

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

FLORIDA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

67-48.004: Selection Procedures for Developments

67-48.0072: Credit Underwriting and Loan Procedures

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of this Rule Chapter is to establish the procedures by which the Corporation shall:

- (1) Address loan amounts, make and service mortgage loans for new construction or rehabilitation of affordable rental units under the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) Program authorized by Section 420.5087, F.S., and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program authorized by Section 420.5089, F.S.; and
- (2) Address Competitive Housing Credit amounts and implement the provisions of the Housing Credit (HC) Program authorized by Section 42 of the IRC and Section 420.5099, F.S.

The intent of this Rule Chapter is to encourage public-private partnerships to invest in residential housing; to stimulate the construction and rehabilitation of residential housing which in turn will stimulate the job market in the construction and related industries; and to increase and improve the supply of affordable housing in the state of Florida.

SUMMARY: Prior to the opening of a funding process, the Corporation (1) researches the market need for affordable housing throughout the state of Florida and (2) evaluates prior competitive funding processes to determine what changes or additions should be added to the Rule, competitive solicitations, and the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP). The proposed amendments to the Rule and adopted reference material include changes that will create a formulated process for selecting Developments that will apply under these funding programs.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COSTS AND LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION:

The Agency has determined that this will not have an adverse impact on small business or likely increase directly or indirectly regulatory costs in excess of \$200,000 in the aggregate within one year after the implementation of the rule. A SERC has not been prepared by the Agency.

The Agency has determined that the proposed rule is not expected to require legislative ratification based on the statement of estimated regulatory costs or if no SERC is required, the information expressly relied upon and described herein: The rule is not likely to have an adverse impact on economic growth, private sector job creation or employment, or private sector investment in excess of \$1 million in the aggregate within 5 years after the implementation of the rule. The rule is not likely to have an adverse impact on business competitiveness, including the ability of persons doing business in the state to compete with persons doing business in other states or domestic markets, productivity, or innovation in excess of \$1 million in the aggregate within 5 years after the implementation of the rule. In addition, the rule is not likely to increase regulatory costs, including any transactional costs, in excess of \$1 million in the aggregate within 5 years after the implementation of the rule.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding a statement of estimated regulatory costs, or provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 420.507(12), 420.508(3)(c), FS.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 420.507(13), (22), (24), (48), 420.5087, 420.5089, 420.5099, FS.

A HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

DATE AND TIME: July 23, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Time

PLACE: The hearing will take place by webinar and the instructions for accessing the webinar will be posted on the Corporation's website <https://www.floridahousing.org/programs/developers-multifamily-programs/competitive/current->

rules-and-rule-development-process/2024-rule-development-process. Interested parties may also attend in person at the offices of Florida Housing Finance Corporation, 227 N. Bronough Street, 6th Floor Seltzer Room, Tallahassee, Florida.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: Melissa Levy, Managing Director of Multifamily Programs, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, 227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000, Tallahassee, Florida 32031-1329, (850) 488-4197.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS:

67-48.004 Selection Procedures for Developments.

(1) Unless otherwise provided in a competitive solicitation process, SAIL, HOME and Housing Credit Applications shall be limited to one submission per subject property. Two or more Applications, submitted in the same competitive solicitation process, that have the same demographic commitment and one or more of the same Financial Beneficiaries, will be considered submissions for the same Development site if any of the following is true:

- (a) Any part of any of the property sites is contiguous with any part of any of the other property sites, or
- (b) Any of the property sites are divided by a street or easement, or
- (c) It is readily apparent from the Applications, proximity, chain of title, or other information available to the Corporation that the properties are part of a common or related scheme of development.

If two or more Applications are considered to be submissions for the same Development site, the Corporation will reject all such Applications.

- (2) through (7) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 420.507(12), 420.508(3)(c) FS. Law Implemented 420.5087, ~~420.5087(6)(e)~~, 420.5089, ~~420.5089(6)~~, 420.5099, ~~420.5099(2)~~ FS. History—New 7-22-96, Amended 12-23-96, 7-10-97, 1-6-98, Formerly 91-48.004, Amended 4-7-98, 11-9-98, 2-24-00, 2-22-01, 3-17-02, 4-6-03, 3-21-04, 2-7-05, 1-29-06, 4-1-07, 3-30-08, 8-6-09, 11-22-11, 10-9-13, 10-8-14, 9-15-16, Repromulgated 5-24-17, Amended 7-8-18, 7-11-19, 6-23-20, 5-18-21, 7-6-22, Repromulgated 6-28-23, Amended.

67-48.0072 Credit Underwriting and Loan Procedures.

Credit underwriting is a de novo review of all information supplied, received or discovered during or after any competitive solicitation scoring and funding preference process, prior to the closing on funding, including the issuance of IRS Forms 8609 for Housing Credits. The success of an Applicant in being selected for funding is not an indication that the Applicant will receive a positive recommendation from the Credit Underwriter or that the Development team’s experience, past performance or financial capacity is satisfactory. The credit underwriting review shall include a comprehensive analysis of the Applicant, the real estate, the economics of the Development, the ability of the Applicant and the Development team to proceed, the evidence of need for affordable housing in order to determine that the Development meets the program requirements and determine a recommended SAIL, or HOME loan amount, Housing Credit allocation amount or a combined SAIL or HOME loan amount and Housing Credit Allocation amount, if any; and for any Development that has rehabilitation with or without acquisition, a capital needs assessment (‘CNA’) prepared in accordance with generally accepted industry investment grade standards as reflected in a competitive solicitation shall be ordered by the Credit Underwriter from a Corporation-approved CNA provider, and its findings shall be used to determine rehabilitation that will be carried out, including applicable energy, green, universal design and visitability features, and to set replacement reserves as outlined in paragraph (13)(b), below. Corporation funding will be based on appraisals of comparable developments, cost benefit analysis, and other documents evidencing justification of costs. As part of the credit underwriting review, the Credit Underwriter will consider the applicable provisions of rule Chapter 67-48, F.A.C.

- (1) through (5) No change.

(6) In determining whether or not to provide a positive recommendation in connection with a proposed Development, the Credit Underwriter will consider the prior and recent performance history of the Applicant, Developer, any Financial Beneficiary of the Applicant or Developer, and the General Contractor in connection with any other ~~affordable housing~~ development. The performance history shall consider instances involving a foreclosure, deed in lieu of foreclosure, financial arrearage, or other event of material default in connection with any ~~affordable housing~~ development or the documents governing financing or operation of any such development.

- (a) Unless the Credit Underwriter determines that mitigating factors exist, or that underwriting conditions can be

imposed, sufficient to mitigate or offset the risk, the existence of the following shall result in a negative recommendation of the proposed Development by the Credit Underwriter:

1. Considering all ~~affordable housing~~ developments in which any party named above has been involved, if:

a. During the period prior to August 1, 2010, 5 percent or more of that party's developments have been the subject of a foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure, or in financial arrearage or other material default and such arrearage or material default remained uncured for a period of 60 days or more, or

b. During the period beginning on or after August 1, 2010, any of that party's developments have been the subject of a foreclosure or deed in lieu of foreclosure, or in financial arrearage or other material default and such arrearage or material default is uncured at the present or, if cured, remained uncured for a period of 60 days or more.

2. Mitigating factors to be considered by the Credit Underwriter, to the extent such information is reasonably available and verifiable, shall include the extent to which the party funded the operations of the development from that party's own funds in an attempt to keep the development afloat, the election by a party to forego financial participation in a development in an attempt to keep the development afloat, the party's satisfactory performance history over the last 10 years in connection with that party's ~~affordable housing~~ developments, and any other extenuating circumstances deemed relevant by the Credit Underwriter in connection with the party's involvement in a development.

(b) A negative recommendation may also result from the review of:

1. Financial capacity of an Applicant, Developer, any Financial Beneficiary of the Applicant or Developer, the General Contractor, and, for SAIL and HOME Applicants that have Housing Credits, the Housing Credit Syndicator, or

2. Any other relevant matters relating to an Applicant, Developer, any Financial Beneficiary of the Applicant or Developer, and the General Contractor if, in the Credit Underwriter's opinion, one or more members of the Development team do not possess the ability to proceed.

(7) through (14) No change.

(15) For SAIL and HOME, each general partner (whether individual or entity) or each manager/managing member (whether individual or entity), as applicable, of the Applicant shall provide a guarantee for completion of construction. In addition, one or more entities or individuals (other than a general partner or manager/managing member) having an ownership interest, either directly or indirectly, in the Applicant or in the general partner or managing member of the Applicant shall be required to provide guarantees or personal guarantees, as applicable, for completion of construction as recommended by the Credit Underwriter or as otherwise required by the Corporation. The Corporation shall consider the following when determining the need for additional construction completion guarantees based on the recommendations of the Credit underwriter:

(a) Liquidity of any guarantee provider.

(b) If applicable, Applicant's, Developer's and General Contractor's history in successfully completing Developments ~~of similar nature~~.

(c) If applicable, the past performance of the Applicant, Developer, General Contractor or any other guarantee provider in developing or constructing Developments financed by the Corporation or its predecessor.

(d) Percentage of the Corporation's funds utilized compared to Total Development Costs.

If, after evaluation of paragraphs (a)-(d), above, by the Corporation and the Credit Underwriter, it is determined that additional surety is needed, the Applicant will be required to provide a letter of credit or payment and performance bond.

(16) through (30) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 420.507(12), 420.508(3)(c) FS. Law Implemented 420.507(13), (22), (24), (48), 420.5087, 420.5089, 420.5099 FS. History--New 2-7-05, Amended 1-29-06, 4-1-07, 3-30-08, 8-6-09, 11-22-11, 10-9-13, 10-8-14, 9-15-16, 5-24-17, 7-8-18, 7-11-19, 6-23-20, 5-18-21, 7-6-22, 6-28-23,_____.

NAME OF PERSON ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Melissa Levy, Managing Director of Multifamily Programs, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, 227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000, Tallahassee, Florida 32031-1329, (850) 488-4197

NAME OF AGENCY HEAD WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Ryan Benson, Chairman of the Board, Florida Housing Finance Corporation, 227 North Bronough Street, Suite 5000, Tallahassee, Florida 32031-1329, (850) 488-4197

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: June 28, 2024

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN FAR: Volume 50, Number 95, May 14, 2024