

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
TDHCA Governing Board Approved Draft of
10 TAC Chapter 27, First Time Homebuyer Program Rule**

Disclaimer

Attached is a draft of proposed 10 TAC Chapter 27, First Time Homebuyer Program Rule that was approved by the TDHCA Governing Board on December 9, 2021. This document, including its preamble, was published in the December 17, 2021 edition of the *Texas Register* and that published version will constitute the official version for purposes of public comment. The version herein is informational only and should not be relied upon as the basis for public comment.

Public Comment

Public Comment Period: Started: December 24, 2021 Ends: 5 pm Austin local time on January 24, 2022

Comments received after 5 pm Austin local time on January 24, 2022 will not be accepted.

Written comments may be submitted, in hard copy/fax or electronic formats to:

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Attn: Monica Galuski
P.O. Box 13941
Austin, Texas 78711-3941
Fax: (512) 475-4798
Email: monica.galuski@tdhca.state.tx.us

Written comments may be submitted in hard copy, fax, or email formats within the designated public comment period. Those making public comment are encouraged to reference the specific draft rule, policy, or plan related to their comment as well as a specific reference or cite associated with each comment.

Please be aware that all comments submitted to the TDHCA will be considered public information.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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Attachment 1: Preamble, including required analysis, for the proposed repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 27, First Time Homebuyer Program Rule

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes the repeal of 10 TAC Chapter 27, First Time Homebuyer Program Rule. The purpose of the proposed repeal is to allow the Department to make forgivable second mortgage loans for down payment assistance through the FTHB Program.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.0045(b) does not apply to the rule proposed for action because it was determined that no costs are associated with this action, and therefore no costs warrant being offset.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

Mr. Bobby Wilkinson has determined that, for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect:

1. The repeal does not create or eliminate a government program but relates to changes to minimally expand the pool of households eligible to participate in the Project Access program.
2. The repeal does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor are the rule changes significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that eliminates any existing employee positions.
3. The repeal does not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The repeal will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor in a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The repeal is not creating a new regulation, except that it is being replaced by a new rule simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The repeal will not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation.
7. The repeal will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.
8. The repeal will not negatively or positively affect the state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002.

The Department has evaluated the proposed repeal and determined that the proposed repeal will not create an economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed repeal does not contemplate or authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6).

The Department has evaluated the proposed repeal as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the proposed repeal would be in effect there would be no economic effect on local employment; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the rule.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Wilkinson has determined that, for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the changed sections would be the expanded pool of households that may be eligible for a Project Access voucher and the acceleration of a household's possible exit from an institution into the community. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the repealed section.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed repeal is in effect, enforcing or administering the repeal does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. The public comment period will be held December 24, 2021, to January 24, 2022, to receive input on the proposed action. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Monica Galuski, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941 or email monica.galuski@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, January 24, 2022.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The proposed repeal is made pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed amended sections affect no other code, article, or statute.

10 TAC Chapter 27, First Time Homebuyer Program Rule

- §27.1 Purpose
- §27.2 Definitions
- §27.3 Restrictions on Residences Financed and Applicant
- §27.4 Occupancy and Use Requirements
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- §27.6 Criteria for Approving Participating Mortgage Lenders
- §27.7 Resale of the Residence
- §27.8 Conflicts with Bond Indentures and Applicable Law
- §27.9 Waiver

Attachment B: Preamble, including required analysis, for proposed new 10 TAC Chapter 27, First Time Homebuyer Program Rule

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) proposes new 10 TAC Chapter 27, First Time Homebuyer Program Rule.

The purpose of the proposed rule is to facilitate the inclusion of forgivable second mortgage loans for down payment assistance through the FTHB Program.

Tex. Gov't Code §2001.0045(b) does not apply to the rule proposed for action because it was determined that no costs are associated with this action, and therefore no costs warrant being offset.

The Department has analyzed this proposed rulemaking and the analysis is described below for each category of analysis performed.

a. GOVERNMENT GROWTH IMPACT STATEMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.0221.

Mr. Bobby Wilkinson has determined that, for the first five years the proposed new section would be in effect:

1. The new section does not create or eliminate a government program but relate to changes to existing regulations applicable to household eligibility for the Project Access program.
2. The new section does not require a change in work that would require the creation of new employee positions, nor are the rule changes significant enough to reduce work load to a degree that eliminates any existing employee positions.
3. The new section does not require additional future legislative appropriations.
4. The new section will not result in an increase in fees paid to the Department, nor in a decrease in fees paid to the Department.
5. The new section is not creating a new regulation, except that they are replacing sections being repealed simultaneously to provide for revisions.
6. The new section will not expand, limit, or repeal an existing regulation.
7. The new section will not increase or decrease the number of individuals subject to the rule's applicability.
8. The new section will not negatively or positively affect the state's economy.

b. ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SMALL OR MICRO-BUSINESSES OR RURAL COMMUNITIES AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2006.002.

The Department has evaluated the proposed new section and determined that the proposed actions will not create an economic effect on small or micro-businesses or rural communities.

c. TAKINGS IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2007.043. The proposed new sections do not contemplate or authorize a taking by the Department; therefore, no Takings Impact Assessment is required.

d. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT STATEMENTS REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(6).

The Department has evaluated the proposed new section as to its possible effects on local economies and has determined that for the first five years the proposed new section would be in effect there would be no economic effect on local employment; therefore, no local employment impact statement is required to be prepared for the rule.

e. PUBLIC BENEFIT/COST NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(5). Mr. Wilkinson has determined that, for each year of the first five years the proposed new section is in effect, the public benefit anticipated as a result of the new section would expanding the pool of households that may be eligible for a Project Access voucher and facilitating a household's more rapid exit from an institution into the community. There will not be economic costs to individuals required to comply with the new sections.

f. FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED BY TEX. GOV'T CODE §2001.024(a)(4). Mr. Wilkinson also has determined that for each year of the first five years the proposed new section is in effect, enforcing or administering the rule does not have any foreseeable implications related to costs or revenues of the state or local governments.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. The public comment period will be held December 24, 2021, to January 24, 2022, to receive input on the proposed action. Written comments may be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Attn: Monica Galuski, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941 or email monica.galuski@tdhca.state.tx.us. ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m., Austin local time, January 24, 2022.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY. The proposed new section is made pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code §2306.053, which authorizes the Department to adopt rules. Except as described herein the proposed new section affects no other code, article, or statute.

CHAPTER 27 TEXAS FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER PROGRAM RULE

§27.1 Purpose

(a) The purpose of the Texas First Time Homebuyer Program is to facilitate the origination of single-family Mortgage Loans for eligible first time ~~homebuyers~~Homebuyers, and to ~~provide to qualifying homebuyers~~make available down payment and closing cost assistance to eligible ~~Homebuyers~~. The Texas First Time Homebuyer Program is administered in accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 2306. Chapter 20 of this title (relating to the Single Family Programs Umbrella Rule) does not apply to the activities under this chapter, except if these activities are combined with activities subject to Chapter 20 of this title.

(b) Assistance under this Program is dependent, in part, on the availability of funds. The Department may cease offering all or a part of the assistance available under the program at any time and in its sole discretion.

§27.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context or the Participation Packet indicates otherwise. Other definitions may be found in Texas Government Code, Chapter 2306; Chapter 1 of this title (relating to Administration); and Chapter 2 of this title (relating to Enforcement).

(1) Applicable Median Family Income--The Department's determination, as permitted by Texas Government Code, §2306.123, of the median income of an individual or family for an area using a source or methodology acceptable under federal law or rule. The Applicable Median Family Income, as updated from time to time, may be found on the Department's website (www.tdhca.state.tx.us) in the "Combined Income and Purchase Price Limits Table."

(2) Applicant--A person or persons applying for financing of a Mortgage Loan under the Program.

(3) Areas of Chronic Economic Distress--Those areas in the state, whether one or more, designated from time to time as areas of chronic economic distress by the state and approved by the U.S. Secretaries of Treasury and Housing and Urban Development, respectively, pursuant to §143(j) of the Code.

(4) Average Area Purchase Price--With respect to a Residence financed under the Program, the average purchase price of single-family residences in the statistical area in which the Residence is located which were purchased during the most recent twelve (12) month period for which statistical information is available, as determined in accordance with §143(e) of the Code.

(5) Code--The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time.

(6) Contract for Deed Exception--The exception for certain Mortgage Loan eligibility requirements, as provided in the Master Mortgage Origination Agreement, available with respect to a principal residence owned under a contract for deed by a person whose family income is not more than 50% of the area's Applicable Median Family Income.

(7) Federal Housing Administration--A division of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, also known as FHA.

(8) First Time Homebuyer--A person who has not owned a home during the three (3) years preceding the date on which an application under this program is filed. A person will be considered to have owned a home if the person had a present ownership interest in a home during the three (3) years preceding the date on which the application was filed. In the event there is more than one person applying with respect to a home, each ~~applicant~~Applicant must separately meet this three year requirement.

~~(9)~~ (9) Homebuyer--An Applicant that is approved by the Program and purchases a Residence.

(10) Master Mortgage Origination Agreement--The contract between the Department and a Mortgage Lender, together with any amendments thereto, setting forth certain terms and conditions relating to the origination and sale of Mortgage Loans by the Mortgage Lender and the financing of such Mortgage Loans by the Department.

(1011) Mortgage Lender--the entity, as defined in §2306.004 of the Tex. Gov't Code, that is participating in the Program and signatory to the Master Mortgage Origination Agreement.

(1112) Participation Packet--The application submitted to the Department by the proposed Mortgage Lender to participate in the Program.

(1213) Program--The Texas First Time Homebuyer Program.

(1314) Purchase Price Limit--The Purchase Price Limits published and updated from time to time in the "Combined Income and Purchase Price Limits Table" found on the Department's website equal to 90% of the Average Area Purchase Price, subject to certain exceptions for Targeted Area Loans.

(1415) Qualified Veteran Exemption to First Time Homebuyer Requirement--A qualified veteran who has not previously received financing as a ~~first time homebuyer~~First Time Homebuyer through a single family mortgage revenue bond program is exempt from the requirement to be a ~~first time homebuyer~~First Time Homebuyer. The veteran must certify that he or she has not previously obtained a Mortgage Loan financed by single family mortgage revenue bonds, and is utilizing the veteran exception set forth in §143(d)(2)(D) of the IRS Code. Qualified veterans must also complete a worksheet evidencing qualification as a veteran and provide copies of discharge papers.

~~(15)~~ (16) Regulations--The applicable proposed, temporary or final Treasury Regulations promulgated under the Code or, to the extent applicable to the Code, under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as such regulations may be amended or supplemented from time to time.

(17) Residence--A dwelling in Texas in which an Applicant intends to reside as the Applicant's principal living space. This is intended to have the same meaning as Home as defined in §2306.1071 of the Tex. Gov't Code.

(1618) Rural Housing Service--A division of the United States Department of Agriculture, also known as RHS.

(1719) Targeted Area--A qualified census tract, as determined in accordance with §6(a)103A-(2)(b)(4) of the Regulations or any successor regulations thereto, or an Area of Chronic Economic Distress. Applicants purchasing in Targeted Areas may have higher income and purchase price

limits as set forth in the "Combined Income and Purchase Price Limits Table" found on the Department's website.

(~~1820~~) Targeted area exemption to ~~first~~First time ~~homebuyer requirement~~
~~Borrower's Homebuyer Requirement--Applicants~~ purchasing homes in targeted areas financed through the program are exempt from the requirement to be a ~~first time homebuyer~~First Time Homebuyer and income and purchase price limits may be higher as found in the "Combined Income and Purchase Price Limits Table" located on the Department's website.

(~~1920~~) United States Department of Veterans Affairs--Also known as VA.

§27.3 Restrictions on Residences Financed and Applicant

(a) Type of Residence and Number of Units. To be eligible for assistance under the Program an Applicant must apply with respect to a ~~home~~Residence that is either a new or existing single family residence, new or existing condominium or townhome, or manufactured housing that has been converted to real property in accordance with the Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 1201 or FHA guidelines, as required by the Department. A duplex may be financed under the Program as long as one unit of the duplex is occupied by the Applicant as his or her Residence, and the duplex was first occupied for residential purposes at least five years prior to the closing of the Mortgage Loan.

(b) Homebuyer Education. Each Applicant must complete a Department approved pre-purchase homebuyer education course.

(c) Income Limits. An Applicant applying for a Mortgage Loan must meet Applicable Median Family Income requirements.

(d) Down Payment Assistance. An Applicant meeting the Applicable Median Family Income requirements in subsection (c) of this section may qualify for down payment and closing cost assistance in connection with the Mortgage Loan on a first come, first served basis, subject to availability of funds.

(e) Residential Property Standards. The Residence must meet all standards required by the State of Texas, local jurisdiction, and as required by the Federal Mortgage Lender.

§27.4 Occupancy and Use Requirements

(a) Occupancy requirement. The ~~Applicant~~Homebuyer must occupy the property within ~~a reasonable time (not to exceed 60 days)~~ after the date of closing as his or her Residence. ~~Borrower's receiving down payment assistance must repay all or a portion of the assistance no later than upon repayment of the associated first Mortgage Loan, whether due to sale of the property, refinance, or otherwise.~~

(b) Use for a business. Homebuyer may not use more than 15% of the ~~residence~~Residence in a trade or business (including childcare services) on a regular basis for compensation. If the ~~residence~~Residence is to be used, in part, for a trade or business, a schematic drawing from an appraiser must be provided.

(c) BorrowerHomebuyer may not use the Residence, or any part thereof, as an investment property, rental property, vacation or second home, or recreational home, and shall continue to occupy the Residence as Borrower'sHomebuyer's principal living space, unless waived by the Executive Director or their designee, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld, or unless extenuating circumstances exist which are beyond Borrower'sHomebuyer's control.

§27.5 Application Procedure and Requirements for Commitments by Mortgage Lenders

(a) An Applicant seeking assistance under the Program must first contact a participating Mortgage Lender. A list of participating Mortgage Lenders may be obtained on the Department's website or by contacting the Department.

(b) Applicant shall complete an application with a participating Mortgage Lender.

(c) Application Fees. Fees that may be collected by the Mortgage Lender from the Applicant relating to a Mortgage Loan include:

(1) an appropriate, as determined by the Department, origination fee and/or buyer/seller points; and

(2) all usual and reasonable settlement or financing costs that are permitted to be so collected by FHA, RHS, VA, Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae, as applicable, and other applicable laws, but only to the extent such charges do not exceed the usual and reasonable amounts charged in the area in which the Residence is located. Such usual and reasonable settlement or financing costs shall include an application fee as determined by the Department, the total estimated costs of a credit report on the Applicants and an appraisal of the property to be financed with the Mortgage Loan, title insurance, survey fees, credit reference fees, legal fees, appraisal fees and expenses, credit report fees, FHA insurance premiums, private Mortgage guaranty insurance premiums, VA guaranty fees, VA funding fees, RHS guaranty fees, hazard or flood insurance premiums, abstract fees, tax service fees, recording or registration fees, escrow fees, and file preparation fees.

(d) The Department will determine from time to time, a schedule of fees and charges necessary for expenses and reserves of the housing finance division as set forth in a Board resolution.

(e) The Mortgage Lender must register the Mortgage Loan in accordance with the Department's published procedures.

§27.6 Criteria for Approving Participating Mortgage Lenders

(a) To be approved by the Department for participation in the program, a Mortgage Lender must meet the requirements in the Participation Packet to be a qualified Mortgage Lender as specified by:

- (1) FHA;
- (2) RHS;
- (3) VA; or

(4) be a lender currently participating in the conventional home lending market for loans originated in accordance with Fannie Mae's and/or Freddie Mac's requirements.

(b) As a condition for participation in the Program, a qualified Mortgage Lender must:

- (1) agree to originate Mortgage Loans and assign those loans and related Mortgages and servicing to the Department's master servicer;
- (2) originate, process, underwrite, close and fund originated loans; and
- (3) be an approved Mortgage Lender with the Program's master servicer.

§27.7 Resale of the Residence

Mortgage Loans that are financed with the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds, or for which a Mortgage Credit Certificate has been or will be issued, will be subject to federal income tax recapture provisions. Assumption of a Mortgage Loan is allowed under the Program if the new owner meets the Program requirements at the time of the sale of the Residence.

§27.8 Conflicts with Bond Indentures and Applicable Law

All assistance provided under the Program is funded through or facilitated by the Department's mortgage revenue bond indentures and is subject to changes in the mortgage revenue bond indentures and applicable law. If there is a conflict between this chapter and any bond indenture or applicable law regarding the use of the funds from mortgage revenue bonds, the mortgage revenue bond indenture or applicable law shall control.

§27.9 Waiver

The Board, in its discretion and within the limits of federal and state law, may waive any one or more of the rules governing this Program, except 10 TAC §27.8, if the Board finds that waiver is appropriate to fulfill the purposes or policies of Texas Government Code, Chapter 2306.