managers shall comply with the requirements of this Act and shall use the proscribed HUD forms as follows: HUD-5380, Notice of Occupancy Rights under VAWA, HUD-5382, Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation and HUD 91067, Lease Addendum.

In addition, all LIHTC Owners and managers are required to have in place an Emergency Transfer Plan and should use the HUD-5381, Model Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking as a guide. The HUD-5383, Emergency Transfer request may be used in conjunction with the Emergency Transfer plan if the LIHTC Owners and managers require, as part of their Emergency Transfer Plan, a written notification to request a transfer. All four of the HUD VAWA forms are available on HUDClips or on the IFA LIHTC/HOME Compliance page of the IFA website.

## PART B – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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The following terms and conditions apply to all Applicants and Projects that receive a reservation of four percent (4%) Tax Credits.

### SECTION 5: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**5.1 Documents Incorporated by Reference.** The items described in this Section are incorporated by reference in the QAP. The QAP will be deposited in the Iowa State Law Library. Statutory references are available in the Iowa State Law Library.

**5.1.1** 26 USC Section 42 as amended and the related Treasury regulations in effect as of January 1, 2014.

**5.1.2** Iowa Code Section 16.35 and the rules promulgated by IFA to govern the LIHTC Program in effect as of the effective date hereof.

**5.1.3** In the case of any inconsistency or conflict between the items listed in this Section, conflicts shall be resolved as follows:

1. First, by giving preference to IRC Section 42 and the related Treasury regulations.
2. Second, by giving preference to Iowa Code Sections 16.4, 16.35 and the rules governing the QAP; and
3. Third, by giving preference to the QAP.

**5.2 Binding Obligations.** The representations made in the Application shall bind the Applicant and shall become a contractual obligation of the Developer and the Ownership Entity and any Entity the Developer or the Ownership Entity is representing in the presentation of the Application or a successor in interest in the event Tax Credits are awarded to a proposed Project. The contractual obligation shall constitute the agreement between the parties, as represented by the Developer or Ownership Entity, within the following documents: the QAP, Application (with any permitted amendments either prior to the Tax Credit Reservation after issuance of the IRS Form 8609, or during the Compliance Period and Extended Use Period, if applicable) and any other agreements executed between IFA and the Ownership Entity.

**5.3 Land Use Restrictive Covenants (Land Use Restrictive Agreement (LURA)).** The Project shall be subject to the LURA which requires, among other things, that the Project will be used for affordable housing for the required 15-year Compliance Period and Extended Use Period, if applicable. The original document shall be recorded before an IRS Form 8609 is issued. The LURA shall be binding on all successors of the Ownership Entity and run with the land as provided by Section 42(h)(6). Although the LURA will terminate in the event of foreclosure, Section 42(h)(6)(E) (ii) requires that certain limitations as to termination of tenancies and rent increases survive such foreclosure for a period of three years. As a result, all other lenders or prior lien holders shall consent to the recording of the LURA as a restrictive covenant encumbering and running with the land and acknowledge and agree that those provisions of the LURA that set forth the requirements of Section 42(h)(6)(E)(ii) of the Code are superior to the lender or lien holder's security interest and shall continue in full force and effect for a period of three years following the date of acquisition of the Project by foreclosure (or instrument in lieu of foreclosure). The Ownership Entity shall provide adequate evidence that the LURA is binding on all successors of the Ownership Entity and runs with the land. Adequate evidence includes but is not limited to a copy of a final title opinion showing all the current liens against the Property or a title guaranty certificate showing exclusions. The LURA will also comply with other requirements under the Code, QAP, other relevant statutes and regulations and all representations made in the Project Application. If the Property in the Application has an existing LIHTC LURA, then the original LURA requirements, in addition to the Project LURA requirements, will be enforced by IFA.

**5.4 Disclosure of Information Regarding Equity Investors or Syndicators.** The Applicant shall reveal the name and address of all of the equity partners, investors or syndicators involved in a Project regardless of the nature of the placement of the Tax Credits. If the name of the equity partner or syndicator changes following the time of Application, the Application can be amended after the Tax Credit Reservation is issued. An IRS Form 8609 will not be issued unless the name of a syndicator or equity partner is revealed to IFA. Applicants that have been awarded Tax Credits shall also disclose the name and address of equity partners, investors or syndicators involved with Projects being monitored by IFA. If an IRS Form 8609 has been issued, failure to supply the syndicator or equity partner or investor information may result in the filing of an IRS Form 8823 with the Internal Revenue Service. See

Treasury Regulation 1.42-5(a)(2)(ii); IRS Tax Memorandum No. 199944019, August 8, 1999. A Project with a tax credit investor who has an Identity of Interest shall have a third party asset manager that is pre-approved by the IFA LIHTC Manager.

**5.5 No Representation or Warranty Regarding the QAP.** IFA makes no representation or warranty to any Person or Entity as to compliance issues or the feasibility or viability of any Project.

**5.6 IFA Policy on Civil Rights Compliance.** The Applicant and any of its employees, agents or sub-contractors doing business with IFA understands and agrees that it is the responsibility of the Developer and Ownership Entity to adhere to and comply with all federal civil rights legislation including the Fair Housing Laws, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act, as well as any state and local civil rights legislation. It is the legal responsibility of the Developer and Ownership Entity to be aware of and comply with all non-discrimination provisions of federal, state or local law.

## PART C – THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION, SITE AND REHABILITATION

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The terms of Part C are the minimum requirements for all Projects. Required documents for Sections F, G, H, and I shall be prepared by a duly licensed engineer or architect authorized to do business in Iowa. HERS ratings shall be submitted by a RESNET certified rating agent.

Once final plans, specifications and the energy audit or analysis have been completed; the Applicant shall submit them to IFA and receive written approval before commencing site work or construction.

At all times after award, the Applicant shall promptly inform IFA's LIHTC Manager and construction analyst in writing of any changes or alterations which deviate from the plans and/or programmatic elements submitted in the original Application or in the final plans and specifications approved by IFA's construction analyst to proceed with construction. In particular, the Applicant shall not take action on any material change in the site layout, floor plan, elevations or amenities without written authorization from IFA. This includes changes required by local governments to receive building permits.

All of the Low-Income Units shall be generally distributed in terms of location and number of bedrooms throughout the Project. The Low-Income Units shall be of comparable quality and offer a range of sizes and number of bedrooms comparable to those Units which are available to other tenants. The use of wheelchair lifts within a Unit to achieve accessibility is strongly discouraged and should only be used where constraints rule out other options.

**A. Site Control.** At the time of Application, the Applicant shall have site control and show evidence of it by providing executed documents. Site control shall be continuous and uninterrupted throughout the completion of the Project. The Applicant shall show evidence of site control by providing executed documents.

The following shall be proper evidence of site control:

**1. Evidence of Site Control:**

- a. The Applicant holds sole fee simple title to the Property on which the Project will be located by: (a) a properly executed and recorded warranty deed; (b) an Iowa attorney real estate title opinion; or (c) a Title Guaranty Owner Certificate; or
- b. The Applicant has an executed and exclusive purchase option or contract that is valid for nine months following the date of the Application deadline; or
- c. The Applicant has an executed lease or an option on a lease, which has a term not less than the longer of: (a) the entire period during which the proposed Project will be subject to the LURA; or (b) 35 years. If the Applicant is purchasing or leasing parking space from the city, a project specific city resolution would suffice.
- d. The evidence shown in a, b, and c above must be binding on the contractor/lessor/optionor of the Property (i.e. there must be no conditions for the termination within the sole discretion of the contractor/lessor/optionor and the evidence must provide that the contractor/lessor/optionor cannot unilaterally withdraw, revoke or rescind the obligation to the sale or lease of the Property to the Applicant unless the Applicant is in default under the evidence).

**2. Requirements for Site Control:**

- a. There shall be a common ownership between all Units and buildings within a single Project for the duration of the Compliance Period and Extended Use Period.
- b. The Applicant shall provide the location of existing and proposed easements on the site.
- c. The Applicant shall provide the most current real estate tax assessment.
- d. The Applicant shall provide documentation that the Project meets or exceeds the City requirements for parking unless an exemption is provided by the city.
- e. Evidence of site ownership, including all parking, shall be submitted with the Post-closing submittal;

**B. Reserved.**

**C. Zoning.** The Applicant shall provide confirmation that the zoning, including special or conditional use permits and any other discretionary land use approval required (including all legislation or quasi-judicial decisions), for each site on which the Project will be located allows for the use(s) proposed by the Applicant. Verification from the city regarding zoning shall be submitted with the Application. The city zoning department shall verify that the official plat

is properly zoned. Site plans submitted shall show that; (1) the Project will have the proper number of parking stalls; (2) the Project will be located on a paved road; (3) the Property is not landlocked and has a legal easement(s); and (4) right of ways have been granted, if applicable.

If the proposed Project location does not have zoning regulations, a letter from the city shall be submitted attesting to the fact that no zoning regulations are in effect. If the site is not zoned appropriately at threshold Application, the Applicant shall certify in the LIHTC Application that the site will be zoned appropriately by the IRS Form 8609 Application due date.

**D. Access to Paved Roads.** All sites proposed shall, by the time of construction completion, have direct contiguous access from the Project site to existing paved publicly dedicated right of ways. Where the construction of a paved road to the site is required the cost of construction of the paved road shall not be included in the Project costs.

**E. Access to Utilities.** The Applicant shall certify that all Utilities are or will be physically available to and have adequate capacity for the proposed Project. If Utilities are not available to the site on the date the Application is submitted, the Applicant shall supply adequate evidence that demonstrates that the Utilities will be available by start of construction. This evidence shall include the appropriate funding source the Applicant will utilize for the Utility extension. Any charges for the extension of services that are not normal extensions may not be included in Eligible Basis. Utilities shall be available at the site prior to the issuance of an IRS Form 8609.

**F. Building Standards.** Preliminary site plan and floor plans are to be submitted with the Application to IFA. The Applicant shall meet local, state and federal standards that apply to the Project. For the current standards refer to Appendix F – Building Standards:

**G. Minimum Development Characteristics.** In order to enable long-term housing affordability, low maintenance building exteriors and high energy efficiency components and appliances are encouraged. Luxury items will not be allowed in LIHTC Projects. The intent of the program is to provide affordable housing.

The following minimum development characteristics shall be utilized in all construction:

## **1. General**

**1.1 Site Lighting.** It is important that Projects include site lighting adequate to ensure safe and secure travel from parking areas to Unit or building entries. Care should be taken to provide energy efficient lighting that is not excessive or intrusive to the neighborhood. Areas covered by security cameras should be illuminated. Cutoff fixtures that direct light downward are encouraged. Minimum requirements of the Iowa State Code will apply in any case. Adequate security lighting is a requirement for final inspection sign-off by IFA.

**1.2 Laundry.** A common laundry room facility located on site with a minimum of one washer/dryer to serve each 12 Units. A minimum of one front loading accessible washer and dryer is required. Central laundry facilities in buildings with an elevator will comply. An Applicant can provide a washer and dryer in each Unit in lieu of a common laundry room facility. In Unit laundry facilities shall be enclosed and the dryer shall be vented to the exterior of the building.

**1.3 Closets.** A closet (2 foot x 5 foot minimum) with a door shall be provided in each bedroom. The minimum complement of closets per Unit include 1 linen and 1 coat closet, each 2 foot x 3 foot minimum. For Acq/Rehab Projects, exemptions to closet sizes may be provided by IFA on a case by case basis.

**1.4 Minimum Unit Net Square Footage:**

<b>New Construction and Adaptive/Reuse</b>	
Unit Type	Minimum Unit Net Square Footage
Efficiency	450
1 Bedroom	625
2 Bedroom	800
3 Bedroom	1,000
4 Bedroom	1,175

Unit net square footage for each room is measured face of wall to face of wall. The sum total of all spaces in the Unit measured this way must exceed the Minimum Unit Net Square Footage.

**1.5 Trash Enclosures.** Trash removal areas shall be screened.

**2. Accessibility..**

**2.1 Accessible Units.** Requirements for the five percent (5%) Accessible Units shall be met regardless of the building type and include single family or duplex designs. In new, as well as rehab construction, a minimum of five percent (5%) of all Units supplied shall be Fully Accessible, (as defined in ANSI 117.1, Section 1002) on the building accessible routes. This includes all floors if an elevator is provided. All Units on the accessible routes shall be adaptable, (Type B Units per ANSI 117.1, Section 1004). Accessible Unit shall be accessible. Accessible units shall be dispersed throughout the Property and different bedroom sizes rather than segregated.

**2.2 Accessible Communication Features Units.** A minimum of two percent (2%) of all Units supplied shall be adapted for hearing and/or vision impairments as Units with Accessible Communications Features. The two percent (2%) cannot be included in the five percent (5%) of the Accessible Units.

**3. Energy Requirements.**

**3.1 Heating and Air Conditioning.** All Units shall be heated and air conditioned. Air conditioning equipment should be at least 13 SEER (14.5 SEER and 9.50 HSPF for electric heat pumps) and use R-410a refrigerant that is charged according to manufacturer specifications. Thru-wall A/C units shall be at least 10.7 EER or 10.6 CEER. Heating equipment should be at least 95 AFUE for furnaces and 90 AFUE for boilers. Window units are not allowed. Electric resistance heating is not allowed as the primary heating source. AC sleeves shall be provided with a tight-fitting, insulated cover for thru wall AC units. Winter covers shall be provided for each AC unit.

**3.2 New construction.** In addition to meeting Iowa State Code and the IECC, the Project shall meet or exceed prescriptive standards for Multi Family New Construction (MFNC) or prescriptive standards for Energy Star Certified Homes prescriptive standards, Iowa State Code and IECC shall be met and shall receive a Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS) Index of 70 or less from a certified rater in Iowa. A home energy rating performed by a certified energy rater is required on each building after it is completed to verify that actual construction meets IECC and IFA’s energy related requirements have been installed. The contract for the compliance determination shall be between the certified rater and the Ownership Entity. If upon completion, a Project does not meet these requirements, additional steps shall be taken by the Ownership Entity to obtain compliance prior to issuance of the IRS Form 8609.

In lieu of meeting Energy Star, the Project may meet one of the following:

<b>Enterprise Green Communities</b>	<b>USGBC LEED for Homes – v4 HD&amp;C</b>	<b>National Green Building Standard NGBS)</b>
Certified	Certified	Bronze

When submitting documents for IFA review and approval prior to construction, Applicants shall submit a certification from the Architect confirming that the Project will meet the required building standards for the category selected. For example, if an Applicant selects LEED, the Architect shall certify that the Project can meet the LEED standard. This is addition to the required Energy Report from the Energy Consultant.

At the conclusion of construction, third party certification acceptable to IFA for the selected option above is required.

**3.3 For existing structures (Acq/Rehab and Adaptive Reuse).** An energy audit conducted by a certified home energy rater or firm specializing in energy efficiency that is acceptable to IFA, shall be provided on each building prior to the preparation of the final work rehabilitation order. . Prior to the start of construction, IFA requires an engineer or architect to certify that the architect has met and coordinated the design with the energy consultant and owner and that the design meets the applicable IECC as shown in Appendix J – Building Standards. The contract for the determination of the energy audit shall be between the certified rater and the Ownership Entity. If upon completion, a Project does not verify that the Project has met the specified energy improvements, additional steps shall be taken by the Ownership Entity prior to the issuance of the IRS Form 8609.

#### **4. Exterior Construction.**

**4.1 Siding.** An air infiltration barrier is required on all new siding installations. Siding within six feet of the ground shall be durable and impact resistant.

**4.2 Roofs.** If shingles will be installed, then the use of a minimum of 30-year shingles shall be required. For flat roofs, a system with a 10-year full warranty is required. Full warranty shall include all labor and materials for the entire roofing system and insurance rider for consequential damage.

**4.3 Exterior Entry Doors to Common Areas.** Insulated metal or fiberglass panel type with optional thermo-pane glass insert, or thermo-pane glass full lite doors with metal thermal break type frame.

#### **5. Interior Construction**

**5.1 Unit Doors.** Interior common hall Unit entry of solid core wood or solid wood panel type, steel or solid core wood with 180-degree peephole, with passage set and deadbolt lock with one inch throw.

**5.2 Cabinetry.** All cabinets, shelves, and countertops made with formaldehyde free materials: solid wood, formaldehyde free particleboard or MDF (medium density fiberboard), metal with natural or baked enamel factory finish. Cabinets complying with CARB 2 will be accepted. Laminate countertops are required, at a minimum..

**5.3 Window Covering.** Window coverings are required. A spring loaded type window shade is not an approved covering.

**5.4 Appliances.** The kitchen shall have a cook top, an oven, a microwave, a cooling/freezing unit, and a sink. A Family Unit shall have a two bowl kitchen sink. See the Single Room Occupancy definition in Part D – Glossary of Terms for exceptions..

**5.5 High-Speed Internet Access.** Provide high speed internet access to each Unit by wiring for broadband, wireless, or digital subscriber line (DSL). The monthly service fees shall be the responsibility of the tenant.

**5.6 Paints and Primers.** All interior paints and primers comply with Green Seal standards for low VOC limits.

**5.7 Adhesives.** All adhesives comply with Rule 1168 of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

**5.8 Caulks and Sealants.** All caulks and sealants comply with Regulation 8, Rule 51 of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

**5.9 Smoke Detectors.** All Acquisition Rehab/Rehab Projects shall replace all smoke detectors.

#### **5.10 Minimum Bathroom Accessories**

- Towel bar(s) within reach of lavatory and tub/shower
- Toilet paper holder
- Shower curtain rod (if applicable)
- Mirror
- A dedicated drawer, cabinet or shelf space for safe medicine storage is required in at least one bathroom of each Dwelling Unit



## 6. Flooring

**6.1 Carpeting.** Carpets, carpet cushion (i.e. padding), and carpet adhesives shall be labeled with the Carpet & Rug Institute (CRI) Green Label or documented to meet the CRI Green Label testing program criteria. Carpet shall meet the face weight criteria in the table below.

Minimum Weight and Density Requirements for Carpet			
Location:		Nylon - Face Weight	Nylon/Oelifin Blend - Face Weight
In Units	Level/textured Loop	22 oz.	26 oz.
	Cut-Pile Heat Set Plied	24 oz.	30 oz.
Common Areas	Level/textured Loop	26 oz.	28 oz.
	Cut-Pile Heat Set Plied	28 oz.	32 oz.

\*Polyester carpet is not allowed.

**6.2 Resilient Flooring.** Either 1/8 inch vinyl composition tile, color and pattern full thickness, LVT with a 12 mil wear layer or sheet vinyl complying with bathroom specification below, made from products that do not use vinyl chloride in the manufacturing process and do not produce dioxin. An alternative to vinyl composite tile or sheet vinyl is natural linoleum flooring, tile flooring, bamboo or polished concrete.

**6.3 Resilient Flooring—Bathrooms.** Sheet vinyl or LVT with wear surface of 20 mils or greater, with underlayment product on second or higher floors. Resilient flooring shall be made from products that do not use vinyl chloride in the manufacturing process and do not produce dioxin. An alternative is natural linoleum flooring, tile flooring, or bamboo. VCT is not allowed in restrooms.

**H. Submission of Site Characteristics.** The site shall be suitable for the proposed Project and shall be sized to accommodate the number and type of Units and the amenities proposed. The land costs allocated to the Project cannot include excess acreage unnecessary for the construction and use of the Project.

The Applicant shall provide a narrative of the current use of the Property, all adjacent Property land uses, and the surrounding neighborhood. Labeled colored photographs (or color copies) of the proposed Property and all adjacent properties shall be provided, as well as a clear map identifying the exact location of the Project site. In addition, a plat map of the site or proposed replat map of the site shall be submitted. If the site(s) includes any detrimental characteristics, the Applicant shall provide a remediation plan and budget, subject to IFA's approval at its sole discretion, to make the site suitable for the Project. If any detrimental site characteristics exist on, or adjacent to the site, IFA may reject the Application. The following represent some, but not all, detrimental site characteristics:

1. Sites located within a half mile of storage areas for hazardous or noxious materials, sewage treatment plant or other solid waste facility, businesses or equipment producing foul odors or excessive noise or the site is a prior storage area for hazardous or noxious materials, sewage or other solid or liquid waste;
2. Sites where the slope/terrain is not suitable for a Project based on extensive earth removal/replacement required for development;
3. Sites where there are obvious physical barriers to the Project;
4. Sites that are located within a half mile of a sanitary landfill or sites that were previously used as a sanitary landfill;
5. Sites that are located within a flood hazard area, or a 500-year flood zone as determined by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, FEMA map, or a FIRM map. Sites or any part thereof, that are located within a 100-year flood zone are not permitted, except for sites that are:
  - a. Projects included in flood control projects approved and funded by the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board with the following additional requirements:
    - i. Applicant shall ensure elevating the lowest finished floor elevation to two 2 feet above the base flood elevation (i.e., two feet above the "100-year" floodplain), or at the elevation of the "500-year" floodplain, whichever is higher. Floodplain elevation is as determined by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, FEMA map, or FIRM map;
    - ii. Applicant shall acquire flood insurance on the property;
    - iii. Applicant shall obtain and provide personal property insurance for each residential tenant with the premium cost to be paid by the Applicant, if paid by the tenant, the insurance premium shall be part of gross rent; or a tenant reimbursement plan acceptable to IFA;

- iv. Prior to placing the Units in service the owner shall have a plan in place that is acceptable to IFA, that shall provide assistance to tenants in the event that Units become uninhabitable due to a flooding event. The plan shall address, at a minimum, moving costs and similar expenses.
- b. Acquisition/rehabilitation Applications for existing LIHTC Properties that have exceeded the 15-year Compliance Period and have submitted a flood mitigation plan acceptable to IFA.

6. Sites that are located within 500 feet of an airport runway clear zone or accident potential zone;
7. Sites that are landlocked; or
8. Sites that are native prairie land or designated wet lands; or
9. Sites that are within 300 feet of an electrical power substation, natural gas or similar substation shall mitigate the visual effect by erecting a privacy wall/fence and/or building a berm with tree and shrub plantings, subject to IFA's approval.

**I. Rehabilitation Standards.** For all preservation and rehabilitation Projects, IFA requires the Applicant to provide information regarding Rehabilitation Expenditures for each building. The information shall address how the Applicant will meet all of the Building Standards and Minimum Construction Characteristics. The Applicant shall identify, with respect to each building as required by the Application, the Rehabilitation Expenditures as defined in IRC Section 42(e)(2) which shall be allocable to or substantially benefit the Low-Income Units in such building. The Applicant shall provide the calculations for whether the amount of Rehabilitation Expenditures is at least equal to \$35,000 of Hard Construction Costs per Low-Income Unit.

The Scope of Work shall, at a minimum, include the following:

1. Making common areas accessible, creating or improving sidewalks, installing new roof shingles, adding gutters, sealing brick veneers, applying exterior paint or siding, and re-surfacing or re-paving parking areas.
2. Improving site and exterior dwelling lighting with Energy Star qualified lighting fixtures, landscaping/fencing, and installing high quality vinyl, hardiplank siding or brick.
3. Using energy efficient related Energy Star labeled products to replace inferior ones, including insulated windows.
4. Improving heating and cooling units, plumbing fixtures and water heaters, toilets, sinks, faucets, and tub/shower Units to meet minimum efficiency standards for new construction above.
5. Improving quality of interior conditions and fixtures, including carpet, vinyl, interior doors, painting, drywall repairs, cabinets, Energy Star appliances, Energy Star light fixtures, and window coverings to meet minimum efficiency standards for new construction above.  
Drawings shall show the location of the work indicated in the Scope of Work.
6. Upgrading electrical circuits to have GFCI outlets at kitchens, baths, laundries and other applicable locations; and
7. Upgrade all interior lighting to Compact fluorescent and/or LED.

**J. Capital Needs Assessment (CNA).** Acquisition/Rehab or Rehab Projects shall submit a complete Capital Needs Assessment with the design documents that are submitted for review and approval prior to the start of construction. The CNA shall be prepared by a third party that regularly provides CNA's as a basic or core service. The third party may be a member of the Qualified Development Team with prior approval by IFA, but may not be the Ownership Entity or Developer.

## PART D – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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The following capitalized terms shall have the meanings set forth herein unless context clearly requires a different meaning.

**Accessible Units:** Accessible Units shall be dispersed throughout the Property and in different bedroom sizes rather than segregated. The levels of accessibility within Units are determined as follows:

**Fully Accessible Unit:** A dwelling Unit designed and constructed for full accessibility in accordance with Section 1002 of ICC A117.1-2009.

**Type A Unit:** A dwelling Unit designed and constructed for accessibility in accordance with the provisions for Type A Units in Section 1003 of ICC A117.1-2009.

**Type B Unit:** A dwelling Unit designed and constructed for accessibility in accordance with the provisions for Type B Units in Section 1004 of ICC A117.1-2009.

**Visitable (Type C) Unit:** A dwelling Unit designed and constructed for accessibility in accordance with the provisions for Type C Units in Section 1005 of ICC A117.1-2009,

**Units with Accessible Communication Features:** A dwelling Unit designed and constructed to include accessible communication features in accordance with the provisions for such Units in ICC A117-2009.

**Affiliates:** Any Person or Entity who (i) directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries Controls, is controlled by, or is under common Control with the Applicant; or (ii) owns or Controls any outstanding voting securities, partnership interests, membership interests, or other ownership interests of the Applicant; or (iii) is an officer, director, guarantor, employee, agent, partner, member, manager or shareholder of the Applicant; or (iv) has an officer, director, member, manager, guarantor, employee, agent, partner, or shareholder who is also an officer, director, member, manager, employee, agent, partner, or shareholder of the Applicant.

**Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (AFHMP):** to carry out an affirmative program to attract prospective tenants of all minority and non-minority groups in the housing market area regardless of their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, Disability, familial status, religious affiliation, creed, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Racial groups include White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Other groups in the housing market area who may be subject to housing discrimination include, but are not limited to, Hispanic or Latino, Persons with disabilities, families with children, or Persons with different religious affiliations. The Applicant shall describe in the AFHMP the proposed activities to be carried out during advance marketing, where applicable, and during all rent ups. The AFHMP also should ensure that any groups of Persons ordinarily not likely to apply for this housing without special outreach know about the housing, feel welcome to apply and have the opportunity to rent.

**Applicable Fraction:** the fraction used to determine the Qualified Basis of the qualified low-income building, which is the smaller of the Unit fraction or the floor space fraction, as defined more fully in IRC Section 42(c)(1).

**Applicable Percentage:** the percentage multiplied by the Ownership Entity's Qualified Basis to determine the amount of annual Tax Credits available to the Ownership Entity for each year of the Tax Credit Period and as more fully described in IRC Section 42(b).

**Applicant:** the Ownership Entity, Developer, General Partner or Affiliate as shown in the threshold Application Package.

**Application or Application Package:** those forms and instructions prepared by IFA to make a determination to allocate Tax Credits. Applicants are required by IFA to use the forms contained in the Application Package. The Application shall include all information required by the QAP and as may be subsequently required by IFA. Applicants shall submit the Application and exhibits through an on-line Application system.

**Area Median Gross Income (AMI):** the most current tenant income requirements published by HUD pursuant to the qualified Low-Income Housing Project requirements of IRC Section 42(g).

**Board:** the Board of Directors of IFA.

**Builder Overhead:** the cost of continuing operations of a building construction firm.

**Builder Profit:** the return anticipated for providing building construction services under competitive conditions taking into consideration on-site construction time, work performed by the builder, number of subcontractors and extent of subcontract work, risk and responsibility.

**Capital Needs Assessment (CNA):** an assessment of the rehabilitation needs of an existing structure. The assessment shall include a site visit and physical inspection of the interior and exterior of Units and structures, as well as an interview with on-site Property management and maintenance personnel to inquire about past repairs/improvements, pending repairs, and existing or chronic physical deficiencies. The assessment shall also consider the presence of hazardous materials on the site. The assessment shall include a detailed opinion as to the proposed budget for recommended improvements and should identify critical building systems or components that have reached or exceeded their expected useful lives. The assessment shall include a projection of recurring probably expenditures for significant systems and components impacting use and tenancy, which are not considered operation or maintenance expenses, to determine the appropriate replacement reserve deposits on a per Unit per annual basis. The following components should be examined and analyzed for a CNA:

Site, including topography, drainage, pavement, curbing, sidewalks, parking, landscaping, amenities, water, sewer, storm drainage, gas and electric utilities and lines;

Structural systems, both substructure and superstructure, including exterior walls and balconies, exterior doors and windows, roofing system, stairs and drainage;

Interiors, including Unit and common area finishes (carpeting, vinyl tile, plaster walls, paint conditions, etc.), Unit kitchen finishes, cabinets and appliances, Unit bathroom finishes and fixtures, and common area lobbies and corridors; and

Mechanical and electrical systems, including plumbing and domestic hot water, HVAC, electrical, lighting fixtures, fire protection, security, low voltage systems and elevators.

The CNA should conform to standards outlined in ASTM E 2018-08, Standard Guide for Property Condition Assessments: Baseline Property Condition Assessment Process. An assessment done for and accepted by USDA Rural Development in their format is acceptable.

**Code or IRC:** the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, together with any applicable regulations, rules, rulings, revenue procedures, information statements or other official pronouncements issued there under by the United States Department of the Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service relating to the LIHTC Program authorized by IRC Section 42 to and including October 31, 2008. These documents are incorporated in the QAP by reference and pursuant to 265 IAC §§ 17.4(2) and 17.12(2). A copy of the Internal Revenue Code and Treasury regulations and related information relating to this program are found in the state law library and are available for review by the public.

**Community Service Facility:** any facility designed to serve primarily individuals whose income is sixty percent (60%) or less of Area Median Gross Income within the meaning of Section 42(g)(1)(B). It must meet the following criteria: (1) The facility must be used to provide services that will improve the quality of life for community residents; (2) The Ownership Entity must demonstrate that the services provided at the facility will be appropriate and helpful to individuals in the area of the Project whose income is sixty percent (60%) or less of AMI; (3) The facility must be located on the same tract of land as one of the buildings that comprises the qualified low-income housing Project; (4) If fees are charged for the services provided, they must be affordable to individuals whose income is sixty percent (60%) or less of AMI; and (5) The Community Service Facility must be located in a QCT.

**Compliance Period (Initial 15-year Compliance Period):** the 10-year credit period and additional 5-year period for a total of 15 taxable years, beginning with the first taxable year of the credit period.

**Construction Contingency:** a set percentage of Hard Construction Costs that is budgeted for unknown conditions or shortfalls identified after construction commencement.

**Consultant Fee:** a fee paid to a housing consultant. No Entity having an Identity of Interest with the Developer may earn a fee for providing services that would otherwise be provided on a fee basis by a housing consultant. Consultant efforts shall be directed exclusively towards serving the specific Project being proposed.

**Control (including the terms Controlling, Controls, Controlled by, under common Control with, or some variation or combination of all three):** the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of any Person or Affiliate thereof, whether through the ownership of voting securities, by contract or otherwise, including specifically ownership of more than fifty percent (50%) of the General Partner interest in a limited partnership, or designation as a managing General Partner or the managing member of a limited liability company.

**Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) or Debt Coverage Ratio (DCR):** the ratio of a Property's net operating income (rental income less operating expenses and reserve payments) to foreclosable, currently amortizing, debt service obligations.

**Developer (Co-Developer):** any individual or Entity responsible for initiating and Controlling the development process and ensuring that all phases of the development process, or any material portion thereof, are accomplished.

**Difficult Development Areas (DDA):** any areas that are so designated by the Secretary of HUD as areas which have high construction, land, and utility costs relative to area median family income.

**Disability:** at least one of the following criteria: (1) Has a physical, mental or emotional impairment which is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, substantially impedes the person's ability to live independently, and is of a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or (2) Has a developmental Disability, defined as a severe chronic Disability which is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments, is manifested before the Person attains age 22, is likely to continue indefinitely, results in substantial functional limitation in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and which reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong, or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

**Eligible Basis:** with respect to a building within a Project, the building's Eligible Basis at the close of the first taxable year of the Tax Credit Period and as further defined in IRC Section 42(d). Eligible Basis shall not include garages or Storage Units or other amenities where the Ownership Entity is charging tenants for the use of the garage or Storage Unit or other amenities, except when the garage or Storage Units or other amenities are part of normal rent for all of the Units in the Project. If a grant is made with respect to any building or its operation during any taxable year of the Compliance Period and Extended Use Period, if applicable, and any portions of such grant is funded with federal funds, the Eligible Basis of the building for that taxable year and all succeeding taxable years shall be reduced by the portion of the grant.

**Eligible Basis for Rehabilitation Project:** the definition of Eligible Basis with the adjustments described in this Section. No Tax Credits shall be available for acquisition of an existing building unless all of the following criteria are met: (1) The building is acquired by purchase; (2) Subject to limited exceptions, at least 10 years has elapsed since the building was last Placed-in-Service or if more recent, the date of certain improvements costing at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the Applicant's adjusted basis in the building; or (3) The building was not previously Placed-in-Service by a related Person to the current Applicant. For the purposes of this paragraph "Related Person" shall have the same meaning as IRC Section 42(d)(2)(D)(ii); and The used building is rehabilitated in a manner which is eligible for Tax Credits.

**Entity:** any General Partnership, limited partnership, corporation, joint venture, trust, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, business trust, cooperative or other business association.

**Extended Use Period (Long Term Compliance Period):** the time frame which begins the first day of the Initial 15-year Compliance Period, in which the building is a part of a qualified low-income housing Project and ends 15 years after the close of the Initial 15-year Compliance Period, or the date specified by IFA in the LURA.

**Family:** one or more individuals that may be domiciled with one or more Persons under age 18. A Family Project is not an Older Persons Project.

**Fractional Rounding:** For the purposes of determining the number of Units in an Applicant's election(s), fractional Units will be increased to the next whole Unit.

**General Partner:** the General Partner of a limited partnership or a limited liability limited partnership as set forth in the limited partnership agreement or as otherwise established by the Uniform Limited Partnership Act, Iowa Code chapter 488.

**Hard Construction Costs:** the following items: site improvements or work, new construction, rehabilitation, accessory buildings, garages, general requirements, Construction Contingency, asbestos abatement, lead based paint measures, builder's overhead, builder's profit, builder bond fee, permit fees, architect's and engineering fees and other fees.

**Housing Credit Agency:** IFA. Pursuant to Iowa Code Section 16.35, IFA is charged with the responsibility of allocating Tax Credits pursuant to IRC Section 42(h)(8)(A) and pursuant to Iowa Code Section 16.35.

**HUD:** the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or its successor.

**Identity of Interest:** a financial, familial or business relationship that permits less than an arm's length transaction. No matter how many transactions are made subsequently between Persons, corporations, or trusts Controlled by the Ownership Entity/Developer, these subsequent transactions shall not be considered "arm's-length". Identity of Interest includes but is not limited to the following: the existence of a reimbursement program or exchange of funds; common financial interests; common officers, directors or stockholders; family relationships among the officers, directors or stockholders; the Entity is Controlled by the same group of corporations; a partnership and each of its partners; a limited liability company and each of its members; or an S Corporation and each of its shareholders. Failure to disclose an Identity of Interest is an unsatisfactory performance issue with IFA and may deem the party ineligible for future rounds.

**IFA:** the Iowa Finance Authority or its successor.

**IFA LIHTC Manager:** an individual who is charged with administering the LIHTC division of the IFA.

**Income Average Test (Income Averaging):** The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (the Act) permanently establishes Income Averaging as a third minimum set-aside election for new Housing Credit developments which owners could choose in lieu of the two previously existing minimum set-aside elections (the 40 at 60 and 20 at 50 standards). Income Averaging allows Credit-qualified Units to serve households earning as much as eighty percent (80%) of AMI, so long as the average income/rent limit in the property is sixty percent (60%) or less of AMI. Owners electing Income Averaging must commit to having at least forty percent (40%) of the Units in the Property affordable to eligible households.

The eighty percent (80%) of AMI standard is consistent with long-standing federal affordable housing policies, which define "low income" as households earning no more than eighty percent (80%) of AMI. Under the Income Averaging option, the higher rents that households with incomes in the above sixty percent (60%) of AMI range could pay, would have the potential to offset the lower rents for extremely low- and very low-income households living in Units designated at lower income levels, thereby allowing developments to maintain financial feasibility while providing a deeper level of affordability than may be possible otherwise.

Income Averaging applies to the designated income/rent levels of the Units, not the incomes of individual tenant households. Under Income Averaging, designated income/rent levels may only be set at ten percent (10%) increments beginning at twenty percent (20%) of AMI; thus, the allowable income/rent designation levels are twenty percent (20%) of AMI, thirty percent (30%) of AMI, forty percent (40%) of AMI, fifty percent (50%) of AMI, sixty percent (60%) of AMI, seventy percent (70%) of AMI, and eighty percent (80%) of AMI.

**IRS:** the Internal Revenue Service, or its successor.

**Land Use Restrictive Covenants a/k/a Land Use Restrictive Agreement (LURA):** an agreement between IFA and the Ownership Entity and all of its successors in interest where the parties agree that the Project will be an affordable housing Project through the length of the Compliance Period and Extended Use Period, if applicable, by the Ownership Entity and upon which the award of Tax Credits was in part, based. The LURA will contain restrictive covenants that shall encumber the land where the Project is located for the life of the agreement. The LURA shall conform to the requirements of IRC Section 42(h), Iowa Code Section 16.35 and the QAP.

**LIHTC:** the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program authorized by IRC Section 42.

**Low-Income Unit:** any residential rental Unit if such Unit is rent-restricted and the occupant's income meets the limitations applicable as required for a qualified low-income housing Project.

**New Developer:** a Developer that has not been allocated Low-Income Housing Tax Credits in the last five years.

**Older Persons: persons 55 or older:** An Older Persons Project is exempt from the prohibition against familial status discrimination under the Fair Housing Act if: (1) The HUD Secretary has determined that it is specifically designed for and occupied by elderly Persons under a federal, state or local government program; or (2) It is occupied solely by Persons who are 62 or older; or (3) It houses at least one Person who is 55 or older in at least eighty percent (80%) of the occupied Units, and adheres to a policy that demonstrates intent to house Persons who are 55 or older.

**Owner/Ownership Entity:** the Single Asset Entity to which Tax Credits will be or have been awarded.

**Owner Representative:** the General Partner(s) or managing member(s) of the Ownership Entity.

**Person:** any individual or Entity, and the heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors and assigns of such Person where the context so admits; and, unless the context otherwise requires, the singular shall include the plural, and the masculine gender shall include the feminine and the neuter and vice versa.

**Placed-in-Service Date:** the date the Property is ready for occupancy. The Placed-in-Service Date generally marks the beginning of the credit period.

**Project:** a low-income rental housing Property the Applicant of which represents that it is or will be a qualified low-income housing Project within the meaning of IRC Section 42(g). With regard to this definition, the Project is that Property which is the basis for the Application.

**Property:** the real estate and all improvements thereon which are the subject of the Application, including all items of personal Property affixed or related thereto, whether currently existing or proposed to be built thereon in connection with the Application.

**Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP):** an allocation plan used to select and award Tax Credits to qualified recipients.

**Qualified Basis:** with respect to a building within a Project, the building's Eligible Basis multiplied by the Applicable Fraction, within the meaning of IRC Section 42(c)(1).

**Qualified Census Tract (QCT):** any census tract which is designated by the Secretary of HUD and, for the most recent year for which census data is available on household income in such tract, either in which fifty percent (50%) or more of the households have an income which is less than sixty percent (60%) of the AMI for such year or which has a poverty rate of at least twenty-five percent (25%).

**Qualified Contract:** a bona fide contract to acquire a LIHTC Project for the sum of the existing debt, adjusted investor equity and other capital contributions, less Project cash distributions.

**Qualified Development Team (QDT):** the individuals or companies that develop the Project including but not limited to the following mandatory members: Project Developer, General Partner/managing member, Architect, Tax Attorney, Management Company, Energy Consultant, Tax Accountant and non-mandatory members: Development Consultant, Contractor, Engineer and Syndicator. Anyone with an Identity of Interest is a mandatory team member. Failure to disclose an Identity of Interest is an unsatisfactory performance issue with IFA and may deem the party ineligible for future rounds.

**Qualified Nonprofit Organization or Nonprofit:** an organization that is described in IRC Section 501(c)(3) or (4), that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC Section 501(a), that is not affiliated with or Controlled by a for-profit organization, and includes as one of its exempt purposes the fostering of low-income housing within the meaning of IRC Section 42(h)(5)(C) and is allowed by law or otherwise to hold and develop Property.

**Qualified Residential Rental Property:** as defined in IRC Section 42(d).

**Rehabilitation Expenditure(s):** depreciable expenditures which are for Property or improvements that are chargeable to the capital account and which are incurred in connection with the rehabilitation of a building. Rehabilitation Expenditures are not eligible for Tax Credits unless the expenditures are allocable to or substantially benefit one or more Low-Income Units and the amount of such expenditures during any 24 month period selected by the Applicant is at least the greater of twenty percent (20%) of the Applicant's adjusted basis of the building at the start of the 24 month period, or the current per Unit amount required by IRC Section 42(e)(3)(A)(ii)(II) as published annually. See also, IRC Section 42(e)(2). The Application shall show the calculations for whether the amount of Rehabilitation Expenditures is at least equal to \$35,000 of Hard Construction Costs per Low-Income Unit.

**Scattered Site:** a Project where multiple buildings with similar Units are not located in proximity to one another, but are owned by the same party and financed under the same agreement(s). A Scattered Site Project may be new construction, acquisition, rehabilitation or a combination of these types. For Scattered Site Projects, all Units shall be qualified LIHTC Units.

**Scope of Work:** the division of work to be performed under a contract or subcontract in the completion of a Project, typically broken out into specific tasks with deadlines.

**Senior Housing:** housing specifically designed to meet the needs of senior citizens. Housing that meets the Fair Housing Act definition of housing for older persons is exempt from the law's familial status requirements provided that: (1) HUD has determined that the dwelling is specifically designed for and occupied by elderly persons under a federal, state or local government program; or (2) it is occupied solely by persons who are 62 or older; or (3) it houses at least one person who is 55 years or older in at least eighty percent (80%) of the occupied Units, and adheres to a policy that demonstrates intent to house persons who are 55 years old or older. Therefore, housing that satisfies the legal definition of Senior Housing or housing for older persons described above, can legally exclude families with children. The Housing for Older Persons Act (HOPA) signed into law on December 28, 1995, further modified the definition to require facilities or communities claiming the exemption to establish age verification procedures. A housing community or facility is any dwelling or group of dwelling Units governed by a common set of rules, regulations or restrictions. A portion of a single building may not be considered a housing facility or community. There shall be a sufficient number of dwelling Units to constitute a "community" or "facility". Advertising and manner in which the facility/community is described to prospective residents should show intent to provide housing for elderly persons.

**Significant Parties:** include, but are not limited to, the Ownership Entity, the eventual owner of the Tax Credit Project, the eventual taxpayer of the Tax Credit Project, the Developer, General Partner, managing member, accountant, architect, engineer, financial consultant, any other consultant, management agent and the general contractor, and other Persons determined by IFA to have an Identity of Interest or of personnel with any Significant Party.

**Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Housing:** housing consisting of single room dwelling Units that is the primary residence of its occupant or occupants. Per Iowa Code 42(i)(3)(B)(iii), all SRO Units shall have kitchen and bathroom facilities within the Unit and used other than on a transient basis.

**State Ceiling:** the limitation imposed by IRC Section 42(h) on the aggregate amount of Tax Credit Allocations that may be made by IFA during any calendar year, as determined from time to time by IFA in accordance with IRC Section 42(h)(3).

**State Issued Notice of Noncompliance:** a notice that identifies noncompliance issues (that existed at the property during a physical inspection or file review) with the LURA, the Carryover Agreement, the Application, etc. that are not reported to the IRS via IRS Form 8823, throughout the Compliance Period and the Extended Use Period, if applicable. This report will be issued to the Owner only after the 90 day correction period has expired and no action has been taken to correct all reported noncompliance issues to IFA's satisfaction.

**Tax Credits:** the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits issued pursuant to the program, IRC Section 42 and Iowa Code Section 16.35. Tax Credits are determined under IRC Section 42(a) for any taxable year in the Tax Credit Period equal to the amount of the Applicable Percentage of the Qualified Basis for each qualified low-income building.

**Tax Credit Allocation or Reservation:** with respect to a Project or a building within a Project, the amount of Tax Credits IFA allocates to a Project and determines to be necessary for the financial feasibility of the Project and its viability as a qualified low-income housing Project throughout the Compliance Period and Extended Use Period, if applicable.

**Tax Credit Period:** with respect to a building within a Project, the period of 10 taxable years beginning with the taxable year the building is Placed-in-Service or, at the election of the Ownership Entity the succeeding taxable year, as more fully defined in IRC Section 42(f)(1).

**Tax Credit Reservation Date:** the date that the notice of Tax Credit Reservation was emailed to an approved Applicant.

**Total Project Costs:** the total costs reflected in the Application.

**Unit:** a room or a group of related rooms designed for use as a dwelling for which rent is paid. A Unit contains sleeping accommodations, a kitchen and a bathroom.

**Utility (ies):** gas, electricity, water and sewer service.