



HOUSING GRANT APPLICATION HOME PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Program Description Tennessee Housing Development Agency

The Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) administers the federally funded HOME program to promote the production, preservation and rehabilitation of single family housing for low-income households. The purpose of this Program Description is to explain the requirements and the application process of the HOME program.

HOME funds are awarded through a competitive application process to cities, counties and non-profit organizations outside local participating jurisdictions. Local participating jurisdictions (Local PJs) are those local governments in Tennessee that receive HOME funds directly from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Local PJs are Clarksville, Chattanooga, Jackson, Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville-Davidson County, Knox County, Shelby County, and the Northeast Tennessee/Virginia Consortium (the cities of Bristol, Kingsport, Johnson City, Bluff City, Sullivan County, and Washington County, excluding the Town of Jonesborough). Non-profit organizations located in a local participating jurisdiction may apply for projects located outside the local participating jurisdictions. *For the 2020 application cycle*, nonprofit organizations seeking designation as a *Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) serving a local participating jurisdiction may apply for projects located within the local participating jurisdictions*. An applicant must apply for at least \$100,000 and may apply for a maximum HOME grant of \$500,000 if applying for funding under Urban or Rural Matrices, or \$750,000 if seeking funding as a CHDO. There is a \$750,000 limit on the amount of HOME funds that can be awarded in any one county under the Urban and Rural Matrices.

Applications for the HOME program must be received by THDA on or before 11:59:59 PM CDT on Thursday, March 5, 2020. THDA anticipates notifying successful applicants by June 1, 2020.

1. HOME contracts for applicants funded under the Urban or Rural Matrices will begin July 1, 2020 and will end June 30, 2023.
2. HOME Reservation of Funds for applicants funded under the CHDO Matrix will begin July 1, 2020 and will end June 30, 2023.

The program description and application link are available at www.thda.org. Once at the THDA website, click on BUSINESS PARTNERS and then Grant Administrators for the links to the HOME program. Click on HOME for the link to the 2020 HOME Program Description, application and the application attachments. If you have questions, please call Bill Lord at (615) 815-2018.

The HOME Program

This program is governed by Title 24 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 92, as amended. Those regulations are incorporated by reference in this Program Description. In cases of conflicting requirements, the more stringent requirement will apply.

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The State of Tennessee, through THDA, will accept applications for the HOME program from cities, counties, and private, non-profit organizations.

To be eligible, a non-profit organization must:

1. Meet one of the two following criteria:
 - a. All private, non-profit organizations must be organized and existing in the State of Tennessee (as evidenced by a Certificate of Existence from the Tennessee Secretary of State, dated no more than thirty (30) days prior to the application date).

Or

 - b. Be organized and existing under the laws of another state and be qualified to do business in Tennessee (as evidenced by a Certificate of Existence from the other state's Secretary of State dated no more than thirty (30) days prior to the application date and by a Certificate of Authorization to do business in Tennessee from the Tennessee Secretary of State, dated no more than thirty (30) days prior to the application date).
2. Demonstrate at least two (2) years of experience providing affordable housing or affordable housing related services in the state of Tennessee satisfactory to THDA, in its sole discretion.
 3. Have no part of its net earnings inuring to the benefit of any member, founder, contributor or individual;
 4. Have among its purposes the provision of decent housing that is affordable to low-income and moderate-income persons, as evidenced in its charter, articles of incorporation, resolutions or by-laws, and experience in the provision of housing to low income households;
 5. Have standards of financial accountability that conform to 2 CFR Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Audit Requirements and Cost Principles*; and
 6. Have an IRS designation under Section 501(c)(3) or Section 501(c)(4) of the federal tax code. A 501(c)(3) non-profit applicant may not submit an application until they have received their designation from the IRS. A 501(c)(4) non-profit applicant must provide documentation satisfactory to THDA, in its sole discretion, that the non-profit has filed the necessary materials with the IRS and received a response from the IRS demonstrating 501(c)(4) status.

THDA will also accept HOME applications from nonprofit organizations seeking designation as a community housing development organization (CHDO). A CHDO is a private, non-profit organization that meets all the requirements for a non-profit listed above, plus the following additional requirements:

1. Not be controlled by, or under the direction of, individuals or entities seeking to derive profit or gain from the CHDO. If a CHDO is sponsored or created by a for-profit entity, all of the following shall apply:
 - a. The for-profit entity may not be an entity whose primary purpose is the development or management of housing, such as a builder, developer or real estate management firm;

- b. The for-profit entity may not have the right to appoint more than one-third of the membership of the CHDO's governing body. CHDO board members appointed by the for-profit entity may not appoint the remaining two-thirds of the board members;
 - c. The CHDO must be free to contract for goods and services from vendors of its own choosing;
 - d. The officers, directors, owners (stockholders, managers, members, etc.) or employees of the for-profit entity cannot be officers, directors, owners (stockholders, managers, members, etc.) or employees of the CHDO.
2. Is not a governmental entity (including the participating jurisdiction, other jurisdiction, Indian tribe, public housing authority, Indian housing authority, housing finance agency, or redevelopment authority) and is not controlled by a governmental entity. An organization that is created by a governmental entity may qualify as a CHDO; however, the governmental entity may not have the right to appoint more than one-third of the membership of the organization's governing body and no more than one-third of the board members may be public officials or employees of recipient governmental entity. Board members appointed by the State or local government may not appoint the remaining two-thirds of the board members. The officers or employees of a governmental entity may not be officers of the Board or employees of a CHDO
3. Maintains accountability to low income community residents by:
 - a. Including residents of low-income neighborhoods, other low-income community residents, or elected representatives of low-income neighborhood organizations in at least one-third of the CHDO's governing board's membership. For urban areas, "community" may be a neighborhood or neighborhoods, city, county or metropolitan area; for rural areas, it may be a neighborhood or neighborhoods, town, village, county, or multi-county area (but not the entire State); and
 - b. Providing a formal process for low-income program beneficiaries to advise the CHDO in its decisions regarding the design, site selection, development, and management of affordable housing. Board participation by low income individuals or individuals representing low income persons or neighborhoods does not satisfy this requirement.
4. Has a demonstrated capacity to successfully carry out housing projects assisted with HOME funds. A CHDO undertaking development activities as a developer or sponsor must satisfy this requirement by having paid employee(s) with housing development experience who will work on projects assisted with HOME funds. Paid staffing may be documented by providing copies of the most recent W-2 or a minimum of two (2) months of current wage statements or copies of payroll checks, as applicable, issued by the nonprofit entity for each staff member. For its first year of funding as a CHDO, a CHDO may satisfy this requirement through a contract with a qualified consultant who has housing development experience to train appropriate key CHDO staff. A CHDO that will own housing must demonstrate capacity to act as owner of a project and meet the requirements of 24 CFR 92.300(a)(2). A CHDO does not meet the test of demonstrated capacity based on any person who is a volunteer or whose services are donated or cost allocated by another organization, or by hiring a consultant beyond the initial year of operation.
5. Has a history of serving the community within which the housing to be assisted with HOME funds is to be located. In general, a CHDO must be able to show at least one year of serving the community through housing activities benefiting low income persons or families before HOME funds may be awarded to that CHDO. However, a newly created CHDO formed by local churches, service

organizations, or neighborhood organizations may meet this requirement by demonstrating that its parent organization has at least one year of serving the community through housing activities benefiting low income persons or families.

Nonprofit organizations seeking CHDO designation may only apply for HOME funding for projects in which the nonprofit organization is the owner and developer. Nonprofit organizations seeking CHDO designation must submit all supporting documentation required to determine eligibility as a CHDO. Failure to submit required documentation will render the application ineligible for funding consideration.

Applicants with past HOME grants from THDA under the Urban or Rural Matrices must meet both of the following requirements:

1. *Requested* (submitted an official Request for Payment Form with supporting documentation) the following percentages of their grants by February 28, 2020 to be eligible for the 2020 HOME program:

HOME GRANT YEAR	SPEND DOWN REQUIREMENT
1992 – 2016	100%
2017 Urban or Rural Rounds	100%
2018 Urban or Rural Rounds	50%
2019 Urban or Rural Rounds	25%

2. To be eligible, all applicants for the 2020 HOME application cycle must demonstrate a need for the HOME funds and be in compliance with all other THDA programs in which they participate and have no outstanding findings for any THDA program.

Applicants with past HOME grants from THDA under the CHDO Matrix must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Met the following Commitment and Spend Down Requirements:

HOME PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	COMMITMENT REQUIREMENT	SPEND DOWN REQUIREMENT
2015-2016 CHDO Round and CHDO Mini-Rounds 1 & 2	100%	100%
2017 CHDO and CHDO Mini-Rounds 1 and 2	100%	100%
2018 CHDO Round or CHDO Mini-Rounds 1 or 2	75%	50%
2019 CHDO Round	25%	0

The Commitment Requirement is met upon issuance of an agreement between THDA and the CHDO for the development of housing at a specific site address in an amount equal to the cited percentage of development funds allocated under the applicable grant. The Spend Down Requirement is met based on the CHDO’s submission of an official request for payment with supporting documentation for the applicable percentage of development funds allocated under their prior grant. To be eligible under the

2020 HOME program, the CHDO must have met the commitment and spend down requirements by February 28, 2020.

2. In addition, CHDOs that were funded for homeownership programs that have generated CHDO proceeds will have to demonstrate the use of or plan to use previous CHDO proceeds and a need for additional HOME funds. CHDO's must also provide documentation that neighborhood market conditions demonstrate a need for the project or projects to be eligible for the 2020 HOME program.

ALL entities with past HOME grants from THDA that failed to spend a minimum of 75% of any previous HOME grant award within the term of their HOME contract, including approved extensions, will be ineligible to apply for any additional HOME grants for a period of three years following the end of their contract term, including approved extensions.

B. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

HOME funds committed to the State of Tennessee, through THDA, will be allocated as provided in the State of Tennessee's Consolidated Plan, as amended. The amount of the 2020 HOME allocation is unknown until there is an approved federal budget; however, THDA anticipates receipt of an amount equivalent to the amount received in FY 2019, approximately \$12,960,298. Additionally, THDA may make available any returned or leftover funds from the 2019 or earlier funding rounds as determined at the time of award in May 2020.

Based on the FY 2019 funding allocation, THDA anticipates the following funding availability:

CHDO Set-Aside for Homeownership Development (18%):	\$2,332,854
CHDO Operating Assistance:	\$250,000
Urban/Rural Funding Competition:	\$9,081,415
Administrative Funds for Urban/Rural Funding Competition:	\$544,885
Administrative Funds for THDA Costs:	\$751,144
Total:	\$12,960,298

Administrative Funds:

THDA will spend up to ten percent (10%) of its 2020 HOME allocation for administrative and planning expenses. THDA will use four percent (4%) of these funds for its own administrative expenses. The remaining six percent (6%) is available to pay the administrative costs of local governments and non-CHDO non-profit grant recipients.

CHDO Operating Assistance:

THDA will also set-aside \$250,000 for CHDO operating expenses. Any funding remaining in the set-aside for CHDO operating expenses after all eligible CHDOs have been funded will be transferred to the Urban/Rural allocation.

CHDO Set-Aside for Homeownership Development:

THDA will set-aside 18% of its total 2020 HOME allocation for eligible applications from CHDOs, including CHDOs serving Local PJs. Any HOME funds remaining or returned from prior application rounds and designated as CHDO funds may also be made available for this 2020 set-aside. The THDA HOME funding to successful CHDO applicants serving a Local PJ will be reduced by the amount of funding the CHDO receives from the Local PJs to keep within the \$750,000 maximum grant.

To be funded, an application must receive a minimum threshold score of 60, an amount equal to 50% of the total points available under the CHDO scoring matrix.

Beginning with the 2015 HOME allocation, HUD no longer considers a PJ as meeting its 24-month CHDO commitment through a cumulative total of CHDO commitments since 1992, and each grant year must meet its own 24-month commitment deadline. In addition, the execution of a HOME Working Agreement and the establishment of a CHDO sub-grant in IDIS is insufficient to meet this requirement. Thus, a successful CHDO that receives an allocation of 2020 CHDO funds must commit those funds to specific units no later than June 30, 2022. Any 2019 HOME funds awarded to an organization must be committed to specific units no later than June 30, 2021. HUD will recapture any 2020 CHDO funds not committed to specific CHDO activities by dates specified in its Reservation of Funds. CHDO applicants need to be aware of these dates and have a pipeline of eligible home buyers so they can begin their projects as soon as the environmental reviews are completed. If in the opinion of THDA, the applications submitted do not contain viable proposals or are from a CHDO that lacks the organizational potential to comply with all HOME affordability requirements, THDA may choose not to award any or all of the funds set-aside for CHDOs in the current application round.

Urban/Rural Funding Competition:

2020 HOME funds noted in the table above will be allocated for eligible projects in Urban and Rural areas of the State outside of a local Participating Jurisdiction. The urban areas include the following counties: Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Carter, Coffee, Dyer, Gibson, Hamilton, Hamblen, Haywood, Loudon, Madison, Maury, Montgomery, Putnam, Roane, Rutherford, Sumner, Unicoi, Williamson and Wilson. All other counties are considered Rural. The urban allocation is 45% of this funding amount, and the rural allocation is 55%. The percentages are based on the low-income population in the designated urban and rural counties. However, the urban areas do not include the low income populations of the local participating jurisdictions of Chattanooga, Clarksville, Jackson, Knox County, Knoxville, Memphis, Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County, Shelby County, Sullivan County, and Washington County, excluding the Town of Jonesborough. THDA will score, rank and fund urban and rural applications separately. To be considered for funding, an application must receive a minimum threshold score of 95, an amount equal to 50% of the total points available under the urban or rural matrices. All applications will be ranked in descending order from highest to lowest score and HOME funds will be awarded until all funds are awarded or until the lowest scoring application that meets the threshold score is funded. Applications that do not meet the threshold score will not be considered for funding. Should an insufficient number of applications receive the minimum threshold score to award all funds allocated to either the urban or rural matrix, THDA may re-allocate the remaining funds to the other (Urban or Rural) matrix. There is a \$750,000 maximum grant per county. Grants to successful applicants in the same county will be reduced proportionately should there be multiple successful applicants from the same county with a minimum grant of \$250,000; however, the THDA Board of Directors may award less than \$250,000 should there be more than three successful applicants from the same county.

Funding Requirements:

HOME awards will be in the form of a reimbursement grant. Grantees will be required to repay any HOME funds expended on projects that are not completed and ready for occupancy within 3 years of the date the

Written Agreement is executed between the Grantee and THDA. Grantees may also be required to repay HOME funds as described in the Working Agreement. Required HOME land use restrictive covenants and/or deeds of trust must be recorded prior to any other financing documents.

C. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

There are specific eligible activities under the HOME Program that must address the housing needs of low-income households. Manufactured housing and manufactured housing lots are not eligible for HOME assistance. Housing does not include emergency shelters (including shelters for disaster victims) or facilities such as nursing homes, convalescent homes, hospitals, residential treatment facilities, correctional facilities, and dormitories, including those for farm workers or housing for students. Eligible housing activities include:

1. Homeowner Rehabilitation Program.

Homeowner Rehabilitation: The use of HOME funds will include the rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing housing units that are the principal residence of the owner. For the purposes of the HOME program, rehabilitation includes the demolition and rebuilding or reconstruction of substandard housing.

“Reconstruction” is defined as the rebuilding, on the same lot, of housing standing on a site at the time of project commitment, except that housing that was destroyed by a disaster may be rebuilt on the same lot if HOME funds are committed within 12 months of the date of destruction. The number of housing units on the lot may not be decreased or increased as part of a reconstruction project. However, the number of rooms per unit may be increased or decreased depending upon the needs and the size of the household. The reconstructed housing must be substantially similar to the original housing unit. All reconstructed housing will have a compliance period of 15 years.

For all homeowner rehabilitation activities, the value of the HOME assisted property after rehabilitation must not exceed 95 percent of the median purchase price for the area.

If the proposed HOME investment for hard construction costs into a unit to be rehabilitated exceeds 75% of the after rehabilitation appraised value of the unit, the unit must be reconstructed, unless an exception is provided in accordance with the requirements outlined in the THDA HOME Manual at the sole and absolute discretion of THDA. Hard construction costs exclude those for building inspections, lead-based paint inspections, energy related inspections, and work write-ups, but includes all remaining costs associated with addressing lead-based paint hazards for the unit.

Priority should be given to the Uniform Property Condition Standards (UPCS) Checklist deficiencies identified during the initial inspection. Level 3, 2, and 1, respectively, rate the severity of the item needing the repair, including, but not limited to: roofs, HVAC systems, electrical systems, plumbing systems, foundation problems, water supply issues, exterior painting to maintain the structure, and limited interior painting. The structure must exhibit at least one code violation as revealed by the initial code inspection.

HOME regulations require that after the work is complete, the entire structure must meet the Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) and the adopted building code in effect for the jurisdiction in which the housing unit is located, or in the absence of a local building code, the Existing Building Code of the International Code Council (ICC). Units assisted with HOME funds must require at least \$1,000 of rehabilitation work to bring the unit into compliance with the applicable codes. Housing units that cannot be brought up to the applicable code using the maximum grant funds are ineligible.

Housing Rehabilitation Costs and Lead-based Paint. If a unit to be rehabilitated was built after 1978, the rehabilitation costs are capped by the HOME subsidy limit. *All units built prior to 1978 will require a risk assessment by a qualified lead inspector.* If the risk assessment of a pre-1978 unit discloses no lead, then the cap for rehabilitation costs will be the HOME subsidy limit. If the risk assessment for a pre-1978 unit reveals the presence of lead-based paint and the estimated rehabilitation costs are less than \$25,000, then standard treatments will apply and the HOME subsidy for rehabilitation is limited to \$25,000. If the risk assessment reveals the presence of lead-based paint and the estimated rehabilitation costs exceed \$25,000, then abatement will be required by a qualified abatement contractor to provide rehabilitation assistance up to the HOME subsidy limit.

2. Homeownership Programs.

CHDO: CHDOs must use HOME funds to develop units for homeownership, including new construction or acquisition and substantial rehabilitation of substandard single-family dwellings. The CHDO must be the owner and developer of all units at the time the units are constructed or rehabilitated. When units are sold to eligible home buyers, the HOME funds must be repaid to the CHDO as CHDO proceeds and must be used to develop additional single-family units for homeownership in compliance with the HOME regulations. A CHDO must allow an amount up to \$14,999 of HOME funds to remain with the unit as a soft second mortgage as necessary to qualify the household for permanent financing, but not less than \$1,000. THDA requires that a subsidy remain in the financing when the unit is sold so affordability is based on the less restrictive recapture provision of the HOME regulations. Any homeownership unit developed by a CHDO that cannot be sold to an eligible homebuyer within nine months of the Certificate of Occupancy must be converted to rental housing and rented to an income eligible tenant.

Before construction or acquisition and rehabilitation can begin under homeownership, all CHDOs must demonstrate a pipeline of eligible buyers pre-qualified for a permanent loan. Although speculative construction or acquisition is not generally allowed, under certain circumstances THDA will allow a CHDO to apply for an exception to this policy on a project by project basis. To be considered for an exception, the CHDO must demonstrate that it meets certain criteria, including:

- (1) Experience and capacity to manage an affordable rental housing program;
- (2) Success during the last three (3) years in managing affordable rental housing in the area of the proposed project with an average list to lease-up term of no more than 180 days;
- (3) A current average market time of list to contract for sale for similarly priced, comparable homes in the area of the proposed project of no more than 120 days;
- (4) Extenuating circumstances that prevent the CHDO from having a pipeline of pre-qualified homebuyers to support their development activity.

Additionally, if the property remains unsold nine months after completion, a lease purchase may be permitted if the CHDO can demonstrate that it has an existing and active lease-purchase program.

Cities, counties and non-profit organizations (non-CHDO). Homeownership programs are restricted to a soft second mortgage necessary to qualify the household for permanent financing.

Soft second mortgages. Any HOME funds used for a soft second mortgage in homeownership programs are limited to the lesser of \$14,999 in HOME funds or the amount of HOME funds necessary to qualify the household for permanent financing, but not less than \$1,000. All grant recipients using HOME for soft second mortgages must use the THDA single-family underwriting template to determine the amount of HOME assistance, and must submit the determination to THDA for review and final approval. If the underwriting template indicates that the home buyer does not have an unmet need for the soft second mortgage, the grant recipient may not provide direct HOME assistance to that home buyer. The amount of the soft second mortgage is the “direct HOME subsidy” provided to the home buyer and subject to recapture.

The soft second mortgage will have an affordability period of five years which is forgiven at the end of the fifth year if the unit remains in compliance, i.e., the unit remains the permanent residence of the initial buyer and is not leased or vacated. If the unit is sold or transferred during the affordability period, the amount of the HOME subsidy subject to recapture will be reduced by twenty percent (20%) per year of occupancy by the initial home buyer. If the unit is leased or vacated during the affordability period, the entire HOME subsidy must be repaid.

The soft second mortgages may not be combined with other THDA-funded “second mortgage” assistance programs, including Great Choice Loan Plus assistance, or with funding available through the New Start program, and any subsequent or similar programs operated by THDA. The THDA HOME funded soft second mortgage may be combined with a THDA Great Choice first mortgage loan.

Sales Price. All units must be sold for an amount not to be lower than the appraised value of the unit.

Sales Price Limits. The sales price limit for homeownership programs are the Property Value Limits for **Existing Homes HOME Purchase Price and New Homes** as posted on the THDA web site at <https://thda.org/business-partners/home>.

Underwriting. Front and back end ratios may not exceed twenty-nine (29%) and forty-one percent (41%), respectively. Lower ratios are encouraged.

Permanent Financing. Under homeownership programs, THDA expects the use of THDA mortgage loans whenever suitable. Other financing may be used if it is comparable to a THDA mortgage loan. Permanent financing is considered comparable if the interest rate does not exceed the prevailing THDA Great Choice interest rate by more than one percentage point and when it is demonstrated that the home buyer represents a commensurate underwriting risk to the lender. All loans must have a fixed interest rate fully amortizing over the 30 year term of the loan. There can be no pre-payment penalty for early payoffs.

Home Buyer Contribution. The home buyer must make a contribution from their own funds equal to one percent (1%) of the purchase price of the property.

Home Buyer Education. All home buyers must complete a home buyer education program from a certified housing counselor who has passed the HUD certification examination and is employed by a HUD approved housing counseling agency prior to purchase.

Neighborhood market conditions. Applicants proposing homeownership projects must document that neighborhood market conditions demonstrate a need for the project and must complete a market study as part of the 2020 application cycle for homeownership programs.

Deadline for Sale. Homeownership units must be sold to an eligible home buyer within nine (9) months of project completion. If a homeownership unit is not sold to an eligible home buyer within nine months of the Certificate of Occupancy, the unit must be converted to rental housing for the appropriate rental affordability period or the HOME funds must be repaid by the grant recipient to THDA.

THDA expects that the grant recipient will not only shepherd the home buyer through the home buying process, but also work toward fostering an on-going relationship with the home buyer. This responsibility includes facilitating additional homeowner counseling, verifying homeowner occupancy requirements on an annual basis, and monitoring mortgage loan default issues.

3. CHDO Operating Expenses, Developer's Fees and CHDO Proceeds.

a. CHDO Operating Expenses. A CHDO may request up to 7% of the funds awarded for the acquisition and rehabilitation or new construction of housing for sale to low and moderate income home buyers as CHDO operating expenses to help with the administrative costs of operating the organization. Operating expenses are separate from project funds and are funded from the 5% set-aside for CHDO operating expenses from the annual HOME allocation.

b. Developers Fees. A CHDO may also request an 8% developer's fee if the CHDO is acting as a developer of housing. The developer's fee is 8% of the HOME funds used to construct or acquire and rehabilitate the unit. Developers Fees must be charged on a project by project basis and applicable only to the project charged. The developer's fee is a project soft cost and counts against the maximum per unit subsidy limit.

c. CHDO Proceeds. CHDO proceeds are the HOME funds returned to a CHDO upon the sale of a unit developed by the CHDO from the buyer's permanent financing. The CHDO must use its CHDO proceeds to develop more housing for homeownership. A CHDO may use 15% of the CHDO proceeds for operating expenses, divided as follows: Maximum of 7% for general operational expenses relative to staff salaries and maximum of 8% for developer's fees relative to projects developed using the proceeds. Once the CHDO proceeds are used a second time to develop more housing for homeownership, the HOME restrictions on the use of proceeds are eliminated. The 25% cap on the amount of CHDO proceeds that can be used for operating or administrative expenses has been eliminated. This policy applies retroactively to current, active CHDO grants.

4. Project Soft Costs.

In planning their programs, applicants may include the costs for inspections and work write-ups as a project-related soft cost. The costs for progress reviews and work write-ups are capped at \$2,500. In addition to the costs for progress reviews and work write-ups, the costs for lead-based paint inspections, risk assessments and clearance testing, and architectural and engineering fees are also paid as project soft costs. All project soft costs count toward the HUD maximum per unit subsidy limit.

D. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

1. Provide project reserve accounts, or operating subsidies;
2. Provide tenant-based rental assistance for the special purposes of the existing Section 8 program, in accordance with Section 212(d) of the Act;

3. Provide non-federal matching contributions required under any other Federal program;
4. Provide assistance authorized under Section 9 of the 1937 Act (annual contributions for operation of public housing);
5. Carry out activities authorized under 24 CFR Part 968 (Public Housing Modernization);
6. Provide assistance to eligible low-income housing under 24 CFR Part 248 (Prepayment of Low Income Housing Mortgages);
7. Provide assistance (other than assistance to a home buyer to acquire housing previously assisted with HOME funds) to a project previously assisted with HOME funds during the period of affordability established by HUD or THDA in the written agreement. However, additional HOME funds may be committed to a project up to one year after project completion, but the amount of HOME funds in the project may not exceed the HUD maximum per-unit subsidy amount;
8. Pay for any cost that is not eligible under 24 CFR 92.206 through 92.209;
9. Use HOME funds for rental housing projects;
10. Provide assistance for a homeowner rehabilitation project by a CHDO from the 15% CHDO set-aside. A CHDO funded through the 15% CHDO Set-aside can only participate in the HOME program if they are the owner and developer of a project.

E. LAYERING

Layering is the combining of other federal resources on a HOME-assisted project that results in an excessive amount of subsidy for the project. Such activity is prohibited. Grantees must analyze each project to insure that only the minimum amount of assistance is allocated to the project. In no case may the amount of HOME funds exceed the HUD Maximum Per Unit Subsidy Limit.

F. MATCH

For the FY 2020 HOME program, THDA will continue to provide the required federal match for projects submitted under the Urban/Rural Round and CHDO Rounds. Although no local match is required, THDA will award points based on the contribution of eligible match reflected in an application as specified in the scoring matrix. THDA will count any non-federal project funds or other resources reflected in successful applications that qualify as match under the HOME rule toward the match requirement.

HOME match is permanent, non-federal contributions to a project. Matching contributions may be in the form of one or more of the following:

- a. Cash contributions not provided by the assisted household and not from a federal source, including the present value of the interest subsidy for loans made at rates below market.
- b. Reasonable value of donated site-preparation and construction materials when passed on as a final benefit to the project.

- c. Reasonable rental value of the donated use of site preparation or construction equipment when passed on as a final benefit to the project.
- d. Waived fees and taxes.
- e. Property donation or below-market sale. A copy of the appraisal and/or purchase contract must be submitted. The donor/seller of the property must also provide a statement certifying that the property was donated or sold for affordable housing purposes and an acknowledgment that the donor/seller received the URA Guide Form Notice Disclosure to Seller, as well as the HUD booklet entitled, "When a Public Agency Acquires Your Property." If the property was originally acquired with federal funds, the value of the property is not match eligible.
- f. The direct cost of donated, compliant home buyer counseling services provided to families that acquire properties with HOME funds under the provisions of 24 CFR §92.254, including on-going counseling services provided during the period of affordability. Counseling may not be valued at more than \$40 per hour.
- g. Reasonable value of donated or volunteer labor or professional services. Unskilled volunteer labor may not be valued at more than \$10 per hour; skilled volunteer labor may be valued at the documented going rate. Must result in a permanent benefit to the project.
- h. Value of sweat equity may also be eligible only if every assisted household under the HOME grant award is required to perform sweat equity. Sweat equity may not be valued at more than \$10 per hour.
- i. Other match sources as permitted under the HOME Final Rule.

THDA will monitor the contribution of match throughout the implementation of the grant.

G. LEVERAGE

In the scoring matrix, any project that has leveraged funds will receive additional points. Leveraged funds are funds provided by local governments, grants from other sources and cash from program beneficiaries. Loan proceeds from a lending institution do not count as leverage. However, the savings generated from a below market interest rate will count as leverage. Administrative funds, *anticipated* fund-raising revenues, other THDA funds, and construction loans do not count toward leverage. Leveraged funds counted in one program year do not qualify again as leverage in subsequent years.

The value of donated labor, materials and land will count toward leverage. The value of unskilled labor is set at the current minimum wage, and the value of skilled labor is set at twice the current minimum wage. The value of land and/or a building donated or acquired for a project prior to the application will count as leverage, but there must be an appraisal or tax assessment included in the application to document its value. In order to count donated supplies or materials, only the documented value of the actual goods or materials will be considered and they must be legitimately required by the program. The donor must provide a letter to confirm the amount of the supplies or materials. Proposed discounts will not count as leverage.

H. HOME PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. INCOME LIMITS

HOME funds may be used to benefit only low-income households. "Low income households" means an individual or household whose income does not exceed 80% of the area median income, adjusted for household size. THDA encourages the targeting of HOME resources for homeowner rehabilitation activities to very low income households.

"Very low income household" means a household whose income does not exceed 50% of the area median income, adjusted for household size.

The income of the household to be reported for purposes of eligibility is the sum of the annual gross income of the beneficiary, the beneficiary's spouse, and any other household member residing in the home. Annual gross income is "anticipated" for the next 12 months, based upon current circumstances or known upcoming changes, minus certain income exclusions.

Current limits are posted online at: <https://thda.org/business-partners/home>. Median income for an area or the state shall be that median income estimate made by HUD. Median incomes change when HUD makes revised estimates.

2. FORMS OF ASSISTANCE

Homeowner rehabilitation programs. Assistance from grant recipients to program beneficiaries will be limited to grants that are completely forgiven after a specified period of time as long as the beneficiary adheres to the conditions of the grant.

Homeownership programs. Assistance from grant recipients to program beneficiaries as soft second mortgages will be limited to loans equal to the lesser of \$14,999 or the amount necessary to qualify the household for permanent financing which are forgiven at the end of 5 years.

3. COMPLIANCE PERIOD

Homeowner rehabilitation. Grants for homeowner rehabilitation projects that do not include reconstruction shall have a compliance period of five years with a forgiveness feature of 20% annually unless the cost to rehabilitate exceeds 75% of the after rehabilitation value. Projects where rehabilitation costs exceed 75% of the after rehabilitation value shall have a compliance period of fifteen years with a forgiveness feature of 6.67% annually. In order to enforce the compliance period, THDA will require that grant recipients obtain a grant note and a recorded deed of trust executed by the homeowners.

Grants for homeowner rehabilitation projects that include reconstruction shall have a compliance period of fifteen years with a forgiveness feature of 6.67% annually. In order to enforce the compliance period, THDA will require that grant recipients obtain a grant note and a recorded deed of trust executed by the homeowners.

If the homeowner of a property that has been rehabilitated dies during the compliance period and the property is inherited by heirs, the property may be rented without repaying the unforgiven portion of the HOME subsidy to THDA. However, if the house is sold by the heirs

during the affordability period, the remaining unforgiven portion must be repaid to THDA. This policy may be applied retroactively to prior HOME projects as needed.

4. AFFORDABILITY PERIOD

Down Payment Programs by Local Governments or Non-CHDO Non-Profit Organizations. A grant recipient that is a local government, or a non-CHDO non-profit agency may provide down payment and closing cost assistance as a soft second mortgage loan in an amount equal to the lesser of \$14,999 in HOME funds or the amount of HOME funds necessary to qualify a household for permanent financing, but not less than \$1,000. There will be an affordability period of five years, secured by a Note and Deed of Trust between the grant recipient and the home buyer. The HOME loan is forgiven at the end of the fifth year if the unit remains in compliance with HOME requirements. This means that the property remains the primary residence of the initial home buyer and is not leased or vacated; and if the property is sold or transferred at the end of the affordability period, the home buyer has complied with these recapture provisions. If the unit is sold or transferred during the affordability period, the amount of HOME subsidy subject to recapture will be reduced by twenty percent (20%) per year of occupancy by the initial home buyer. If the unit is leased or vacated during the affordability period, the entire HOME subsidy must be repaid to THDA by the Grantee.

CHDOS. At the time of the sale of the unit to an eligible home buyer, the CHDO must leave HOME funds in the unit as a soft second mortgage loan in an amount equal to the lesser of \$14,999 or the amount of HOME funds necessary to qualify a household for permanent financing, but not less than \$1,000. There will be an affordability period of five years secured by a Note and Deed of Trust between the CHDO and the home buyer. The HOME loan is forgiven at the end of the fifth year if the unit remains in compliance with HOME requirements. This means that the property remains the primary residence of the initial home buyer and is not leased or vacated; and if the property is sold or transferred at the end of the affordability period, the home buyer has complied with these recapture provisions. If the unit is sold or transferred during the affordability period, the amount of HOME subsidy subject to recapture will be reduced by twenty percent (20%) per year of occupancy by the initial home buyer. If the unit is leased or vacated during the affordability period, the entire HOME subsidy must be repaid to THDA.

Sale or Transfer of the Property. The HOME-assisted home buyer may sell or otherwise transfer the unit on or before the end of the affordability period to any willing buyer at any price, and the amount of the HOME subsidy subject to recapture will be reduced by 20% per year of occupancy by the initial home buyer. The amount subject to recapture is limited by the availability of net proceeds. The net proceeds are the sales price minus superior non-HOME loan repayments minus closing costs. If the net proceeds are not sufficient to recapture the remaining outstanding principal balance of the HOME Note plus the amount of the down payment made by the homeowner, if any, plus the amount of any capital improvement investment made by the homeowner, then the grant recipient shall recapture a pro rata share of the net proceeds of the sale in lieu of the full remaining outstanding principal balance of the HOME Note. "Capital improvement investment" means the improvements to the property made at the home buyer's expense (and not through some other form of subsidy), as evidenced by receipts or cancelled checks detailing the capital improvements made. Capital improvements do not include items of maintenance, deferred maintenance or cosmetic improvements. The pro rata amount to be recaptured shall be calculated in accordance with the HOME Program Regulations at 24 CFR 92.254(a)(5)(ii)(A)(3) as follows:

If the net proceeds are not sufficient to recapture the full HOME investment (or a reduced amount) plus enable the homeowner to recover the amount of the homeowner's down payment and any capital improvement investment made by the home owner since purchase, the grant recipient shall share the net proceeds according to the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{HOME Subsidy}}{\text{HOME Subsidy} + \text{Homeowner Investment}} \times \text{Net Proceeds} = \text{HOME Amount to Recapture}$$

$$\frac{\text{Homeowner Investment}}{\text{HOME Subsidy} + \text{Homeowner Investment}} \times \text{Net Proceeds} = \text{HOME Amount to Recapture}$$

The new proceeds may be divided proportionately as set forth in these steps:

- a. *Application of Forgiveness Feature.* Once the net proceeds are determined from the sale of the property, the grant recipient shall reduce the amount due based on the length of time the home buyer has occupied the home in relation to the affordability period. Soft second mortgages up to \$14,999 have a five year affordability period and a forgiveness feature of 20% per year.
- b. *Amount subject to recapture.* The HOME investment that is subject to recapture is based on the amount of HOME assistance that enabled the home buyer to buy the housing unit. This includes any HOME assistance that reduced the purchase price from fair market value to an affordable price, but excludes the amount between the cost of producing the unit and the market value of the property (i.e., the development subsidy).
- c. After the full HOME investment has been repaid, any excess profits will belong to the homeowner.

Construction Financing. For CHDOs using HOME for construction financing to develop homeownership units, the initial affordability period will be based on the amount of HOME funding invested in the development of the unit under the resale provisions of the HOME regulations. In order to enforce the provisions of the Working Agreement with the CHDO, THDA will require that a Restrictive Covenant and Deed of Trust be recorded against the property prior to drawing down HOME funds for construction. When the unit is sold to an eligible home buyer, THDA will provide the closing agent a copy of the release for Restrictive Covenant and Deed of Trust. The CHDO must provide the closing agent with a Grant Note and Deed of Trust between the CHDO and the home buyer for the soft second mortgage loan under the recapture provisions. Upon receipt by THDA of a copy of the Grant Note, the recorded Deed of Trust between the home buyer and the CHDO, the recorded deed from the seller to the home buyer, and the fully executed final TILA-RESPA Integrated Disclosure (TRID) Settlement Statement, the original Release of Lien is forwarded to the closing agent for recording.

4. LEVEL OF SUBSIDY

The maximum HOME investment per unit is provided below:

MINIMUM HOME DOLLARS	\$ 1,000	PER UNIT
MAXIMUM HOME DOLLARS	\$62,445	0-BEDROOM (EFFICIENCY) LIMIT
	\$71,584	1-BEDROOM LIMIT
	\$87,047	2-BEDROOM LIMIT
	\$112,611	3-BEDROOM LIMIT
	\$123,611	4-BEDROOM OR MORE LIMIT

Periodically, THDA may update these limits pending approval from HUD. Updated limits will be effective for all activities in which an agreement for the activity is entered into after the effective date for the limits issued by HUD. These updates will be posted on THDA’s web site at <https://thda.org/business-partners/home>.

5. PROPERTY STANDARDS

Property standards must be met when HOME funds are used for a project. Any housing constructed or rehabilitated with THDA HOME funds must meet all applicable local, county and state codes, rehabilitation standards, Uniform Property Condition Standards (UPCS), and zoning ordinances at the time of project completion.

In the absence of a local code, new construction of single-family units or duplexes must meet the current, State-adopted edition of the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings. The newly constructed units must also meet accessibility requirements and mitigate disaster impact as applicable per State and local codes, ordinances, etc.

In the absence of a local code, rehabilitation of existing homeowner units must meet the current, State-adopted edition of the Existing Building Code of the International Code Council (ICC).

THDA will not make any funding awards for units in a jurisdiction where the unit cannot be inspected by a state certified building inspector or by a provider as permitted under State law.

HOME funded units must also conform, as applicable, to the THDA Minimum Design Standards for New Construction of Single Family and Multifamily Housing Units and with THDA’s Minimum Design Standards for Rehabilitation of Single Family and Multi-family Housing Units. THDA must review and approve plans, work write-ups and written cost estimates and determine cost reasonableness for both new construction and rehabilitation prior to putting the project out to bid.

The International Code books are available at: www.iccsafe.org

Disaster Mitigation. All new construction should be built in a method and/or location that would attempt to protect all new construction from possible disaster due to either a man-made issue, or an act of God that may cause physical or structural damage to the home. The methods should include any items that may be recommended, or required by either local, state, or federal agencies dealing with disasters.

Energy Code. New construction projects must also meet the State-adopted edition of the International Energy Conservation Code. Copies of the Energy Code may also be obtained from the International Code Council at the address listed above.

Energy Conservation. In addition to meeting the State-adopted edition of the International Energy Conservation Code, new construction projects must be Energy Star qualified as certified by an independent Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rater or achieve a HERS index of 85 or less when tested by a certified rater.

Section 504. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination in federally assisted activities and programs on the basis of disability, and imposes requirements to ensure accessibility for qualified individuals with disabilities to these programs and activities.

6. AFTER REHABILITATION PROPERTY VALUE

For homeowner rehabilitation projects, the maximum after rehabilitation value permitted for the type of single-family housing (1-4 family residence, condominium, cooperative unit,) shall not exceed 95% of the median purchase price for the area as established by HUD. **Property Value Limits – Existing Homes HOME Purchase Price** are posted online at <https://thda.org/business-partners/home>

7. SALES PRICE LIMITS

The sales price limit for homeownership programs are based on whether the unit was existing prior to the investment of HOME funds or newly constructed as a result of the investment of HOME funds. **Property Value Limits Existing Homes HOME Purchase Price and New Homes HOME Purchase Price** are posted online at <https://thda.org/business-partners/home>.

I. UNIVERSAL DESIGN/VISITABILITY

THDA encourages the inclusion of features that allow individuals with physical disabilities to reside and/or visit the housing that is constructed or rehabilitated with federal HOME funds.

Universal design is a building concept that incorporates products, general design layouts and other characteristics to a housing unit in order to:

- Make the unit usable by the greatest number of people;
- Respond to the changing needs of the resident; and
- Improve the marketability of the unit

The goal of universal design seeks to build housing that meets the needs of the greatest number of residents within a community. Universal design differs from accessible design, which is primarily intended to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. However, universal design is inclusive of adaptable design as universal design incorporates structural features that will allow a housing unit to be adapted to an individual's current or future needs. Universal design features include, but are not limited to:

- Stepless entrances.
- Minimum 5' x 5' level clear space inside and outside entry door.
- Broad blocking in walls around toilet, tub and shower for future placement of grab bars.
- Full-extension, pull-out drawers, shelves and racks in base cabinets in kitchen.
- Front mounted controls on all appliances.

- Lever door handles.
- Loop handle pulls on drawers and cabinet doors.

More information on Universal Design may be found at The Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University: <http://www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud/index.htm>.

Visitability refers to homes that are designed and built in a manner that allows individuals who have trouble with steps or use wheelchairs or walkers to live in or visit the unit. These features include:

- One zero-step entrance.
- Doors with 32 inches of clear passage space.
- One bathroom on the main floor that is accessible to a person using a wheelchair.

More information on Visitability can be found at: <http://www.visitability.org>.

J. HOME RELOCATION REQUIREMENTS

THDA DISCOURAGES PROJECTS INVOLVING DISPLACEMENT OR RELOCATION OF HOUSEHOLDS. PRIOR TO APPLICATION, CONTACT THDA IF YOU ARE PLANNING ANY PROJECT THAT MAY INVOLVE DISPLACEMENT OR RELOCATION.

The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Uniform Act), and its implementing regulations, 49 CFR Part 24 requires relocation assistance where acquisition has occurred under the Uniform Act. In addition, the Uniform Act coverage was expanded in 1987 amendments to cover displacement of individuals resulting from rehabilitation, demolition or private acquisition carried out under a federally assisted project or program.

Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act ("The Barney Frank Amendments") and HUD's Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan include additional relocation requirements. This extra level of relocation protection may be triggered for low-income households when units are converted or demolished with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) or HOME funds. In addition, when Section 104(d) is triggered, jurisdictions may need to replace any low/moderate income dwelling units that are lost due to the conversion or demolition. This section refers only to residential relocation. If non-residential (commercial/industrial) relocation is involved, contact THDA.

Understanding how relocation requirements are triggered, alternate ways of meeting them, and the costs of the alternatives is essential in making HOME program decisions. Concerns about relocation may cause an administrator to consider establishing a preference for vacant buildings. However, administrators should also consider that vacant buildings are often much deteriorated. Rehabilitating an occupied building even with the cost of assisting tenants to remain or relocate, may be less costly than rehabilitating a vacant building. In occupied buildings, program administrators must consider whether occupants will be able to return after rehabilitation and whether Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) assistance is available to help meet relocation costs. Selecting vacant projects does not relieve all relocation concerns. Vacant buildings in good condition may have been recently occupied. If so, the program administrator must consider whether the owner removed the tenants in order to apply for HOME assistance for a vacant building. If so, these tenants are displaced persons.

Skilled staff can save the local program money and build goodwill with owners and tenants. Failure to understand and follow relocation requirements can result in unnecessary costs for the local program. It is possible for uninformed owners and staff to take steps that would obligate the local program to provide

significant relocation benefits and services. Early briefings for owners and program staff on relocation rules are essential. Handbook 1378, Tenant Assistance, Relocation and Real Property Acquisition consolidates relocation requirements for HOME and other HUD programs in one document. It is available from HUD Field Offices or by contacting THDA. HUD informational booklets for persons who are displaced or whose property is to be acquired are also available from HUD Field Offices or from THDA.

Uniform Relocation Act (URA) requirements are triggered at the time the application is being prepared, and additional requirements are triggered at the time the working agreement is signed between the owner and the grantee and when rehabilitation is completed. Treatment of displaced persons depends upon whether the displaced person is (1) a tenant or owner; (2) a business or household; (3) has income above or below the Section 8 Lower Income Limit.

WHO IS A DISPLACED PERSON? - Any person (household, individual, business, farm, or non-profit organization) that moves from the real property, permanently, as a direct result of rehabilitation, demolition, or acquisition for a project assisted with HOME funds. Relocation requirements apply to all occupants of a project/site for which HOME assistance is sought even if less than 100% of the units are HOME assisted.

WHO IS NOT A DISPLACED PERSON? - A tenant evicted for cause, assuming the eviction was not undertaken to evade URA obligations. A person with no legal right to occupy the property under State or local law (e.g., squatter). A tenant who moved in after the application was submitted but before signing a lease and commencing occupancy, was provided written notice of the planned project, it's possible impact on the person (e.g., the person may be displaced, temporarily relocated, or experience a rent increase), and the fact that the person would not qualify as a "displaced person" (or for any assistance under URA) as a result of the project. A person, after being fully informed of their rights, waives them by signing a Waiver Form.

HOW IS DISPLACEMENT TRIGGERED?

Before Application. A tenant moves permanently from the property before the owner submits an application for HOME assistance **if** THDA or HUD determines that the displacement was a direct result of the rehabilitation, demolition, or acquisition for the HOME project. (e.g., THDA determines that the owner displaced tenants in order to propose a vacant building for HOME assistance.)

After Application. A tenant moves permanently from the property after submission of the application, or, if the applicant does not have site control, the date THDA or the local program administrator approves the site because: (1) the owner requires the tenant to move permanently; or (2) the owner fails to provide timely required notices to the tenant; or (3) the tenant is required to move temporarily and the owner does not pay all actual, reasonable out-of-pocket expenses or because the conditions of the move are unreasonable.

After Execution of Agreement. A tenant moves permanently from the project after execution of the agreement covering the acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition because the tenant is not provided the opportunity to lease a suitable, affordable unit in the project.

K. HOME RESIDENTIAL ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE PLAN

THDA will require grant recipients to replace all occupied and vacant habitable lower income housing demolished or converted to a use other than as lower income housing in connection with a project assisted with funds provided under the HOME Investment Partnership Act

All replacement housing will be provided within three years after the commencement of the demolition or conversion. Before entering into a working agreement committing THDA to provide funds for a project that will directly result in the demolition or conversion, THDA will make public by and submit to the

HUD/Knoxville HOME coordinator certain information. Each applicant proposing demolition or any reduction in lower income housing units must submit the following information to THDA:

1. A description of the proposed assisted project;
2. The address, number of bedrooms, and location on a map of lower income housing that will be demolished or converted to a use other than as lower income housing as a result of an assisted project;
3. A time schedule for the commencement and completion of the demolition or conversion;
4. To the extent known, the address, number of bedrooms and location on a map of the replacement housing that has been or will be provided;
5. The source of funding and a time schedule for the provision of the replacement housing;
6. The basis for concluding that the replacement housing will remain lower income housing for at least 10 years from the date of initial occupancy; and
7. Information demonstrating that any proposed replacement of housing units with smaller dwelling units (e.g., a 2-bedroom unit with two 1-bedroom units), or any proposed replacement of efficiency or single-room occupancy (SRO) units with units of a different size, is appropriate and consistent with the housing needs and priorities identified in the approved Consolidated Plan.

L. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND FAIR HOUSING

No person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, national origin, or disability be excluded from participation, denied benefits or subjected to discrimination under any program funded in whole or in part by HOME funds. The following Federal requirements as set forth in 24 CFR 5.105(a), Nondiscrimination and equal opportunity, are applicable to HOME projects:

Fair Housing Act	24 CFR Part 100
Executive Order 11063, as amended (Equal Opportunity in Housing)	24 CFR Part 107
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Nondiscrimination in Federal programs)	24 CFR Part 1
Age Discrimination Act of 1975	24 CFR Part 146
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	24 CFR Part 8
Section 109 of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974	24 CFR Part 6
Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act	42 U.S.C. §12101 <i>et seq.</i>
Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity	24 CFR Parts 5, 200, 203, 236, 400, 570, 574, 882,

Section 3 of the Housing & Urban Development Act of 1968

24 CFR 135

- Section 3 requires that the employment and other economic opportunities generated by Federal financial assistance for housing and community development programs shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed toward low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing.

Executive Order 11246, as amended
(Equal Employment Opportunity Programs)

41 CFR 60

Executive Order 11625, as amended (Minority Business Enterprises)

Executive Order 12432, as amended (Minority Business Enterprise Development)

Executive Order 12138, as amended (Women's Business Enterprise)

- Executive Orders 11625, 12432, and 12138 (Minority/Women's Business Enterprise) require that PJs and local programs must prescribe procedures acceptable to HUD for a minority outreach program to ensure the inclusion, to the maximum extent possible, of minorities and women and entities owned by minorities and women in all contracts. Local programs must also develop acceptable policies and procedures if their application is approved by THDA.

The HUD Office of Fair Housing also includes the following fair housing laws and Presidential Executive Orders which are not included in 24 CFR 5.105(a) but which are applicable to federally-assisted programs:

Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 at 42 U.S.C. §4151 *et seq.*

Executive Order 12892, as amended
(Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing)

Executive Order 12898

Executive Order 13166
(Limited English Proficiency)

Executive Order 13217
(Community-based living arrangements for persons with disabilities)

In addition to the above requirements, the PJ and local programs must assure that its Equal Opportunity and Fair Housing policies in the HOME Program are consistent with its current Consolidated Plan.

M. SITE AND NEIGHBORHOOD STANDARDS

Housing provided through the HOME program must be suitable from the standpoint of facilitating and furthering full compliance with the applicable provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Fair Housing Act, Executive Order 11063, and HUD regulations issued pursuant thereto; and must promote greater choice of housing opportunities. Grantees must ensure that the proposed activity does not allow or promote segregation on the basis of race, disability or income.

N. AFFIRMATIVE MARKETING

Prior to beginning a HOME project, grant recipients must adopt affirmative marketing procedures and requirements for all HOME funded home buyer projects with five or more units. Affirmative marketing steps consist of actions to provide information and otherwise attract eligible persons in the housing market area to the available housing without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, familial status or disability. These must be approved by THDA prior to any HOME funds being committed to a project. Requirements and procedures must include:

1. Methods for informing the public, owners and potential tenants about fair housing laws and the local program's policies;
2. A description of what owners and/or the program administrator will do to affirmatively market housing assisted with HOME funds;
3. A description of what owners and/or the program administrator will do to inform persons not likely to apply for housing without special outreach;
4. Maintenance of records to document actions taken to affirmatively market HOME-assisted units and to assess marketing effectiveness; and
5. Description of how efforts will be assessed and what corrective actions will be taken where requirements are not met.

O. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In implementing the HOME program, the environmental effects of each activity must be assessed in accordance with the provisions of the National Environment Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the related authorities listed in HUD's regulations at 24 CFR Parts 50 and 58.

THDA, as the Participating Jurisdiction, and the units of local government receiving HOME funds from THDA will be responsible for carrying out environmental reviews. THDA will approve the release of funds for local governments and must request the release of funds from HUD for any projects of non-profit organizations. The non-profit organizations will be responsible for gathering the information required for the environmental reviews. HOME funds and any other funds involved in the project cannot be committed until the environmental review process has been completed and the HOME funds have been released. The Environmental Review covers the entire project, not just the portion funded by HOME. Therefore, except under very limited circumstances, *no funds, including both HOME and non-HOME resources, may be expended on a project prior to the release of funds under the Environmental Review process. Any such expenditure will make the entire project ineligible for funding under the HOME program.*

P. LEAD-BASED PAINT

Housing assisted with HOME funds is subject to the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4821 et seq.) and 24 CFR Part 35, Subparts C through M. The lead-based paint provisions of 982.401(j) also apply, irrespective of the applicable property standard under 24 CFR 92.251. The Lead-Based Paint regulations are available at www.hud.gov/lea or by contacting 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).

Q. LABOR STANDARDS

Davis-Bacon wage compliance and other Federal laws and regulations pertaining to labor standards apply to all contracts for rehabilitating or constructing 12 or more units assisted with HOME funds. The contract for construction must contain the applicable wage provisions and labor standards. Davis-Bacon does not apply to projects using volunteer labor or to sweat equity projects.

R. DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION

Local programs must require participants in lower-tier transactions covered by 24 CFR 24 to certify that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction.

S. FLOOD PLAINS

HOME funds may not be used to construct new housing in an area identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as having special flood hazards. In addition, THDA discourages the rehabilitation of units located in special flood hazard areas, but, with approved mitigation steps or where an official flood zone map revision has been obtained and with written permission from THDA, houses located in a floodplain may be assisted. When a unit in a special flood zone is assisted, the community must be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program and flood insurance must be obtained on the units.

T. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In the procurement of property and services, the conflict of interest provisions at 2 CFR 200.112, apply. In all cases not governed by 2 CFR 200.112, the conflict of interest provisions of the HOME Rule as stated below apply:

The HOME conflict of interest provisions apply to any person who is an employee, agent, consultant, officer, elected official or appointed official of THDA, a State recipient or subrecipient receiving HOME funds. No person listed above who exercise or have exercised any functions or responsibilities with respect to activities assisted with HOME funds or who are in a position to participate in a decision-making process or gain inside information with regard to these activities may obtain a financial interest or financial benefit from a HOME-assisted activity, or have a financial interest in any contract, subcontract or agreement with respect to the HOME-assisted activity, or the proceeds from such activity, either for themselves or those with whom they have business or immediate family ties, during their tenure or for one year thereafter. Immediate family ties include (whether by blood, marriage or adoption) the spouse, parent (including stepparent), child (including a stepchild), brother, sister (including a stepbrother or stepsister), grandparent, grandchild, and in-laws of a covered person.

No owner, developer or sponsor of a project assisted with HOME funds (or officer, employee, agent, elected or appointed official, or consultant of the owner, developer or sponsor or immediate family member or immediate family member of an officer, employee, agent, elected or appointed official, or consultant of the owner, developer or sponsor) whether private, for profit or non-profit (including a CHDO when acting as an owner, developer or sponsor) may occupy a HOME-assisted affordable housing unit in a project during the required period of affordability specified in 92.252(e) or 92.254(a)(4). This provision does not apply to an individual who receives HOME funds to acquire or rehabilitate his or her principal residence or to an employee or agent of the owner or developer of a rental housing project who occupies a housing unit as the project manager or maintenance worker.

Grant recipients should avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of conflicts of interest in administering their HOME programs as THDA does not routinely consider requesting exceptions to the conflict of interest provisions from HUD. The existence of a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest, as determined by THDA in its sole discretion, may be grounds for requiring repayment of HOME funding and limitations on future program participation.

U. PROCUREMENT

It is important to keep the solicitation of bids for goods and services as well as professional services contracts open and competitive. Cities, counties and non-profit organizations must follow their procurement policies and meet all state and federal requirements. At a minimum, applicants must comply with 2 CFR 200.318 – 326 General Procurement Standards.

Prior to solicitation of bids, the Grantee should develop a comprehensive scope of work and perform an independent cost estimate. Grantees must use formal solicitation methods including advertisement and solicitation of sealed bids for all construction activity requiring a general contractor's services. Grantees should obtain a minimum of 3 to 5 bids using formal advertising or requests for proposals for the procurement of professional services such as grant administration, inspections, and work write-ups. There must be an established, well documented selection procedure and a written rationale for selecting the successful bid or proposal.

V. APPLICATION AND EVALUATION PROCEDURE

THDA will evaluate each application to determine if the proposal meets threshold criteria. Threshold criteria includes: submission of a complete application; proposal of an eligible activity; proposal of a project that in the opinion of THDA is physically, financially and administratively feasible; and the proposal of a project that meets the requirements of 24 CFR Part 92, as amended.

All non-profit applicants must submit the following required documentation in accordance with the application instructions:

- A. Evidence that the applicant is organized and existing under the laws of Tennessee or, if organized and existing under the laws of another state, evidence that applicant is organized and existing in that state and authorized to do business in Tennessee.
- B. Documentation of an IRS designation under Section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the federal tax code. A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization may not submit an application until they have received their designation from the IRS. A 501(c)(4) non-profit applicant must provide documentation satisfactory to THDA, in its sole discretion, that the non-profit has filed the necessary material with the IRS and received a response from the IRS demonstrating 501(c)(4) status.
- C. Copy of Organizational Charter
- D. Copy of Organizational By-laws
- E. List of Board members including: names; home address; occupation; a description of their primary contribution; length of service; phone #; email address; and date the term of service expires.
- F. Business plan or strategic management plan that demonstrates the agency's short term and long term goals, objectives, and plans to achieve them.

- G. The most recent financial audit or audited financial statements of the organization.
- H. Applicant Board Member and Corporate Disclosure Forms *completed, signed by the organization's Executive Director and each Board Member and notarized.*
- I. Applicant/Board Member and Corporate Disclosure Form completed, *signed by the Chairman of the Board or Executive Director on behalf of the organization and notarized.*
- J. One page explanation of how the Board of Directors is involved in the operation of the agency, including how often the Board meets, how the Board monitors and provides oversight for the agency's programs.
- K. Resolution by the Board of Directors authorizing the submission of this application.
- L. List of staff members employed by the organization, including how many are full-time or part-time, their specific responsibilities related to housing programs, and how many years of experience each staff member has in housing development.
- M. Documentation of agency operating funds from other sources, including how much annually and from what sources.
- N. Explanation of any other programs operated by the organization, including the program(s) and its funding source(s).
- O. Explanation of the agency's experience in housing, particularly in providing housing to low and very low income households in Tennessee.

All documentation must be submitted to demonstrate that the organization meets threshold requirements and has the capacity to provide affordable housing for low income households, including the administration of the proposed project.

Applications meeting the threshold criteria will be scored and ranked in descending numerical order within the Urban matrix, the Rural matrix or the CHDO matrix, based on the criteria provided below. In the event of a tie score under the Urban or Rural matrix, THDA first will select the application with the highest Need score and then, if a tie still remains, the application with the highest Not Proportionally Served score. In the event of a tie score under the CHDO matrix, THDA first will select the application with the highest capacity score and then, if a tie still remains, the highest percentage of Match.

1. PROGRAM DESIGN**Up to 50 points**

The proposed program demonstrates exceptional planning, readiness and administrative capability. All necessary components to accomplish the project have been identified in the application.

- Program administrators with the following characteristics have been identified:
 - Has personnel who are knowledgeable in HOME grant administration;
 - Has relevant experience in the administration of housing grants; and/or has otherwise shown the capability to administer the project;
 - Has the ability to follow the timeframe of Attachment B: Implementation Plan of the Working Agreement;
 - Is able to draw down funds in a timely manner;
 - Has a lack of monitoring findings associated with past grants on which the administrator has worked;
 - Has not left HOME funds in excess of \$75,000 in a prior grant at closeout; and
 - Responds appropriately to client concerns or complaints, contractor's concerns or complaints, and information requests from THDA staff.
 - THDA will also consider the number and locations of current grants an administrator is administering and other factors THDA, in its sole discretion, deems relevant, in evaluating an application.
- Individuals/firms providing architectural, construction management and/or inspection services have been identified, appropriately procured, and are qualified to perform the services.
 - THDA will consider the number and locations of current grants for which an individual/firm is providing inspection services in any given program year, and other factors, THDA, in its sole discretion, deems relevant in evaluating an application.
- If applicable, the lead inspector and/or risk assessors have been identified and are qualified to perform the services.
- If the applicant is a local jurisdiction, the local government is involved in the administration of the project.
- The program design should provide a timeline, prepared in accordance with THDA's application instructions, that clearly

provides for the completion of all units and the close out of the grant by June 30, 2020.

- Program designs for homeowner rehabilitation activities that set-aside all or a portion of the available assistance to households with incomes at or below 50% of AMI will be prioritized.

2. NEED

Up to 40 points

THDA has calculated need factors using housing statistics for counties. Factors are based on percentages rather than absolute numbers. The need factors used are the percentage of owner households who are low income; the percentage of owner households with cost burden; the percentage of affordable owner units built before 1960; the percentage of food stamp recipient households in the county; percent of owner households greater than one and one-half times overcrowded; percent of county average homeowner delinquency rate; percent of county poverty rate for all households; and county unemployment rate. Scores to be used in the evaluations are shown in **2018 HOME Need Scores for Homeowner Projects** are posted online at <https://thda.org/business-partners/home>

For multi-county projects, the need score is calculated proportionately according to the number of units proposed for each county.

3. NOT PROPORTIONALLY SERVED

Up to 40 points

THDA shall award up to 40 points to applications submitted from areas where the amount of prior HOME funding is below the state average. The formula for awarding these points is based on the percentage of 2008 - 2017 HOME dollars awarded in each county. These calculations are shown in **HOME Program Not Proportionally Served** are posted online at <https://thda.org/business-partners/home>. For multi-county projects, this score is calculated proportionately according to the number of units in each county.

4. DISASTER AREAS

10 points

THDA shall award 10 points to applications for projects located in counties that have been declared a presidential disaster area under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in the year prior to the application due date. **Disaster Counties** for the current disaster areas are posted online at <https://thda.org/business-partners/home>

5. MATCH

Up to 20 points

THDA shall award up to 20 points to applications that include a committed contribution of eligible match resources towards the project implementation. A commitment of eligible match contribution from an external source must be documented in the application from the source providing the contribution. To determine the points awarded, THDA will not round the percentage calculated.

The project's sources include an eligible HOME match contribution that is equal to or greater than 15% of the proposed HOME funds to be used for project costs

The project's sources include an eligible HOME match contribution that is equal to or greater than 10% of the proposed HOME funds to be used for project costs

greater than 5% and less than 15% of the proposed HOME funds to be used for project costs.

The project's sources include an eligible HOME match contribution that is equal to or greater than 1% and less than 5% of the proposed HOME funds to be used for project costs. 5 points

The project's sources include an eligible HOME match contribution that is less than 1% of the proposed HOME funds to be used for project costs. 0 points

6. LEVERAGE.

Up to 10 points

THDA shall award up to 10 points to applications that include the use of funds from other sources. THDA will award points in this category based on the dollar value of the funds from other sources as a percentage of the total funds in the project. Leveraged funds counted in one program year do not qualify again as leverage in subsequent years. In order to receive points, there must be written documentation of the leveraged funds in the application.

7. ENERGY CONSERVATION

Up to 10 points

THDA shall award up to 10 points to applications for rehabilitation that include an independent energy audit and, to the extent feasible, incorporate the recommendations of the audit report in the rehabilitation work write-up.

8. TENNESSEE GROWTH POLICY ACT

10 Points

TCA Section 6-58-109(c) requires THDA to award 10 points on a 100 point scale or a comparable percentage on a different point scale to municipalities or counties with approved growth plans when the local communities apply for HOME funds. Applications from counties not subject to the Tennessee Growth Policy Act will also receive these points. **Growth Plan Approvals** when applicable are posted online at <https://thda.org/business-partners/home>. Applications submitted by nonprofit organizations are not eligible for receipt of these points.

1. CAPABILITY**Up to 60 points**

The proposed project demonstrates exceptional project planning and readiness.

Up to 30 points

- The program design is complete and all necessary components to accomplish the project are identified in the application.
- Sites have been identified and CHDO has site control. NOTE: THDA will not be able to issue a Working Agreement unless there are specific addresses or a legal description for the property.
- CHDO has a pipeline of potential homebuyers ready to purchase or working toward readiness to purchase. NOTE: Commitment of CHDO funds must be to a specific address and homebuyer to meet HUD's definition of CHDO commitment by the 24-month deadline.
- CHDO has completed an examination of neighborhood market conditions demonstrating a need for the proposed housing and the anticipated housing types, as well at the target locations or neighborhoods for which the housing is intended.
- CHDO has secured other funding for the project. Commitment letters are included in the application.

The CHDO demonstrates sufficient capacity beyond threshold.

Up to 30 points

- The CHDO has produced successful affordable housing projects of similar size, scope and complexity.
- The CHDO has a demonstrated capacity to manage homeownership programs.
- The CHDO has paid staff with demonstrated housing development experience as documented by W-2 forms.
- The organization operating budget reflects multiple sources of funding.
- If previous experience under HOME:
 - Has the demonstrated ability to conform to the timeframe of Attachment B: Implementation Plan of the HOME Working Agreement;
 - Has demonstrated its ability to commit and draw down funds in a timely manner;
 - Has demonstrated the ability to complete a project within the contract term;
 - Has a lack of monitoring findings; and

- Appropriately responds to client concerns or complaints and to THDA staff.

3. CHDO SERVICE AREA NOT IN A PJ

5 points

THDA shall award up to 5 points to applications submitted from CHDO's where the service area of the CHDO does not include an area designated as an entitlement area/PJ by HUD.

4. DISASTER AREAS

10 points

THDA shall award 10 points to applications for projects located in counties that have been declared a presidential disaster area under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act in the calendar year prior to the application due date. There are currently no presidentially declared disaster areas in Tennessee.

5. MATCH

Up to 15 points

THDA shall award up to 30 points to applications that include a committed contribution of eligible match resources towards the project implementation. A commitment of eligible match contribution from an external source must be documented in the application from the source providing the contribution. To determine the points awarded, THDA will not round the percentage calculated.

- The project's sources include an eligible HOME match contribution that is equal to or greater than 15% of the proposed HOME funds to be used for project costs;

15 points

OR

- The project's sources include an eligible HOME match contribution that is equal to or greater than 5% and less than 15% of the proposed HOME funds to be used for project costs;

10 points

OR

- The project's sources include an eligible HOME match contribution that is equal to or greater than 1% and less than 5% of the proposed HOME funds to be used for project costs;

5 points

OR

- The project's sources include an eligible HOME match contribution that is less than 1% of the proposed HOME funds to be used for project costs.

0 points

6. LEVERAGE

Up to 10 points

THDA shall award up to 10 points to applications that include the use of funds from other sources. THDA will award points in this category based on the actual percentage of other funds in the project. Leveraged funds counted in one program year do not qualify again as leverage in subsequent years. In order to receive points, there must be written documentation for the leveraged funds in the application.

7. ENERGY CONSERVATION

Up to 10 points

- a. For acquisition/rehabilitation and sale type homeownership projects, THDA shall award up to 10 points to applications that, to the extent feasible, include at least three energy conservation measures beyond that required by THDA's Design Standards for Rehabilitation in the rehabilitation of each unit.
- b. For new construction homeownership projects, THDA shall award up to 10 points to applications that include at least three energy conservation measures beyond that required by THDA's Design Standards for New Construction.

8. UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Up to 10 points

For new construction or acquisition/rehabilitation type homeownership projects, THDA shall award **up to 10 total points** to applications that include additional identified universal design features in each unit. Points will be awarded based on the schedule below.

Item "a" is worth (4) points. All other items are worth (1) point each. **The maximum number of points that can be awarded under this category is 10.**

- a. One entrance door that is on an accessible route served by a ramp or no-step entrance and which also has a 36" door.
- b. All Interior Doors a minimum of 32 inches of clear passage space except closets of less than 15 square feet.
- c. All hallways have a clear passage of at least 36 inches, is level with ramped or beveled changes at each threshold.
- d. Each electrical panel, breaker box, light switch or thermostat is no higher than 48 inches above the floor.
- e. Each electrical plug or receptacle is at least 15" above the floor.
- f. Minimum 5' x 5' level clear space inside and outside entry door.
- g. Broad blocking in walls around each toilet, tub and shower for future placement of grab bars.
- h. Full-extension, pull-out drawers, shelves and racks in base cabinets in kitchen.
- i. Front mounted controls on all appliances.
- j. Lever door handles on all doors.
- k. Loop handle pulls on drawers and cabinet doors.
- l. One bathroom on the main floor you can get into in a wheelchair.