§10.602 Notice to Owners and Corrective Action Periods

(a) The Department will provide written notice to the Owner if the Department does not receive the Annual Owner Compliance Report (AOCR) timely or if the Department discovers through monitoring, audit, inspection, review, or any other manner that the Development is not in compliance with the provisions of the LURA, deed restrictions, application for funding, conditions imposed by the Department, this subchapter, or other program rules and regulations, including but not limited to §42 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) For a violation other than a violation that poses an imminent hazard or threat to health and safety, the notice will specify a 30 day Corrective Action Period for noncompliance related failure to file the AOCR, and a 90 day Corrective Action Period for other violations. During the Corrective Action Period, the Owner has the opportunity to show that either the Development was never in noncompliance or that the Event of Noncompliance has been corrected. Documentation of correction must be received during the Corrective Action Period for an event to be considered corrected during the Corrective Action Period. The Department may extend the Corrective Action Period for up to six months from the date of the notice to the Development Owner only if there is good cause for granting an extension and the Owner requests an extension during the original 90 day Corrective Action Period, and the request would not cause the Department or the Owner to miss a federal deadline. Requests for an extension may be submitted to: compliance.extensionrequest@tdhca.state.tx.us. If an Owner submits evidence of corrective action during the Corrective Action Period that addresses each finding, but does not fully address all findings, the Department will give the Owner written notice and an additional 10 calendar day period to submit evidence of full corrective action. References in this subchapter to the Corrective Action Period include this additional 10 calendar day period.

(c) If any communication to the Owner under this section is returned to the Department as refused, unclaimed, or undeliverable, the Development may be considered not in compliance without further notice to the Owner. The Owner is responsible for providing the Department with current contact information, including address(es) (physical and electronic) and phone number(s). The Owner must also provide current contact information to the Department as required by §1.22 of this title (relating to Providing Contact Information to the Department), and ensure that such information is at all times current and correct.

(d) Treasury Regulations require the Department to notify Housing Tax Credit Owners of upcoming reviews and instances of noncompliance. The Department will rely solely on the information supplied by the Owner in the Department’s web-based Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System (CMTS) to meet this requirement. It is the Owner's sole responsibility to ensure at all times that such information is current, accurate, and complete. Correspondence sent to the email or physical address shown in CMTS will be deemed delivered to the Owner. Correspondence from the Department may be directly uploaded to the property's CMTS account using the secure electronic document attachment system. Once uploaded, notification of the attachment will be sent
(e) Unless otherwise required by law or regulation, Events of Noncompliance will not be reported to the IRS, referred for enforcement action, considered as cause for possible debarment, or reported in an applicant’s compliance history or Previous Participation Review, until after the end of the Corrective Action Period described in this section.

(f) Upon receipt of facially valid complaints the Department may contact the Owner and request submission of documents or written explanations to address the issues raised by the complainant. The deadline to respond to the issue will be specific to the matter. Whenever possible and not otherwise prohibited or limited by law, regulation, or court order, the complaint received by the Department will be provided along with the request for documents or Owner response.

§10.605 Elections under IRC §42(g)

(a) Under the Code, HTC Development Owners elect a minimum set-aside requirement of 20/50 (20% of the Units restricted at the 50% income and rent limits), 40/60 (40% of the Units restricted at the 60% income and rent limits), or the average income test.

(b) HTC projects must meet the required election under IRC §42(g) no later than the end of the first year of the Credit Period. Developments in the first year of the credit period that elect the average income test should lease Units in a manner to ensure that at all times, the average income and rent of the occupied units at the project does not exceed 60%. Example 605(1): A 100 Unit project places in service in April. If by October of that year, 50 of the Units are occupied and the other 50 have never been occupied, the designations of the 50 occupied Units must be equal to or less than 60% AMI and the percentage represented at application.

(c) An Owners that elects the average income test under IRC §42(g) must disperse 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, and 80% Unit designations across all Unit Types to the greatest extent feasible, and in a manner that does not violate fair housing laws.

(d) Until and unless the Internal Revenue Service or the Treasury Department issues conflicting or additional guidance, the Department will examine the actual gross rent and income of all households to determine if a projects - that elected the average income test are at or below the federal minimum of 60% AMI.

§10.607 Reporting Requirements

(a) The Department requires reports to be submitted electronically through CMTS the Department’s web-based Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System (CMTS) and in the format prescribed by the Department. The Electronic Compliance Reporting Filing Agreement and the Owner’s Designation of Administrator of Accounts forms must be filed emailed to cmts.requests@tdhca.state.tx.us for:
(1) 9% Housing Tax Credit Developments - no later than the date prescribed in §10.402(g) of this chapter (relating to the 10% Test);

(2) 4% Housing Tax Credit Developments - no later than the date prescribed in §10.402(e) of this chapter (relating to Post Bond Closing Documentation Requirements); or

(3) For all other multifamily rental developments, no later than September 1st of the year following the award.

(b) Each Development is required to submit an Annual Owner's Compliance Report (AOCR). Depending on the Development, some or all of the Report must be submitted. The first AOCR is due the second year following the award in accordance with the deadlines set out in subsection (e) of this section. Example 607(1): A Development was allocated Housing Tax Credits in July 2015. The first report is due April 30, 2017, even if the Development has not yet commenced leasing activities.

(c) The AOCR is comprised of four parts:

(1) Part A "Owner's Certification of Program Compliance." All Owners must annually certify compliance with applicable program requirements. The AOCR Part A shall include answers to all questions required by the U. S. Department of the Treasury to be addressed, including those required by Treasury Regulation 1.42-5(b)(1) or the applicable program rules;

(2) Part B "Unit Status Report." All Developments must annually report and certify the information related to individual household income, rent, certification dates and other necessary data to ensure compliance with applicable program regulations. In addition, Owners are required to report on the race and ethnicity, family composition, age, use of rental assistance, disability status, and monthly rental payments of individuals and families applying for and receiving assistance or if the household elects not to disclose the information, such election;

(3) Part C "Housing for Persons with Disabilities." The Department is required to establish a system that requires Owners of state or federally assisted housing Developments with 20 or more housing Units to report information regarding housing Units designed for persons with disabilities. The certified answers to the questions on Part C satisfy this requirement; and

(4) Part D "Form 8703." Tax exempt bond properties must file Form 8703 each calendar year of the qualified project period. The form is due to the IRS by March 31 after the close of the calendar year for which the certification is made. The Department requires Tax Exempt Bond Development Owners to submit a copy of the filed Form 8703 for the preceding calendar year.

(d) The Owner is required to report certain financial information to the Department electronically through CMTS. If supplemental information is required, it must be uploaded to the Development's CMTS account.

(1) "Annual Owner's Financial Certification" (formerly Part D of the AOCR). Developments funded
by the Department must annually provide and certify to the data requested in the Annual Owner's Financial Certification (AOFC).

(2) Developments funded with Exchange or TCAP must also submit a "Quarterly Owner's Financial Certification" and these must be submitted in January, April, July, and October on the 15th business day of the month.

(e) Parts A, B, C, and D of the AOCR and the Annual Owner's Financial Certification must be provided to the Department no later than April 30th of each year, reporting data current as of December 31st of the previous year (the reporting year).

(f) Periodic Unit Status Reports. All Developments must submit a Quarterly Unit Status Report to the Department through the Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System. Quarterly reports are due in January, April, July, and October on the 10th day of the month. The report must report occupancy as of the last day of the previous month for the reporting period. For example, the report due October 10th should report occupancy as of September 30th of the preceding month. The first quarterly report is due on the first quarterly reporting date after leasing activity commences. Failure to report occupancy timely will result in a finding of noncompliance.

(g) Owners are encouraged to continuously maintain current resident data in the Department's CMTS. Under certain circumstances, such as in the event of a natural disaster, the Department may alter the reporting schedule and require all Developments to provide current occupancy data through CMTS.

(h) All rental Developments funded or administered by the Department will be required to submit a current Unit Status Report prior to an onsite monitoring visit.

(i) Exchange developments must submit IRS Form(s) 8609 with lines 7, 8(b), 9(b), 10(a), 10(c), and 10(d) completed 30 days after the Department issues the executed form(s). If an Owner elects to group buildings together into one or more multiple building projects, the owner must attach a statement identifying the buildings in the project. An owner may request to change the election made on line 8(b) only once during the Compliance Period. The request will be treated as a non-material amendment, subject to the fee described in §11.901 of this chapter (relating to Fee Schedule) and the process described in §10.405 of this chapter (relating to Amendments and Extensions).

§10.609 Notices to the Department

If any of the events described in paragraphs (1) – (7)(6) of this section occur, written notice must be provided to the Department within the respective timeframes. Failure to do so will result in an finding of noncompliance Event of Noncompliance, and may be taken into consideration during Previous Participation Reviews in accordance with Chapter 1 Subchapter C of this title, or in Enforcement actions in accordance with Chapter 2 of this title.
(1) Written notice must be provided at least 30 days prior to any proposed sale, transfer, or exchange of the Development or any portion of the Development, and the Department must give its prior written approval to any such sale, transfer, or exchange, which will include a previous participation review on the proposed new ownership, requiring that they complete and provide a Previous Participation Review Form;

(2) Notification must be provided within 30 days following the event of any casualty loss, in whole or in part, to the Development, using the Department's Notice of Casualty Loss (for general casualty losses) or Notice of Disaster Casualty Loss (specific to loss as a result of a Presidentially Declared Disaster);

(3) Owners of Bond Developments shall notify the Department of the date on which 10% of the Units are occupied and the date on which 50% of the Units are occupied, and notice must occur within 90 days of each such date;

(4) Within 30 days after a foreclosure, the Department must be provided with documentation evidencing the foreclosure and a rent roll establishing occupancy on the day of the foreclosure; and

(5) Within 10 days of a change in the contact information (including contact persons, physical addresses, mailing addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, and/or the name of the property as know by the public) for the Ownership entity, management company, and/or Development the Department's CMTS must be updated; and

(6) Within 30 days of completion of the American Institute of Architects form G704- Certificate of Substantial Completion, or Form HUD-92485 for instances in which a federally insured HUD loan is utilized, an Owner must request a Final Construction Inspection; and

(7) Owners of Developments that participate in the Section 811 PRA program are required to notify the Department about the availability of units as described in §10.624 of this subchapter.

§10.610 Written Policies and Procedures

See §10.802 of this chapter.

(a) The purpose of this section is to outline policies and/or procedures that are required to have written documentation. If an owner fails to follow their written policies and procedures it will be cited as noncompliance with this section.

(1) Owners must inform applicants/tenants in writing, at the time of application or other action described in this section, that such policies/procedures are available, and that the Owner will provide copies upon request to applicants/tenants or their representatives.

(2) The Owner must have all policies and related documentation required by this section available in the leasing office and anywhere else where applications are taken. Developments that accept electronic applications must post to their website the tenant selection criteria and the TDHCA form.
based on HUD form 5380 "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" and the HUD form 5382 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation."

(3) All policies must have an effective date. Any changes require a new effective date.

(4) In general, policies cannot be applied retroactively. Tenants who already reside in the development or applicants on the wait list at the time new or revised tenant selection criteria are applied and who are otherwise in good standing under the lease or wait list, must not receive notices of termination or non-renewal based solely on their failure to meet the new or revised tenant selection criteria or be passed over on the wait list. However, criteria related to program eligibility may be applied retroactively when a market development receives a new award of tax credits, federal or state funds and a household is not eligible under the new program requirements, or when prior criteria violate federal or state law.

(b) Tenant Selection Criteria. Owners must maintain written Tenant Selection Criteria. The criteria under which an applicant was screened must be included in the household’s file.

(1) The criteria must be reasonably related to the applicant's ability to perform under the lease and include:

(A) Requirements that determine an applicant's basic eligibility for the property, including any preferences, restrictions, and any other tenancy requirements. The tenant selection criteria must specifically list:

(i) The income and rent limits;

(ii) When applicable, restrictions on student occupancy and any exceptions to those restrictions; and

(iii) Fees and/or deposits required as part of the application process. Developments with HOME, NHTF, NSP, Section 811 and/or TCAP RF units cannot collect an application deposit for units designated under these programs. Owners of HTC, TCAP and Exchange Developments are discouraged from collecting an application deposit. If an application deposit is collected it must soon after be converted into a refundable security deposit. No fees or deposits may be collected to place a household or applicant on a waiting list.

(B) Applicant screening criteria, including what is screened and what scores or findings would result in ineligibility.

(C) Occupancy Standards. If fewer than two persons (over the age of six) per bedroom for each rental unit are required for reasons other than those directed by local building code or safety regulations, a written justification must be provided.

(D) The following statement: Screening criteria will be applied in a manner consistent with all
applicable laws, including the Texas and Federal Fair Housing Acts, the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, program guidelines, and the Department's rules.

(E) Specific age requirements if the Development is operating as an Elderly Property either under the Housing for Older Persons Act of 1995 as amended (HOPA), or the age related eligibility criteria required by its use of federal funds.

(2) The criteria must not:

(A) Include preferences for admission. A property may not have a preference unless it is either in a recorded LURA which has been approved by the Department or is required by a program in which the Owner is participating which requires the preference. Owners that include preferences in their leasing criteria due to other federal financing must provide either written approval from HUD, USDA, or VA for such preference or identify the statute, written agreement, or federal guidance documentation that permits the adoption of this preference;

(B) Exclude an individual or family from admission to the Development solely because the household participates in the HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program, the housing choice voucher program under Section 8, United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. §1-437), or other federal, state, or local government rental assistance program. If an Owner adopts a minimum income standard for households participating in a voucher program, it is limited to the greater of a monthly income of 2.5 times the household's share of the total monthly rent amount or $2,500 annually; or

(C) In accordance with VAWA, deny admission on the basis that the applicant has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(3) If the Development is funded with HOME, TCAP RF, NHTF, or NSP funds, in accordance with 24 CFR §93.356 and 24 CFR §92.359, the criteria may have a preference for persons who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(c) Reasonable Accommodations Policy. Owners must maintain a written Reasonable Accommodations policy. The policy must be maintained at the Development. Owners are responsible for ensuring that their employees and contracted third party management companies are aware of and comply with the reasonable accommodation policy:

(1) The policy must provide:

(A) Information on how an applicant or current resident with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation; and

(B) A timeframe in which the Owner will respond to a request that is compliant with 10 TAC §1.204(b)(3) and (d) (relating to Reasonable Accommodations).

(2) The policy must not:
(A) Require a household to make a reasonable accommodation request in writing;

(B) Require a household whose need is readily apparent to provide third-party documentation of a disability;

(C) Require a household to provide specific medical or disability information other than the disability verification that may be requested to verify eligibility for reasonable accommodation;

(D) Exclude a household with person(s) with disabilities from admission to the Development because an accessible unit is not currently available; or

(E) Require a household to rent a unit that has already been made accessible.

(d) Wait List Policy. Owners must maintain a written wait list policy, regardless of current unit availability. The policy must be maintained at the Development.

(1) The policy must include procedures the Development uses in:

(A) Opening, closing, and selecting applicants from the wait list;

(B) Determining how lawful preferences are applied; and

(C) Procedures for prioritizing applicants needing accessible units in accordance with 24 CFR §8.27 and Chapter 1, Subchapter B of this title.

(2) Developments with additional rent and occupancy restrictions must maintain a waiting list for their lower rent restricted units. The Development’s wait list policy must inform applicants and current residents of the availability of lower rent units and the process for renting a lower rent unit. Unless otherwise approved at application, underwriting and cost certification, all unit sizes must be available at the lower rent limits. The wait list policy for Developments with lower rent restricted units must address how the waiting list for their lower rent restricted units will be managed and must include policies regarding changes in income that address the options available in §10.615 of this subchapter. The policy must not give a preference to prospective applicants over existing households. However, a Development may, but is not required to, prioritize existing households over prospective applicants.

(e) Developments that elect the income averaging test and all Developments with additional rent and occupancy restrictions must have written policies regarding changes in income that address the options available in §10.615 of this subchapter.

(f) Denied Application Policies. Owners must maintain a written policy regarding procedures for denying applications and notifying denied applicants of their rights.

(1) The policy must address the manner by which rejections of applications will be handled, including timeframes and appeal procedures, if any.
(2) Within seven days after the determination is made to deny an application, the owner must provide any rejected or ineligible applicant that completed the application process a written notification of the grounds for rejection. The written notification must include:

(A) The specific reason for the denial and reference the specific leasing criteria upon which the denial is based;

(B) Contact information for any third parties that provided the information on which the rejection was based and information on the appeals process, if one is used by the Development. An appeals procedure is required for HOME Developments that are owned by Community Housing Development Organizations, and units at Developments that lease units under the Department's Section 811-PRA program. The appeals process must provide a 14 day period for the applicant to contest the reason for the denial and comply with other requirements of the HUD Handbook 4350.3 4-9; and

(C) The TDHCA form based on HUD form 5380 "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" and the HUD form 5382 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation."

(3) The Development must keep a log of all denied applicants that completed the application process to include:

(A) Basic household demographic and rental assistance information, if requested during any part of the application process;

(B) The specific reason for which an applicant was denied, the date the decision was made; and

(C) The date the denial notice was mailed or hand-delivered to the applicant.

(4) A file of all rejected applications must be maintained the length of time specified in the applicable program's recordkeeping requirements and include:

(A) A copy of the written notice of denial; and

(B) The Tenant Selection Criteria policy under which an applicant was screened.

(5) If an 811 applicant is being denied, within three calendar days the Department point of contact must be notified and provided with a copy of the written notice that was provided to the applicant.

(g) Non-renewal and/or Termination Notices. Owners must maintain a written policy regarding procedures for providing households non-renewal and termination notices.

(1) The owner must provide in any non-renewal or termination notice, a specific and lawful reason for the termination or non-renewal.
(2) The notification must:

(A) Be delivered as required under applicable program rules;

(B) Include the TDHCA form based on HUD form 5380 "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" and the HUD form 5382 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation." To avoid providing applicants and residents with duplicate information, TDHCA administered Developments layered with other federal funds are permitted to amend the TDHCA VAWA forms to incorporate requirements of other funders. However, none of the information included in the TDHCA created form may be omitted;

(C) State how a person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation in relation to such notice; and

(D) Include information on the appeals process if one is used by the property.

(h) Unit Transfer Policies. Owners must maintain a written policy regarding procedures for households to request a unit transfer. The policy must address the following:

(1) How security deposits will be handled for both the current unit and the new unit;

(2) How transfers related to a reasonable accommodation will be addressed; and

(3) For HTC Developments, how transfers will be handled with regard to the multiple building project election on IRS Form(s) 8609 line 8(b) and accompanying statements in accordance with §10.616 of this subchapter, concerning Household Unit Transfer Requirements for All Programs.

(i) At the time of application Owners must provide each adult in the household the TDHCA form based on HUD form 5380 "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" and the HUD form 5382 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation." To avoid providing applicants and residents with duplicate information, TDHCA administered Developments layered with other federal funds are permitted to amend the TDHCA VAWA forms to incorporate requirements of other funders. However, none of the information included in the TDHCA created form may be omitted.

(j) HTC Developments that have elected average income test must describe in their leasing criteria how units will be leased and inform applicants of the set-asides that the Development offers. Owners must disperse 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70% and 80% units designations across all unit types in a manner that does not violate fair housing laws. HTC Developments that have elected the income averaging test must maintain separate waiting lists for each of the set-asides offered by the Development. The waiting lists must be available to both existing households and prospective tenants. The Development cannot provide a preference for applicants over existing households. The Development is not required to place existing households that receive rental assistance on a waiting list for a lower rent unit. Owners are encouraged to designate households that receive rental
assistance at the level indicated by the contract rent for the unit.

(k) Developments that participate in the Section 811 program must have a written EIV policy that includes security practices and complies with the HUD Handbook 4350.3, Chapter 9. Owners are discouraged from adopting policies that exceed the minimum requirements established by HUD.

(l) Policies and procedures will be reviewed during monitoring visits, through resident complaints or through an owner-initiated written policies and procedures review. Owners may request a review of the written policies and procedures for a portfolio of Developments by submitting a request to wpp@tdhca.state.tx.us. After review by the Department, Owners may make non-substantive changes to their policies. Significant changes to reviewed policies without Department approval may result in findings of noncompliance.

(m) Development Owners must allow applicants to submit applications via mail and at the Development site or leasing office; if the Development is electronically equipped, the Development may also allow applications to be submitted via email, website form, or fax. The Development's tenant selection criteria must state available alternate means of submission and include address, email, or other necessary contact information on the form or its attached leasing criteria.

§10.611 Determination, Documentation and Certification of Annual Income

(a) For all rental programs administered by the Department, annual income shall be determined consistent with the Section 8 Program administered by HUD, using the definitions of annual income described in 24 CFR §5.609 as further described in the HUD Handbook 4350.3, as amended from time to time. For the Housing Tax Credit program, where there is a conflict between the HUD Handbook 4350.3 and the IRS Guide for Completing IRS Form 8823, the IRS guidance will be controlling. At the time of program designation as a low-income household, Owners must certify and document household income. In general, all low-income households must be certified prior to move in. Certification and documentation of household income is an Owner’s responsibility, even if the Owner is using a manager's services to handle tenant intake and leasing. Accordingly, Owners should ensure that they hire competent and properly trained managers and that they exercise appropriate oversight of any manager’s activities.

(b) For the initial certification of a household residing in a HOME, NHTF, NSP, or TCAP RF assisted unit at a Development committed HOME funds after August 23, 2013, Owners must examine at least two months of source documents evidencing annual income (e.g., wage statement, interest statement, unemployment compensation).

(c) A household’s income designation at the time of move in cannot be changed unless:

(1) The household goes over income and they are replaced with another low income household;

(2) The Development has a written policy and procedure for changing household designations as household income changes;
(3) The household receives rental assistance, and due to changes in their income, their portion of required rent exceeds the rent limit of their move in designation;

(4) The household is designated as Market Rate and a certification is performed that completely and clearly documents that the household is qualified as low income; or

(5) The household has been designated as low income and they become, or it is determined that they have been, an ineligible full time student household. If the Development has Units that do not have student restrictions, the household can continue occupancy, and their designation may be removed.

§10.612 Tenant File Requirements

(a) At the time of program designation as a low income household, typically at initial occupancy, Owners must create and maintain a file that at a minimum contains:

(1) A Department approved Income Certification form signed by all adults. At the time of program designation as a low income household, Owners must certify and document household income. In general, all low-income households must be certified prior to move in. The Department requires the use of the TDHCA Income Certification form, unless the property Development also participates in the Rural Development or a Project Based HUD Program, in which case, the other program's Income Certification form will be accepted;

(2) Documentation to support the Income Certification form including, but not limited to, applications, first hand or third party verification of income and assets, and documentation of student status (if applicable). The Department permits Owners to use check stubs or other firsthand documentation of income and assets provided by the applicant or household in lieu of third party verification forms. It is not necessary to first attempt to obtain a third party verification form. Owners should scrutinize these documents to identify and address any obvious attempts at forgery, alteration, or generation of falsified documents; and

(3) A lease with all necessary addendums to ensure that compliance with applicable federal regulations and §10.613 of this subchapter (relating to Lease Requirements).

(b) Annually thereafter on the anniversary date of the household's move in or initial designation:

(1) Throughout the Affordability Period, all Owners of Housing Tax Credit, TCAP, and Exchange Developments must collect and maintain current data on each household that includes the number of household members, age, ethnicity, race, disability status, and rental assistance (if any). This information can be collected on the Department's Annual Eligibility Certification form or the Income Certification form or HUD Income Certification form or USDA Income Certification form.

(2) During the Compliance Period for all Housing Tax Credit, TCAP, and Exchange Developments and
throughout the Affordability Period for all Bond developments and HOME, NSP, and TCAP RF Developments committed funds after August 23, 2013, Owners must collect and maintain current student status data for each low-income household. This information must be collected within 120 days before the anniversary of the effective date of the original student verification and can be collected on the Department's Annual Eligibility Certification or the Department's Certification of Student Eligibility form or the Department's Income Certification form. Throughout the Compliance Period for HTC, TCAP, and Exchange developments, low-income households comprised entirely of full-time students must qualify for a HTC program exception, and supporting documentation must be maintained in the household's file. For Bond Developments, if the household is not an eligible student household, it may be possible to re-designate the full-time student household to an Eligible Tenant (ET). For HOME, NSP, and TCAP RF Developments committed funds after August 23, 2013, an individual does not qualify as a low-income family if the individual is a student who is not eligible to receive Section 8 assistance under 24 CFR §5.612.

(3) The types of properties described in subparagraphs (A) - (D) of this paragraph are required to recertify annually the income of each low-income household using a Department approved Income Certification form and documentation to support the Income Certification (see subsection (a)(1) - (2) of this section):

(A) Mixed income Housing Tax Credit, TCAP and Exchange projects (as defined by line 8(b) of IRS Form(s) 8609 and accompanying statements, if any) that have not completed the 15 year Compliance Period.

(B) All Bond Developments with less than 100% of the units set aside for households with an income less than 50% or 60% of area median income.

(C) HTF Developments with Market Rate units. However, HTF Developments with other Department administered programs will comply with the requirements of the other program.

(D) HOME, TCAP RF, and NHTF Developments. Refer to subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Ongoing tenant file requirements for HOME, and TCAP RF, and NHTF Developments:

(1) HOME, TCAP RF, and NHTF Developments must complete a recertification with verifications of each HOME-assisted Unit every sixth year of the Development's affordability period. The recertification is due on the anniversary of the household's move-in date. For purposes of this section the beginning of a HOME, TCAP RF and NHTF Development affordability period is the effective date on the first page of the HOME, TCAP RF, and NHTF LURA. For example, a HOME Development with a LURA effective date of May 2011, will have the years of the affordability determined in Example 612(1):

(A) Year 1: May 15, 2011 - May 14, 2012;
(B) Year 2: May 15, 2012 - May 14, 2013;
(C) Year 3: May 15, 2013 - May 14, 2014;
(D) Year 4: May 15, 2014 - May 14, 2015;
(E) Year 5: May 15, 2015 - May 14, 2016;
(F) Year 6: May 15, 2016 - May 14, 2017;
(G) Year 7: May 15, 2017 - May 14, 2018;
(H) Year 8: May 15, 2018 - May 14, 2019;
(I) Year 9: May 15, 2019 - May 14, 2020;
(J) Year 10: May 15, 2020 - May 14, 2021;
(K) Year 11: May 15, 2021 - May 14, 2022; and

(2) In the scenario described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, all households in HOME, TCAP RF, and NHTF Units must be recertified with source documentation during the sixth and twelfth years or between May 15, 2016, to May 14, 2017, and between May 15, 2022, and May 14, 2023.

(3) In the intervening years the Development must collect a self certification by the effective date of the original Income Certification from each household that is assisted with HOME, TCAP RF, and NHTF funds. The Development must use the Department's Income Certification form, unless the property also participates in the Rural Development or a project Based HUD program, in which case, the other program's Income Certification form will be accepted. If the household reports on their self certification that their annual income exceeds the current 80% applicable income limit or there is evidence that the household's written statement failed to completely and accurately provide information about the household's characteristics and/or income, then an annual income recertification with verifications is required.

(d) Tenant File requirements for Section 811 PRA Units. Files for households assisted under the Section 811 program must document the household's eligibility for the program, the deductions for which the household qualifies and the following HUD forms:

(1) Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Application;
(2) Verification of disability, HUD 90102;
(3) House Rules;
(4) Move in move out inspection form HUD 90106, or TDHCA Section 811 Waiver of Move-in;

(5) TDHCA Section 811 Waiver of Move-in inspection;

(6) Damages (Security deposit Deductions);

(7) Tenant acknowledgement of the Fact Sheet "How your rent is determined";

(8) Tenant acknowledgment of Resident Rights and Responsibilities;

(9) Tenant acknowledgement of EIV and You Brochure;

(10) Verification of Age;

(11) Verification of Social Security number;

(12) Screening for drug abuse and other criminal activity;

(13) 811 Tenant Selection Plan;

(14) Supplement to Application for Federally Assisted Housing: Form 92006;

(15) Annual Recertification Initial Notice;

(16) Annual Recertification First Reminder Notice;

(17) Annual Recertification Second Reminder Notice;

(18) Annual Recertification Third Reminder Notice;

(19) Race and Ethnic Data Reporting form: HUD 27061-H;

(20) HUD 9887 and HUD 9887-A;

(21) Annual Unit inspection;

(22) Owner's Certification of Compliance with HUD's Tenant Eligibility and Rent Procedures: HUD form 50059; and

(23) HUD Model lease 92336-PRA.

§10.613 Lease Requirements

(a) Eviction and/or termination of a lease. HTC, TCAP, and Exchange Developments must specifically state in the lease or in an addendum attached to the lease that evictions or terminations of tenancy
for other than good cause are prohibited. To terminate tenancy, the Owner must serve written notice to the tenant specifying the grounds for the action.

(b) HOME, TCAP RF, NHTF, and NSP Developments are prohibited from evicting low income residents or refusing to renew a lease except for serious or repeated violations of the terms and conditions of the lease, for violations of applicable federal, state or local law, for completion of the tenancy period for Transitional Housing (if applicable), or for other good cause. It must be specifically stated in the lease or in an addendum attached to the lease that evictions or non-renewal of leases for other than good cause are prohibited (24 CFR §92.253 and 24 CFR §93.303). Owners must also comply with all other lease requirements and prohibitions stated in 24 CFR §92.253 or 24 CFR §93.303, as applicable. To terminate or refuse to renew tenancy in HOME, TCAP RF, and NSP Developments, the Owner must serve written notice to the tenant specifying the grounds for the action at least 30 days before the termination of tenancy.

(c) In accordance with the Violence Against Women Act, an incident of actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking against the documented victim of such actual or threatened domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking shall not be construed as a serious or repeated violation of a lease or good cause for termination of tenancy. The Department does not determine if an Owner has good cause or if a resident has violated the lease terms for other reasons. Challenges for evictions or terminations of tenancy must be made by a court of competent jurisdiction or an agreement of the parties (including an agreement made in arbitration), and the Department will rely on that determination.

(d) Development must use a lease or lease addendum that requires households to report changes in student status.

(e) Owners of HTC Developments are prohibited from locking out or threatening to lock out any Development resident, except by judicial process, unless the exclusion is necessary for the purpose of performing repairs or construction work, or in cases of emergency. Owners are further prohibited from seizing or threatening to seize the personal property of a resident except by judicial process unless the resident has abandoned the premises. These prohibitions must be included in the lease or lease addendum.

(f) For HOME, TCAP, TCAP RF, NHTF, and NSP Developments, properties that were initially built for occupancy prior to 1978 must include in their lease or lease addendum a Lead Warning Statement. To demonstrate compliance, the Department will monitor that all households at HOME, TCAP, TCAP RF, NHTF, and NSP Developments have signed the Disclosure of Information on Lead-Based Paint and/or Lead-Based Paint Hazards. (24 CFR §92.355, 24 CFR §93.361 and §570.487(c)). The addendum and disclosure are not required if all lead has been certified to have been cleared from the Development in accordance with 24 CFR §35.130, and the Owner has the required certification in its on-site records.

(g) Owners may bifurcate a lease to terminate the tenancy of an individual who is a tenant or lawful occupant and engages in criminal activity directly relating to domestic violence, dating
violence, sexual assault, or stalking against another lawful occupant living in the Unit or other affiliated individual as defined in the VAWA 2013.

(h) All NHTF, TCAP RF, NSP, 811 PRA, and HOME Developments for which the contract is executed on or after December 16, 2016, must use the Department created VAWA lease addendum which provides the ability for the tenant to terminate the lease without penalty if the Department determines that the tenant qualifies for an emergency transfer under 24 CFR §5.2005(e). 811 PRA Units are prohibited from using the expired 2005 VAWA lease addendum. After OMB approval of a VAWA lease addendum, all 811 PRA households must have a valid and executed VAWA lease addendum. For the 811 PRA program certain addenda for the HUD model lease may be required such as Lead Based Paint Disclosure form, house rules, and pet rules. No other attachments to the lease are permissible without approval from the Department’s 811 PRA staff.

(i) Leasing of HOME, NSP or TCAP RF, or NHTF Units to an organization that, in turn, rents those Units to individuals is not permissible for Developments with contracts dated on or after August 23, 2013. Leases must be between the Development and an eligible household. NSP Developments may only utilize Master Leases if specifically allowed in the Development’s LURA.

(j) Housing Tax Credit Units leased to an organization through a supportive housing program where the Owner receives a rental payment for the unit regardless of physical occupancy will be found out of compliance if the Unit remains vacant for over 60 days. The Unit will be found out of compliance under the finding Event of Noncompliance "Violation of the Unit Vacancy Rule."

(k) It is a Development Owner's responsibility at all times to know what it has agreed to provide by way of common amenities, Unit amenities, and services.

(l) A Development Owner shall post in a common area of the leasing office a laminated copy and provide each household, during the application process and upon a subsequent change to the items described in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the brochure made available by the Department, A Tenant Rights and Resources Guide, which includes:

(1) Information about Fair Housing and tenant choice;

(2) Information regarding common amenities, Unit amenities, and services; and

(3) A certification that a representative of the household must sign prior to, but no more than 120 days prior to, the initial lease execution acknowledging receipt of this brochure.

(4) In the event this brochure is not provided timely or the household does not certify to receipt of the brochure, correction will be achieved by providing the household with the brochure and receiving a signed certification that it was received.

(m) For Section 811 PRA Units, Owners must use the HUD Model lease, HUD form 92236-PRA.

§10.614 Utility Allowances
(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide the guidelines for calculating a Utility Allowance under the Department's multifamily programs. The Department will cite noncompliance and/or not approve a Utility Allowance if it is not calculated in accordance with this section. Owners are required to comply with the provisions of this section as well as any existing federal or state program guidance.

(b) Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Other capitalized terms used in this section herein have the meanings assigned in Chapters 1, 2, 10, 11, and 12 of this title.

1. Building Type. The HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing (PIH) characterizes building and unit configurations for HUD programs. The Department will defer to the guidance provided by HUD found at: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=DOC_11608.pdf (or successor Uniform Resource Locator (URL)) when making determinations regarding the appropriate building type(s) at a Development.

2. Power to Choose. The Public Utility Commission of Texas database of retail electric providers in the areas of the state where the sale of electricity is open to retail competition: http://www.powertochoose.org/ (or successor URL). In areas of the state where electric service is deregulated, the Department will verify the availability of residential service directly with the Utility Provider. If the Utility Provider is not listed as a provider of residential service in the Development's ZIP code for an area that is deregulated, the request will not be approved.

3. Component Charges. The actual cost associated with the billing of a residential utility. Each Utility Provider may publish specific utility service information in varying formats depending on the service area. Such costs include, but are not limited to:

   A. Rate(s). The cost for the actual unit of measure for the utility (e.g., cost per kilowatt hour for electricity);

   B. Fees. The cost associated with a residential utility that is incurred regardless of the amount of the utility the household consumes (e.g., Customer Charge); and

   C. Taxes. Taxes for electricity and gas are regulated by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and can be found http://comptroller.texas.gov/ (or successor URL). Local Utility Providers have control of the tax structure related to water, sewer and trash. To identify if taxes are imposed for these utilities, obtain documentation directly from the Utility Provider.

4. Multifamily Direct Loan (MFDL). Funds provided through the HOME Program (HOME), Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), Repayments from the Tax Credit Assistance Program (TCAP RF), or other program available through the Department, local political subdivision, or administrating agency for multifamily development that require a Utility Allowance. MFDLs may also include deferred forgivable loans or other similar direct funding, regardless if it is required to be repaid. Housing Tax Credits, Tax Exempt Bonds, and Project Based
Vouchers are not MFDLs.

(5) Renewable Source. Energy produced from energy property described in IRC §48 or IRC §45(d)(1) through (4), (6), (9), or (11). The manner in which a resident is billed is limited to the rate at which the local Utility Provider would have charged the residents for the utility if that entity had provided it to them, and as may be further limited by the Texas Utilities Code or by regulation.

(6) Submetered Utility. A utility purchased from or through a local Utility Provider by the building Owner where the resident is billed directly by Owner of the building or to a third party billing company and the utility is:

(A) Based on the residents' actual consumption of that utility and not an allocation method or Ratio Utility Billing System (RUBS); and

(B) The rate at which the utility is billed does not exceed the rate incurred by the building Owner for that utility.

(7) Utility Allowance. An estimate of the expected monthly cost of any utility for which a resident is financially responsible, other than telephone, cable television, or internet.

(A) For HTC, TCAP, Exchange buildings, Bonds or SHTF include:

(i) Utilities paid by the resident directly to the Utility Provider;

(ii) Submetered Utilities; and

(iii) Renewable Source Utilities.

(B) For a Development with an MFDL, unless otherwise prescribed in the program's Regulatory Agreement, include all utilities regardless of how they are paid.

(8) Utility Provider. The company that provides residential utility service (e.g., electric, gas, water, wastewater, and/or trash) to the buildings.

(c) Methods. The following options are available to establish a Utility Allowance for all programs except Developments funded with MFDL funds, which are addressed in subsection (d) of this section.

(1) Rural Housing Services (RHS) buildings or buildings with RHS assisted residents. The applicable Utility Allowance for the Development will be determined under the method prescribed by the RHS (or successor agency). No other utility method described in this section can be used by RHS buildings or buildings with RHS assisted residents.
(2) HUD-Regulated buildings layered with any Department program. If neither the building nor any resident in the building receives RHS rental assistance payments, and the rents and the Utility Allowances of the building are regulated by HUD (HUD-regulated building), the applicable Utility Allowance for all rent restricted Units in the building is the applicable HUD Utility Allowance. No other utility method described in this section can be used by HUD-regulated buildings. Unless further guidance is received from the U.S. Department of Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Department considers Developments awarded an MFDL (e.g., HOME) to be HUD-Regulated buildings.

(3) Other Buildings. For all other rent-restricted Units, Development Owners must use one of the methods described in subparagraphs (A) - (E) of this paragraph:

(A) Public Housing Authority (PHA). The Utility Allowance established by the applicable PHA for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The Department will utilize the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 392 to determine which PHA is the most applicable to the Development.

(i) If the PHA publishes different schedules based on Building Type, the Owner is responsible for implementing the correct schedule based on the Development's Building Type(s). Example 614(1): The applicable PHA publishes a separate Utility Allowance schedule for Apartments (5+ Units), one for Duplex/Townhomes and another for Single Family Homes. The Development consists of 20 buildings, 10 of which are Apartments (5+ Units) and the other 10 buildings are Duplexes. The Owner must use the correct schedule for each Building Type.

(ii) In the event the PHA publishes a Utility Allowance schedule specifically for energy efficient Units, and the Owner desires to use such a schedule, the Owner must demonstrate that the building(s) meet the housing authority's specifications for energy efficiency once every five years.

(iii) If the applicable PHA allowance lists flat fees for any utility, those flat fees must be included in the calculation of the Utility Allowance if the resident is responsible for that utility.

(iv) If the individual components of a Utility Allowance are not in whole number format, the correct way to calculate the total allowance is to add each amount and then round the total up to the next whole dollar. Example 614(2): Electric cooking is $8.63, Electric Heating is $5.27, Other Electric is $24.39, Water and Sewer is $15. The Utility Allowance in this example is $54.00.

(v) If an Owner chooses to implement a methodology as described in subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of this paragraph, for Units occupied by Section 8 voucher holders, the Utility Allowance remains the applicable PHA Utility Allowance established by the PHA from which the household's voucher is received.

(vi) If the Development is located in an area that does not have a municipal, county, or regional housing authority that publishes a Utility Allowance schedule for the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Owners must select an alternative methodology, unless the building(s) is located in the published Housing Choice Voucher service area of:
A Council of Government created under Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 303, that operates a Housing Choice Voucher Program;

The Department's Housing Choice Voucher Program; or

Another PHA which publishes a separate utility allowance schedule specific to the Development's location.

Written Local Estimate. The estimate must come from the local Utility Provider, be signed by the Utility Provider representative, and specifically include all Component Charges for providing the utility service.

(C) HUD Utility Schedule Model. The HUD Utility Schedule Model and related resources can be found at http://www.huduser.gov/portal/resources/utilallowance.html (or successor URL). Each item on the schedule must be displayed out two decimal places. The total allowance must be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. The Component Charges used can be no older than those in effect 60 days prior to the beginning of the 90 day period described in subsection (f)(3) of this section related to Effective Dates.

(i) The allowance must be calculated using the MS Excel version available at http://www.huduser.org/portal/resources/utilmodel.html (or successor URL), as updated from time to time, with no changes or adjustments made other than entry of the required information needed to complete the model.

(ii) In the event that the PHA code for the local PHA to the Development is not listed in "Location" tab of the workbook, the Department will use the PHA code for the PHA that is closest in distance to the Development using online mapping tools (e.g., MapQuest).

(iii) Green Discount. If the Owner elects any of the Green Discount options for a Development, documentation to evidence that the units and the buildings meet the Green Discount standard as prescribed in the model is required for the initial approval and every subsequent annual review.

(I) In the event the allowance is being calculated for an application of Department funding (e.g., 9% Housing Tax Credits), upon request, the Department will provide both the Green Discount and the non-Green Discount results for application purposes.

(II) At lease up, the Owner may use the utility allowance taking into consideration the green discount if they obtain written documentation from a qualified professional (e.g., a qualified energy efficiency consultant) indicating that the units and buildings will meet the qualifications for the Green Discount within six months of the placed in service date or for MFDL within six months of the construction completion date.

(iv) Do not take into consideration any costs (e.g., penalty) or credits that a consumer would incur because of their actual usage. Example 614(3): The Electric Fact Label for ABC Electric Utility Provider
provides a Credit Line of $40 per billing cycle that is applied to the bill when the usage is greater than 999 kWh and less than 2000 kWh. Example 614(4): A monthly minimum usage fee of $9.95 is applied when the usage is less than 1000 kWh in the billing cycle. When calculating the allowance, disregard these types costs or credits.

(v) The Electric Fact Label used to calculate the allowance must have a term of at least 12 months.

(D) Energy Consumption Model. The model must be calculated by a properly licensed mechanical engineer. The individual must not be related to the Owner within the meaning of §267(b) or §707(b) of the Code. The utility consumption estimate must, at minimum, take into consideration specific factors that include, but are not limited to, Unit size, building type and orientation, design and materials, mechanical systems, appliances, characteristics of building location, and available historical data. Component Charges used must be no older than in effect 60 days prior to the beginning of the 90 day period described in subsection (f)(3) of this section related to Effective Dates; and

(E) An allowance based upon an average of the actual use of similarly constructed and sized Units in the building using actual utility usage data and Component Charges, provided that the Development Owner has the written permission of the Department. This methodology is referred to as the "Actual Use Method." For a Development Owner to use the Actual Use Method they must:

(i) Provide a minimum sample size of usage data for at least five Continuously Occupied Units of each Unit Type or 20% of each Unit Type, whichever is greater. If there are less than five Units of any Unit Type, data for 100% of the Unit Type must be provided; and

(ii) Upload the information in subclauses (I) - (IV) of this clause to the Development's CMTS account no later than the beginning of the 90 day period after which the Owner intends to implement the allowance, reflecting data no older than 60 days prior to the 90 day implementation period described in subsection (f)(3) of this section related to Effective Dates.

(I) An Excel spreadsheet listing each Unit for which data was obtained to meet the minimum sample size requirement of a Unit Type, the number of bedrooms, bathrooms and square footage for each Unit, the household's move-in date, the utility usage (e.g., actual kilowatt usage for electricity) for each month of the 12 month period for each Unit for which data was obtained, and the Component Charges in place at the time of the submission;

(II) All documentation obtained from the Utility Provider (or billing entity for the utility provider) and/or copies of actual utility bills gathered from the residents, including all usage data not needed to meet the minimum sample size requirement and any written correspondence from the utility provider;

(III) The rent roll showing occupancy as of the end of the month for the month in which the data was requested from the utility provider; and
(IV) Documentation of the current Utility Allowance used by the Development.

(iii) Upon receipt of the required information, the Department will determine if the Development Owner has provided the minimum information necessary to calculate an allowance using the Actual Use Method. If so, the Department shall calculate the Utility Allowance for each bedroom size using the guidelines described in subclauses (I) - (V) of this clause;

(I) If data is obtained for more than the sample requirement for the Unit Type, all data will be used to calculate the allowance;

(II) If more than 12 months of data is provided for any Unit, only the data for the most current 12 will be averaged;

(III) The allowance will be calculated by multiplying the average units of measure for the applicable utility (i.e., kilowatts over the last 12 months by the current rate) for all Unit Types within that bedroom size. For example, if sufficient data is supplied for 18 two bedroom/one bath Units, and 12 two bedroom/two bath Units, the data for all 30 Units will be averaged to calculate the allowance for all two bedroom Units;

(IV) The allowance will be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount. If allowances are calculated for different utilities, each utility's allowance will be rounded up to the next whole dollar amount and then added together for the total allowance; and

(V) If the data submitted indicates zero usage for any month, the data for that Unit will not be used to calculate the Utility Allowance.

(iv) The Department will complete its evaluation and calculation within 45 days of receipt of all the information requested in clause (ii) of this subparagraph;

(d) In accordance with 24 CFR §§92.252 and 93.302, for an MFDL in which the Department is the funding source, the Utility Allowance will be established in the following manner:

(1) For Developments that, as a result of funding, must calculate the Utility Allowance under HUD Multifamily Notice H-2015-4, as revised from time to time, the applicable Utility Allowance for all rent restricted Units in the building is the applicable Utility Allowance calculated under that Notice. No other utility method described in this section can be used.

(2) Other Buildings. The Utility Allowance may be initiated by the Owner using the methodologies described in subsection (c)(3)(B), (C), (D), or (E) of this section related to Methods.

(3) If a request is not received by October 1st, the Department will calculate the Utility Allowance using the HUD Utility Schedule Model. For property specific data, the Department will use:

(A) The information submitted in the Annual Owner's Compliance Report;
(B) Entrance Interview Questionnaires submitted with prior onsite reviews; or

(C) The Owner may be contacted and required to complete the Utility Allowance Questionnaire. In such case, a five day period will be provided to return the completed questionnaire.

(D) Utilities will be evaluated in the following manner:

(i) For regulated utilities, the Department will contact the Utility Provider directly and apply the Component Charges in effect no later than 60 days before the allowance will be effective.

(ii) For deregulated utilities:

(I) The Department will use the Power to Choose website and search available Utility Providers by ZIP code;

(II) The plan chosen will be the median cost per kWh based on average price per kWh for the average monthly use of 1000 kWh of all available plans of at least 12 months; and

(III) The actual Component Charges from the plan chosen in effect no later than 60 days before the allowance will be effective will be entered into the Model.

(E) The Department will notify the Owner contact in CMTS of the new allowance and provide the backup for how the allowance was calculated. The Owner will be provided a five day period to review the Department’s calculation and note any errors. Only errors related to the physical characteristics of the building(s) and utilities paid by the residents will be reconsidered; the utility plan and Utility Provider selected by the Department and Component Charges used in calculating the allowance will not be changed. During this five day period, the Owner also has the opportunity to submit documentation and request use of any of the available Green Discounts.

(F) The allowance must be implemented for rent due in all program units thirty days after the Department notifies the Owner of the allowance.

(4) HTC Buildings in which there are units under an MFDL program are considered HUD-Regulated buildings and the applicable Utility Allowance for all rent restricted Units in the building is the Utility Allowance calculated under the MFDL program. No other utility method described in this section can be used by HUD-regulated buildings. If the Department is not the awarding jurisdiction, Owners are required to obtain the Utility Allowance established by the awarding jurisdiction, and to document all efforts to obtain such allowance to evidence due diligence in the event that the jurisdiction is nonresponsive. In such an event, provided that, sufficient evidence of due diligence is demonstrated, the Department, in its sole discretion, may allow for the use of the methods described in subsection (c)(3)(A), (B), (C), or (D), or (E) of this section related to Methods to calculate and establish its utility allowance.

(e) Acceptable Documentation. For the Methods where utility specific information is required to calculate the allowance (e.g., base charges, cost per unit of measure, taxes) Owners should obtain
documentation directly from the Utility Provider and/or Regulating State Agency. Any Component Charges related to the utility that are published by the Utility Provider and/or Regulating State Agency must be included. In the case where a utility is billed to the Owner of the building(s) and the Owner is billing residents through a third party billing company, the Component Charges published by the Utility Provider and not the third party billing company will be used.

(f) Changes in the Utility Allowance. An Owner may not change Utility Allowance methods, start or stop charging residents for a utility without prior written approval from the Department. Example 614(5): A Housing Tax Credit Development has been paying for water and sewer since the beginning of the Compliance Period. In year eight, the Owner decides to require residents to pay for water and sewer. Prior written approval from the Department is required. Any such request must include the Utility Allowance Questionnaire found on the Department’s website and supporting documentation.

(1) The Department will review all requests, with the exception of the methodology prescribed in subsection (c)(3)(E) of this section related to Methods, within 90 days of the receipt of the request.

(2) If the Owner fails to post the notice to the residents and simultaneously submit the request to the Department by the beginning of the 90 day period, the Department’s approval or denial will be delayed for up to 90 days after Department notification. Example 614(6): The Owner has chosen to calculate the electric portion of the Utility Allowance using the written local estimate. The annual letter is dated July 5, 2014, and the notice to the residents was posted in the leasing office on July 5, 2014. However, the Owner failed to submit the request to the Department for review until September 15, 2014. Although the Notice to the Residents was dated the date of the letter from the utility provider, the Department was not provided the full 90 days for review. As a result, the allowance cannot be implemented by the owner until approved by the Department.

(3) Effective dates. If the Owner uses the methodologies as described in subsection (c)(3)(A) of this section related to Methods, any changes to the allowance can be implemented immediately, but must be implemented for rent due at least 90 days after the change. For methodologies as described in subsection (c)(3)(B), (C), (D) and (E) of this section related to Methods, the allowance cannot be implemented until the estimate is submitted to the Department and is made available to the residents by posting in a common area of the leasing office at the Development. This action must be taken by the beginning of the 90 day period in which the Owner intends to implement the Utility Allowance. Nothing in this section prohibits an Owner from reducing a resident’s rent prior to the end of the 90 day period when the proposed allowance would result in a gross rent issue.

201900178-1.pdf

(g) Requirements for Annual Review.

(1) RHS and HUD-Regulated Buildings. Owners must demonstrate that the utility allowance has been reviewed annually and in accordance with the RHS or HUD regulations.

(2) Buildings using the PHA Allowance. Owners are responsible for periodically determining if the
applicable PHA released an updated schedule to ensure timely implementation. When the allowance changes or a new allowance is made available by the PHA, it can be implemented immediately, but must be implemented for rent due 90 days after the PHA releases an updated scheduled.

(3) Written Local Estimate, HUD Utility Model Schedule and Energy Consumption Model. Owners must update the allowance once a calendar year. The update and all back up documentation required by the method must be submitted to the Department no later than October 1st of each year. However, Owners are encouraged to submit prior to the deadline to ensure the Department has time to review. At the same time the request is submitted to the Department, the Owner must post, at the Development, the Utility Allowance estimate in a common area of the leasing office where such notice is unobstructed and visible in plain sight. The Department will review the request for compliance with all applicable requirements and reasonableness. If, in comparison to other approved Utility Allowances for properties of similar size, construction and population in the same geographic area, the allowance does not appear reasonable or appears understated, the Department may require additional support and/or deny the request.

(4) Actual Use Method. Owners must update the allowance once a calendar year. The update and all back up documentation required by the method must be submitted to the Department no later than August 1st of each year. However, Owners are encouraged to submit prior to the deadline to ensure the Department has time to review.

(h) For Owners participating in the Department’s Section 811 Project Rental Assistance (PRA) Program, the Department will establish the Utility Allowance for all 811 PRA Units. On an annual basis, the Department will calculate a Utility Allowance and provide the Owner with a property-specific rent schedule containing the approved Utility Allowance. The allowance listed on the rent schedule only applies to 811 PRA Units, not the entire building, and is the only allowance approved for use on 811 PRA Units.

(i) Combining Methods. In general, Owners may combine any methodology described in this section for each utility service type paid directly by the resident and not by or through the Owner of the building (e.g., electric, gas). For example, if residents are responsible for electricity and gas, an Owner may use the appropriate PHA allowance to determine the gas portion of the allowance and use the Actual Use Method to determine the electric portion of the allowance. RHS and certain HUD-Regulated buildings (e.g., buildings with HOME/ TCAP RF funds) are not allowed to combine methodologies.

(j) The Owner shall maintain and make available for inspection by the resident all documentation, including, but not limited to, the data, underlying assumptions and methodology that was used to calculate the allowance. Records shall be made available at the resident manager's office during reasonable business hours or, if there is no resident manager, at the dwelling Unit of the resident at the convenience of both the Owner and resident.

(k) Utility Allowances for Applications.
(1) If the application includes RHS assisted buildings or tenants, the utility allowance is prescribed by the RHS program. No other method is allowed.

(2) If the application includes HUD-Regulated buildings for HUD programs other than an MFDL program the applicable Utility Allowance for all rent restricted Units in the building is the applicable HUD Utility Allowance. No other utility method is allowed.

(3) If the application includes MFDL funds from the Department, Applicants may calculate the utility allowance in accordance with subsection (c)(3)(B), (C), (D) or (E) of this section related to Methods. Applicants must submit their utility allowance to the Compliance Division prior to full application submission. In the event that the application has an MFDL from the Department, and receives federal funds from a unit of local government, the Department will require the use of the allowance approved by the Department.

(4) If the application includes federal funds from a unit of local government but no MFDL from the Department, Applicants are required to request in writing the Utility Allowance from the awarding jurisdiction. If the awarding jurisdiction does not respond or requests the Department to calculate the allowance, the Department will establish the initial Utility Allowance in accordance with subsection (d)(3) of this section.

(5) For all other applications, Applicants may calculate the utility allowance in accordance with subsection (c)(3)(A), (B), (C), (D), or (E) of this section related to Methods.

(A) Upon request, the Compliance Division will calculate or review an allowance within 21 days but no earlier than 90 days from when the application is due.

(B) Example 614(8): An application for a 9% HTC is due March 1, 2017. The applicant would like Department approval to use an alternative method by February 15, 2017. The request must be submitted to the Compliance Division no later than January 25, 2017, three weeks before February 15, 2017.

(C) Example 614(9): An Applicant intends to submit an application for a 4% HTC with Tax Exempt Bonds on August 11, 2017, and would like to use an alternative method. Because approval is needed prior to application submission, the request can be submitted no earlier than May 13, 2017, (90 days prior to August 11, 2017) and no later than July 21, 2017, (21 days prior to August 11, 2017).

(6) All Utility Allowance requests related to applications of funding must:

(A) Be submitted directly to ua_application@tdhca.state.tx.us. Requests not submitted to this email address will not be recognized.

(B) Include the "Utility Allowance Questionnaire for Applications" along with all required back up based on the method.

(I) If Owners want to change to a utility allowance other than what was used for underwriting the
Owner must submit Utility Allowance documentation for Department approval, at minimum, 90 days prior to the commencement of leasing activities. The Owner is not required to review the utility allowances, or implement new utility allowances, until the building has achieved 90% occupancy for a period of 90 consecutive days or the end of the first year of the Credit Period (if applicable), whichever is earlier.

(m) The Department reserves the right to outsource to a third party the review and approval of all or any Utility Allowance requests to use the Energy Consumption Model or when review requires the use of expertise outside the resources of the Department. In accordance with Treasury Regulation §1.42-10(c) any costs associated with the review and approval shall be paid by the Owner.

(n) All requests described in this subsection must be complete and uploaded directly to the Development’s CMTS account using the "Utility Allowance Documents" in the type field and "Utility Allowance" as the TDHCA Contact. The Department will not be able to approve requests that are incomplete and/or are not submitted correctly.

§10.615 Elections under IRC §42(g) and Additional Income and Rent Restrictions for HTC, Exchange, and TCAP Developments

(a) Under the Code, HTC Development Owners may elect 20% of the Units restricted at the 50% income and rent limits (20/50), 40% of the Units restricted at the 60% income and rent limits (40/60) or the average income averaging minimum set aside. Many Developments have additional income and rent requirements (e.g., 30%, 40% and 50%) that are lower than or in addition to the election requirement. This requirement is referred to as "additional occupancy restrictions" and is reflected in the Development's LURA.

(b) A Development with additional rent and occupancy restrictions must maintain a waiting list for their lower rent restricted Units. The Development's wait-list policy must inform applicants and current residents of the availability of lower rent Units and the process for renting a lower rent Unit. Unless otherwise approved at Application, underwriting, and cost certification, all Unit sizes must be available at the lower rent limits. The wait-list policy for Developments with lower rent restricted Units must address how the waiting list for their lower rent restricted Units will be managed. The policy must not give a preference to prospective applicants over existing households. However, a Development may, but is not required to, prioritize existing households over prospective applicants.

(cb) The Department will examine the actual gross rent and income levels of all households to determine if the additional income and rent requirements of the LURA are met. Until and unless the Internal Revenue Service or Treasury Department issue conflicting guidance, the Department will examine the actual gross rent and income of all households to determine if Developments that elected the average income averaging minimum set aside have met the federal requirements and any lower additional occupancy restriction reflected in the Development's LURA.
(c) One hundred percent HTC Developments (developments with no Market Rate units) with additional rent and occupancy restrictions are neither required nor prohibited from completing annual income recertifications. The Development's written policies and procedures must specify the Development's choice.

(1) If a 100% low income development that elects the 20/50 or 40/60 test under IRC §42(g) chooses to perform annual income recertifications, all households designated as meeting the additional rent and occupancy set aside must be recertified on an annual basis; failure to do so will be cited as noncompliance with written policies and procedures but not reported to the IRS on form 8823.

(2) If a 100% low income development elects the average income test and chooses to do annual income recertifications, all households must be recertified on an annual basis; failure to do so will be cited as noncompliance with written policies and procedures but not reported to the IRS on form 8823.

(3) If the income level of the household changes, the Owner may adjust the Unit's designation and rent (up or down) in accordance with all applicable lease terms. Owners that elect the average income test under IRC §42(g) must ensure that the project still has an average income equal to or less than 60% and the percentage represented at the time of Application.

(4) Owners that do not perform annual income recertifications may not increase the rent level of a household designated towards the Development’s additional rent and occupancy restrictions. Example 615(1): A household was designated as a 50% household at the time of move in. The Development is not required to and does not perform annual income recertifications. New rent limits are released and they are higher. The Development may increase the household's rent in accordance with the lease, but not above the new 50% rent limit.

(d) Developments that elect the 20/50 or 40/60 test under IRC §42(g) and have Market Units will be monitored as described in this subsection:

(1) The HTC program requires Mixed Income projects to complete annual income recertifications and comply with the Available Unit Rule. When a household’s income at recertification exceeds 140% of the applicable current income limit elected by the minimum set-aside, the Owner must comply with the Available Unit Rule and lease the next available unit (same size or smaller) in the building to a low-income household to maintain compliance.

(2) HTC Developments that elect the 20/50 or 40/60 test under IRC §42(g) with market rate units and additional rent and occupancy restrictions must have written policies and procedures that address changes in income at recertification. Owners may comply in the following ways:

(A) Households initially certified at the 30, 40, or 50% income and rent limits may maintain the designation they had at initial move in unless the household's income exceeds 140% of the highest income tier established by the minimum set-aside. The Unit will continue to meet the designation from the initial certification provided that the Owner does not charge gross rent in excess of the
additional rent and occupancy rent limit;

(B) Owners may change the designation of a household at recertification and increase the rent accordingly provided that another household’s rent is decreased to maintain the set-aside requirement. Example 615(2): A 100 Unit development elected the 40/60 minimum set aside, and has an additional rent and occupancy restriction of 10 Units at 30% and 10 Units at 50%. A 30% household recertifies and their income exceeds the 30%. In accordance with the provisions of the lease, the owner may offer this household rent at a higher designation, and simultaneously lower the rent for another household that has been on the Development’s waiting list for a 30% Unit; or

(C) If the household’s income exceeds 140% of the highest income tier established by the minimum set-aside, the household must be redesignated as over income and the Next Available Unit Rule must be followed.

(e) HTC Developments that elect income averaging test and have market rate units must have written policies and procedures that address changes in income at recertification.

(1) If the income tier of a household changes, Owners are permitted but not required to adjust the household’s rent to their new designation (higher or lower) as long as the project still has an average rent of equal to or less than the federally required 60% average, or the additional occupancy restriction reflected in the LURA. If the household income increases, and re-designating the rent to the new AMI tier would cause the project average to exceed the required AMI average, the Owner will remain in compliance if the rent is restricted to the limit that maintains the required AMI average.

(2d) Until and unless the Internal Revenue Service or the Treasury Department issue conflicting or additional guidance, the Department will monitor the Available Unit Rule in the following manner for income averaging developments Developments that elected the average income minimum set aside:

(1A) If the income of the household who, at the last certification, had an income and rent less than the 60% limits exceeds 140% of the 60% limit, the household must be redesignated as over income.

(2B) If the income of a household with an income or rent above the 60% level and less than or equal to the 70% limits exceeds 140% of the 70% limit, the household must be designated as over income.

(3C) If the income of a household with an income or rent above the 70% level and less than or equal to the 80% limits exceeds 140% of the 80% limit, the household must be designated as over income.

(4D) Owners are not required to terminate the tenancy of over income households. When the Unit occupied by an over income household is vacated, it must be reoccupied by a household with an income and rent level equal to or less than the rent level of the household that went over income. In addition, the Unit must be reoccupied by a household that restores the low income average of the project to 60% or less.
Units at 80% area median income and rent on HTC developments. In certain years, the Department's Qualified Allocation Plan provided incentives to lease 10% of the development's Market Rate Units to households at 80% income and rents. This section provides guidance for implementation. If the LURA requires 10% of the Market Rate Units be leased to households at 80% income and rent limits, the Owner must certify the 80% households at the time of move in only. Recertifications will not be required. Student rules do not apply to Units occupied by 80% households. Noncompliance with the requirement to lease to 80% households is not reportable to the IRS on IRS Form 8823 but will be cited as noncompliance under the event "Development failed to meet additional state required rent and occupancy restrictions."

The Department does not require Developments to lease more Units under the additional occupancy restrictions than established in their LURA. However, if a Development inadvertently designates more households than required under the additional rent and occupancy restrictions, they may only decrease to the minimum number through attrition and new move ins, not by removing designations.

§10.616 Household Unit Transfer Requirements for All Programs

(a) The requirements and restrictions regarding household transfers for HTC, Exchange, and TCAP Developments are based on whether the tax credit project is 100% low-income or mixed income and if the Owner elected to treat buildings in the project as part of a multiple building project. To determine if a Development is a multiple building project, refer to the election on IRS Form(s) 8609 line 8(b) and accompanying statements (if any). If IRS Form(s) 8609 have not yet been issued by the Department and filed by the Owner, each building is its own project. The Department may allow Owners to indicate their intended 8(b) elections and will monitor accordingly. Failure to file the same elections with the IRS may result in noncompliance, additional monitoring, an additional monitoring fee and findings of noncompliance.

(1) 100% low-income multiple building projects: Households may transfer to any Unit in a 100% low-income multiple building project and retain their program designation. The household does not need to be and should not be certified at the time of transfer. The move in date remains the date the household was first designated under the program.

(2) Each building is its own project (100% low-income and mixed income projects). Developments that made the 20/50 or 40/60 election: at the time of transfer, the household must be certified and have a current annual income less than the income limit established by the minimum set aside the Owner selected. Developments that elected the average income test under IRC §42(g): the household must be certified and their current designation averaged together with the designations of the other households in the project must be equal to or less than the percentage represented at the time of application.

(3) Mixed income multiple building projects: Low-income households retain their program designation when they transfer to any Unit in a multiple building project if at the last annual certification their income was less than 140% of area median income level set by the minimum set
(b) Household transfers for Bond, HTF, NHTF, HOME, TCAP RF, and NSP with floating Uunits. Households may transfer to any Unit within the Development. A certification is not required at the time of transfer. If the household transfers to a different Unit Type, the Development must maintain the Unit Type dispersion as reflected in its LURA, by re-leasing the vacated Uunit to a program eligible household. If the Development is required to perform annual income recertifications, the recertification is due on the anniversary date the household originally moved into the Development. If the Development is layered with Housing Tax Credits, use the transfer guidelines described in subsection (a) of this section (relating to Household Unit Transfer Requirements).

(c) Household transfers for NHTF, HOME, TCAP RF, and NSP with fixed Uunits. Households may transfer to any Unit and do not need to be certified at the time of the transfer. If the household transfers to a Unit that is not fixed, the Development must re-lease the vacated Unit to a program eligible household. If the Development is required to perform annual income recertifications, the recertification is due on the anniversary date the household originally moved into the Development. If the Development is layered with Housing Tax Credits, use the transfer guidelines described in subsection (a) of this section (relating to Household Unit Transfer Requirements).

(d) Household Transfers in the Same Building for the HTC Programs. A Household may transfer to a new Unit within the same building (for the HTC program within the meaning of IRS Notice 88-91). The Uunit designations will swap status.

(e) Household transfers for the Section 811 PRA must be approved by the Department in writing.

§10.617 Affirmative Marketing Requirements

See §10.801 of this chapter.

(a) Applicability. Effective April 1, 2015, compliance with this section is required for all Developments with five or more total units to further the objectives of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and Executive Order 13166.

(b) General. Owners of Developments with five or more total units must affirmatively market their units to promote equal housing choice for prospective tenants, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability and must develop and carry out an Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (or Affirmative Marketing Plan) to provide for marketing strategies and documentation of outreach efforts to prospective applicants identified as "least likely to apply." In general, those populations that are least likely to apply may include: African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, Other Pacific Islanders, Caucasians (non-Hispanic), Hispanics or Latinos, and families with children. All Affirmative Marketing Plans must provide for affirmative marketing to persons with disabilities. Some Developments may be required by their LURAs to market units specifically to veterans or other populations.
(c) Plan format. Owners are encouraged to use any version of HUD Form 935.2A to meet Affirmative Marketing requirements. Owners participating in HUD-funded programs administered by the Department must use the version required by the program.

(d) Marketing and Outreach.

(1) The plan must include special outreach efforts to the “least likely to apply” populations through specific media, organizations, or community contacts that work with least likely to apply populations or work in areas where least likely to apply populations live.

(2) Advertisements and/or marketing materials must contain:

(A) The Fair Housing logo and

(B) The contact information for the individual who can assist if reasonable accommodations are needed in order to complete the application process. The information about reasonable accommodations must be in both English and Spanish.

(e) Timeframes.

(1) An Owner must begin its affirmative marketing efforts for each of the identified populations at least six months prior to the anticipated date the first building is to be available for occupancy. As a condition of an award to a new Development, the Board may require affirmative marketing efforts to begin more than six months prior to the anticipated date the first building is to be placed in service; and

(2) An Owner must update its Affirmative Marketing Plan and populations that are least likely to apply every five years from the effective date of the current plan or, for HUD funded or USDA properties, as otherwise required by HUD or USDA.

(f) Record keeping. Owners must maintain records of each Affirmative Marketing Plan and specific outreach efforts completed for the greater of three years or the recordkeeping requirement identified in the LURA.

(g) Exception to Affirmative Marketing. If the Development has closed its waiting list, Affirmative Marketing is not required. Affirmative Marketing is required as long as the Owner is accepting applications, has an open waiting list, or is marketing prior to placement in service as required under subsection (e)(1) of this section.

§10.618 Onsite Monitoring

(a) The Department may perform an onsite monitoring review, a mail in desk review and physical inspection of any Development, and review and photocopy all documents and records supporting compliance with Departmental programs through the end of the Compliance Period or the end of the period covered by the LURA, whichever is later. The Development Owner shall permit the
Department access to the Development premises and records.

(b) The Department will perform onsite monitoring reviews of each low-income Development. The Department will conduct:

(1) The first review of HTC Developments by the end of the second calendar year following the year the last building in the Development is placed in service;

(2) The first review of all Developments, other than those described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, as leasing commences;

(3) During the Federal Compliance Period subsequent reviews will be conducted at least once every three years;

(4) After the Federal Compliance Period, developments—Developments will be monitored in accordance with §10.623 of this chapter (relating to Monitoring Procedures for Housing Tax Credit Properties After the Compliance Period);

(5) A physical inspection of the Development including the exterior of the Development, Development amenities, and an interior inspection of a sample of Units;

(6) Limited reviews of physical conditions, including follow-up inspections to verify completion of reported corrective action, may be conducted without prior notice (unless access to tenant units is required, in which case at least 48 hours notice will be provided); and

(7) Reviews, meetings, and other appropriate activity in response to complaints or investigations.

(c) The Department will perform onsite file reviews or a mail in desk review and monitor:

(1) Low-income resident files in each Development, and review the Income Certifications;

(2) The documentation the Development Owner has received to support the certifications;

(3) The rent records; and

(4) Any additional aspects of the Development or its operation that the Department deems necessary or appropriate.

(d) The LURA for most HOME, NSP, TCAP RF, and NHTF Developments specifies a required Unit Mix. During onsite monitoring visits it will be determined if the minimum number of affordable units and exact square footage has been provided. Failure to provide the exact square footage listed in the LURA will be cited as “Failure to provide correct square footage”. Failure to provide the required number of Units required by the LURA will be cited as “Household income above income limit upon initial occupancy”
Example 612(2). A TCAP RF LURA requires eight low-income units with the following Unit mix:

(A) Three one bedroom, one bath units with a Net Rentable Area (NRA) of 770 sq ft;

(B) One two bedroom one bath units with a Net Rentable Area (NRA) of 900 sq ft; and

(C) Four three bedroom two bath units with a Net Rentable Area (NRA) of 1000 sq ft.

If during the onsite review the Development has eight units designated as TCAP RF, but is not exactly the Units and square footage mix shown above (even if the actual square footage provided is greater) the noncompliance “Failure to provide correct square footage” will be cited.

(ed) At times other than onsite reviews, the Department may request for review, in a format designated by the Department, information on tenant income and rent for each Low-Income Unit and may require a Development Owner to submit copies of the tenant files, including copies of the Income Certification, the documentation the Development Owner has received to support that certification, and the rent record for any low-income tenant.

(fe) The Department will select the Low-Income Units and tenant records that are to be inspected and reviewed. Original records are required for review. The Department will not give Development Owners advance notice that a particular Unit, tenant record, or a particular year will be inspected or reviewed. However, the Department will give reasonable notice, as defined in Treasury Regulation 1.42-5, to the Development Owner that an onsite inspection or a tenant record review will occur so the Development Owner may notify tenants of the inspection or assemble original tenant records for review. If a credible complaint of fraud or other egregious alleged or suspected noncompliance is received, the Department reserves the right to conduct unannounced onsite monitoring visits.

(gf) In order to prepare for monitoring reviews and physical inspections and to reduce the amount of time spent onsite, Department staff must review certain requested documentation described in the onsite notification announcement. Owners are required to submit documentation by the required deadline indicated in the onsite notification announcement. Failure to submit required documentation will result in a finding of noncompliance.

§10.622 Special Rules Regarding Rents and Rent Limit Violations

(a) Rent or Utility Allowance Violations of the maximum allowable limit for the HTC program. Under the HTC program, the amount of rent paid by the household plus an allowance for utilities, plus any mandatory fees, cannot exceed the maximum applicable limit (as determined by the minimum set-aside elected by the Owner) published by the Department. If it is determined that an HTC Development, during the Compliance Period, collected rent in excess of the rent limit established by the minimum set-aside, the Owner must correct the violation by reducing the rent charged. The Department will report the violation as corrected on January 1st of the year following the violation. The refunding of overcharged rent does not avoid the disallowance of the credit by the IRS.
(b) Rent or Utility Allowance Violations of additional rent restrictions under the HTC program. **(for Developments that elected the 20/50 and 40/60 test under IRC §42(g) only).** If Owners agreed to additional rent and occupancy restrictions, the Department will monitor to confirm compliance. If noncompliance is discovered, the Department will require the Owner to restore compliance by refunding (not a credit to amounts owed the Development) any excess rents to a sufficient number of households to meet the set aside.

(c) Rent Violations of the maximum allowable limit due to application fees or application deposits not promptly converted into a security deposit under the HTC program. Under the HTC program, Owners may not charge tenants any overhead costs as part of the application fee. Owners must only charge the actual cost for application fees as supported by invoices from the screening company the Owner uses.

1. The amount of time Development staff spends checking an applicant's income, credit history, and landlord references may be included in the Development's application fee. Development Owners may add up to $5.50 per Unit for their other out of pocket costs for processing an application without providing documentation. Example 622(2): A Development's out of pocket cost for processing an application is $17.00 per adult. The property may charge $22.50 for the first adult and $17.00 for each additional adult.

2. Documentation of Development costs for application processing or screening fees must be made available during onsite visits or upon request. The Department will review application fee documentation during onsite monitoring visits. If the Development pays a flat monthly fee to a third party for credit or criminal background checks, Owners must calculate the appropriate fee to be charged applicants by using the total number of applications processed, not just approved applications. Developments that pay a flat monthly fee must determine the appropriate application fee at least annually based on the prior year's activity. If the Department determines from a review of the documentation that the Owner has overcharged residents an application fee or collected impermissible deposits, the noncompliance will be reported to the IRS on Form 8823 under the category "gross rent(s) exceeds tax credit limits." The noncompliance will be corrected on January 1st of the next year.

3. Owners are not required to refund the overcharged fee amount. To correct the issue, Owners must reduce the application fee for prospective applicants. Once the fee is reduced for prospective applicants, the Department will report the affected units back in compliance on January 1st of the year after they were overcharged the application fee or an impermissible deposit.

4. Throughout the Affordability Period, Owners may not charge a deposit or any type of fee (other than an application fee) for a household to be placed on a waiting list.

(d) Rent or Utility Allowance Violations on Non-HTC Developments, HTC Developments after the Compliance Period, and foreclosed HTC properties for three years after foreclosure. If it is determined that the Development collected rent in excess of the allowable limit, the Department will require the Owner to refund (not a credit to amounts owed the Development) to the affected
residents the amount of rent that was overcharged.

(e) Trust Account to be established. If the Owner is required to refund rent under subsection (b) or (d) of this section and cannot locate the resident, the excess monies must be deposited into a trust account for the tenant. The account must remain open for the shorter of a four year period, or until all funds are claimed. If funds are not claimed after the four year period, the unclaimed funds must be remitted to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Unclaimed Property Holder Reporting Section to be disbursed as required by Texas unclaimed property statutes.

(f) Rent Adjustments for HOME, and TCAP RF Developments:

(1) 100% HOME/TCAP-RF assisted Developments. If a household's income exceeds 80% at recertification, the owner must charge rent equal to 30% of the household's adjusted income;

(2) HOME/TCAP-RF Developments with any Market Rate units. If a household's income exceeds 80% at recertification, the owner must charge rent equal to the lesser of 30% of the household's adjusted income or the comparable Market rent; and

(3) HOME/TCAP-RF Developments layered with other Department affordable housing programs. If a household's income exceeds 80% at recertification, the owner must charge rent equal to the lesser of 30% of the household's adjusted income or the rent allowable under the other program.

(g) Special conditions for NSP Developments. To determine if a Unit is rent restricted, the amount of rent paid by the household, plus an allowance for utilities, plus any rental assistance payment must be less than the applicable limit.

(h) Employee Occupied Units (HTC and SHTF Developments). IRS Revenue Rulings 92-61, 2004-82 and Chief Counsel Advice Memorandum POSTN-111812-14 provide guidance on employee occupied units. In general, employee occupied units are considered facilities reasonably required for the project(s) and not residential rental units. Since the building's applicable fraction is calculated using the residential rental units/space in a building, employee occupied units are taken out of both the numerator and the denominator.

(i) Owners of HOME, NSP, TCAP-RF, and NHTF must comply with §10.403 of this chapter which requires annual rent review and approval by the Department's Asset Management Division. Failure to do so will result in an Event of Noncompliance.

(j) Owners are not permitted to increase the tenant portion of rent during a period which is the lesser of 12 months or the lease term, even if there are increases in rent limits or decreases in utility allowances.
§10.623 Monitoring Procedures for Housing Tax Credit Properties After the Compliance Period

(a) HTC properties allocated credit in 1990 and after are required under §42(h)(6) of the Code to record a LURA restricting the Development for at least 30 years. Various sections of the Code specify monitoring rules State Housing Finance Agencies must implement during the Compliance Period.

(b) After the Compliance Period, the Department will continue to monitor HTC Developments using the criteria detailed in paragraphs (1) - (14) of this subsection:

(1) The frequency and depth of monitoring household income, rents, social services and other requirements of the LURA will be determined based on risk. Factors will include changes in ownership or management, compliance history, timeliness of reports and timeliness of responses to Department requests;

(2) At least once every three years the property will be physically inspected including the exterior of the Development, all building systems and 10% of Low-Income Units. No less than five but no more than 35 of the Development’s HTC Low-Income Units will be physically inspected to determine compliance with HUD’s Uniform Physical Condition Standards;

(3) Each Development shall submit an annual report in the format prescribed by the Department;

(4) Reports to the Department must be submitted electronically as required in §10.607 of this subchapter (relating to Reporting Requirements);

(5) Compliance monitoring fees will continue to be submitted to the Department annually in the amount stated in the LURA;

(6) All HTC households must be income qualified upon initial occupancy of any Low-Income Unit. Proper verifications of income are required, and the Department’s Income Certification form must be completed unless the Development participates in the Rural Rental Housing Program or a project-based HUD program, in which case the other program's certification form will be accepted;

(7) Rents will remain restricted for all HTC Low-Income Units. After the Compliance Period, utilities paid to the Owner are accounted for in the utility allowance. TCAP, Exchange, Bond, and SHTF Developments layered with Housing Tax Credits no longer within the Compliance Period also include utilities paid to the Owner as part of the utility allowance. The tenant paid portion of the rent plus the applicable utility allowance must not exceed the applicable limit. Any excess rent collected must be refunded;

(8) All additional income and rent restrictions defined in the LURA remain in effect;

(9) For Additional Use Restrictions, defined in the LURA (such as supportive services, nonprofit participation, elderly, etc.), refer to the Development’s LURA to determine if compliance is required after the completion of the Compliance Period or if the Compliance Period was specifically extended beyond 15 years;
(10) The Owner shall not terminate the lease or evict low-income residents for other than good cause;

(11) The total number of required HTC Low-Income Units can be maintained Development wide;

(12) Owners may not charge fees for amenities that were included in the Development's Eligible Basis;

(13) Once a calendar year, Owners must continue to collect and maintain current data on each household that includes the number of household members, age, ethnicity, race, disability status, rental amounts and rental assistance (if any). This information can be collected on the Department's Annual Eligibility Certification form or the Income Certification form or HUD Income Certification form or USDA Income Certification form; and

(14) Employee occupied units will be treated in the manner prescribed in §10.622(h) of this chapter (relating to Special Rules Regarding Rents and Rent Limit Violations).

(c) After the first 15 years of the Extended Use Period, certain requirements will not be monitored as detailed in paragraphs (1) - (4) of this subsection.

(1) The student restrictions found in §42(i)(3)(D) of the Code. An income qualified household consisting entirely of full time students may occupy a Low-Income Unit. If a Development markets to students or leases more than 15% of the total number of units to student households, the property will be found in noncompliance unless the LURA is amended through the Material Amendments procedures found in §10.405 of this chapter (relating to Amendments);

(2) All households, regardless of income level or 8609 elections, will be allowed to transfer between buildings within the Development;

(3) The Department will not monitor the Development's application fee after the Compliance Period is over; and

(4) Mixed income Developments are not required to conduct annual income recertifications. However, Owners must continue to collect and report data in accordance with subsection (b)(13) of this section.

(d) While the requirements of the LURA may provide additional requirements, right and remedies to the Department or the tenants, the Department will monitor post year 15 in accordance with this section as amended.

(e) Unless specifically noted in this section, all requirements of this chapter, the LURA and §42 of the Code remain in effect for the Extended Use Period. These Post-Year 15 Monitoring Rules apply only to the HTC Developments administered by the Department. Participation in other programs administered by the Department may require additional monitoring to ensure compliance with the requirements of those programs.
§10.624 Compliance Requirements for Developments with 811 PRA Units

(a) One hundred and eighty days prior to the date an Owner expects to begin leasing, Developments that have agreed to rent Units to households assisted by Section 811 PRA must contact Department staff and begin accepting referrals. Failure to reserve the agreed upon number of Units for 811 households will be cited as noncompliance, be referred for administrative penalties, and be considered possible grounds for debarment.

(b) Throughout the term of an 811 PRA Use Agreement, Owners must maintain the required number of 811 PRA households, and provide notice to the Department when an 811 PRA household is expected to vacate. Notice must be provided when the Development is notified that 30 days prior to the date the household will vacate or in the event that the resident vacates without notice, upon discovery that the unit is vacant, whichever is earlier. Failure to notify the Department will be cited as noncompliance, be referred for administrative penalties, and be considered possible grounds for debarment.

(c) Compliance with 811 PRA requirements will be monitored at least once every three years, either through an onsite review or a desk review. During the review, Department staff will monitor for compliance with program eligibility which includes the following:

1. The household must include at least one person with a disability and who is 18 years of age or older and less than 62 years of age at the time of admission into the Development; and the person with a disability must be part of one or more of the target populations for the 811 program.

2. The household's income is less than the extremely low income limit at move in.

3. The Owner must check the following criminal history related to drug use of the household. Participants Households in the 811 PRA program must not include:

   (A) Any member(s) who was evicted in the last three years from federally assisted housing for drug-related criminal activity;

   (B) Any member that is currently engaged in illegal use of drugs or for which the Owner has reasonable cause to believe that a member's illegal use or pattern of illegal use of a drug may interfere with the health, safety, and right to peaceful enjoyment of the property by other residents; and

   (C) Any household member who is subject to a State sex offender lifetime registration requirement.

4. Student Status. If the household includes a student, the student must meet all of the criteria described in HUD handbook 4350.3 par. 3-13B, as modified by the September 21, 2016, Federal Register Notice 5969-N-01.

(d) Noncompliance will be cited if the Development:
(1) **Unit Leased** to a household that is not eligible—qualified for the 811 PRA program in accordance with the requirements of subsection (c)(1) - (4) of this section;

(2) Fails to Use the Enterprise Income Verification system for documenting the household's income;

(3) Fails to properly document and calculate deductions in order to determine adjusted income (dependent, child care, disability assistance, elderly/disabled family, unreimbursed medical expenses);

(4) Fails to use the required HUD forms listed in §10.612(d) of this subchapter or the following forms when applicable:

   (A) EIV summary report;
   
   (B) EIV income report;
   
   (C) EIV income discrepancy report;
   
   (D) EIV No income reported;
   
   (E) EIV no income report by health and human services or social security administration;
   
   (F) EIV new hires report;
   
   (G) Existing tenant search;
   
   (H) Multiple Subsidy report;
   
   (I) Failed EIV pre-screening report;
   
   (J) Failed verification report;
   
   (K) Deceased tenants report;
   
   (L) Owner approval letter authorizing access to EIV for the EIV EV-coordinators;
   
   (M) EIV Coordinator Access Authorization form (CAAF);
   
   (N) The rules of behavior for staff that use EIV reports/data to perform their job functions; and
   
   (O) Cyber awareness challenge certificates of completion for anyone that uses EIV or has access to EIV data (annually);

(5) Accepts funding that limits the ability for the Department to place the agreed upon number of 811 Units at the Development;
(6) Violates §1.15 of this title (relating to Integrated Housing);

(7) Fails to properly calculate the tenant portion of rent;

(8) Fails to properly calculate the tenant security deposit;

(9) Fails to use the HUD model lease;

(10) Egregiously fails to disperse 811 PRA Units throughout the Development;

(11) Fails to conduct required interim certifications; or

(12) Fails to conduct annual income recertification; or

(13) Fails to prominently display, as required by 24 CFR Part 110, Fair Housing Poster HUD-928.1 (English), HUD 928.1A (Spanish), and other language as required by Limited English Proficiency Requirements.

§10.625 Events of Noncompliance

Figure: 10 TAC §10.625 lists events for which a multifamily rental development may be found to be in noncompliance for compliance monitoring purposes. This list is not an exclusive list of events and issues for which an Owner may be subject to an administrative penalty, debarment, or other enforcement action. The first column of the chart identifies the noncompliance event. The second column indicates to which program(s) the noncompliance event applies. The last column indicates if the issue is reportable on IRS Form 8823 for HTC Developments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Beginning of 90 Day Notification Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Local Estimate</td>
<td>Date of letter from the Utility Provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD Utility Schedule Model</td>
<td>Date entered as “Form Date”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Consumption Model</td>
<td>60 days after the end of the last month of the 12 month period for which data was used to compute the estimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual Use Method</td>
<td>Date the allowance is approved by the Department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure: 10 TAC §10.625
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noncompliance Event</th>
<th>Program(s)</th>
<th>If HTC, on Form 8823?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violations of the Uniform Physical Condition Standards</td>
<td>All Programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncompliance related to Affirmative Marketing requirements described in §10.617 of this</td>
<td>All Programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development is not available to the general public because of leasing issues</td>
<td>HTC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDHCA has received notice of possible Fair Housing Act Violation from HUD or DOJ and reported general public use violation in accordance with IRS 8823 Audit Guide Chapter 13</td>
<td>HTC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDHCA has referred unresolved Fair Housing Design and Construction issue or other Fair Housing noncompliance to the Texas Workforce Commission</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Development has gone through a foreclosure</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Development is never expected to comply due to failure to report or allow monitoring</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner did not allow on-site monitoring or failed to notify residents resulting in inspection cancelation</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LURA not in effect</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project failed to meet minimum set aside</td>
<td>HTC and Bonds</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No evidence of, or failure to certify to material participation of a non-profit or HUB, if required by LURA</td>
<td>HTC</td>
<td>Yes, if non-profit issue, No, if HUB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development failed to meet additional state required rent and occupancy restrictions</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncompliance with social service requirements</td>
<td>HTC and Bond</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development failed to provide housing to the elderly as promised at application</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to provide special needs housing as required by LURA</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in Eligible Basis or Applicable percentage</td>
<td>HTC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to submit all or parts of the Annual Owner’s Compliance Report</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes for part A, No for other parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to submit quarterly reports as required by §10.607</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncompliance with utility allowance requirements described in §10.614 of this subchapter and/or Treasury Regulation §1.42-10</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes if rent exceeds limit, no if related to noncompliance with other requirements, such as posting,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncompliance with lease requirements described in §10.613 of this subchapter</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Management Division has reported that Development has failed to establish and maintain a reserve account in accordance with §10.404 of this chapter</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to provide a notary public as promised at application</td>
<td>HTC</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of the Unit Vacancy Rule</td>
<td>HTC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casualty Loss</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to provide pre-onsite documentation</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to provide amenity as required by LURA</td>
<td>HTC</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to pay asset management, compliance monitoring or other required fee</td>
<td>HTC, TCAP, Bond, NHTF, TCAP-RF, Exchange and HOME/NSP Developments committed funds</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in ownership without department approval (other than removal of a general partner in accordance with §10.406 of this chapter)</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncompliance with written policy and procedure requirements described in §10.610 of this subchapter</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No, unless finding is because Owner refused to lease to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Unit not leased to Low-Income household/ Household income above income limit upon initial occupancy</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program unit occupied by nonqualified full-time students</td>
<td>HTC during the Compliance Period, Bond and HOME/ NSP developments committed funds after August 23, 2013, NHTF, 811</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Income units used on a transient basis</td>
<td>HTC and Bond</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of the Available Unit Rule</td>
<td>All programs, but only during the Compliance Period for HTC, TCAP, and</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross rent exceeds the highest rent allowed under the LURA or other deed restriction</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to provide Tenant Income Certification and documentation</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit not available for rent</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to collect data required by §10.612(b)(1) and/or §10.612(b)(2)</td>
<td>HTC, TCAP, Exchange, and Bond</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development evicted or terminated the tenancy of a low-income tenant for other than good cause</td>
<td>HTC, HOME, TCAP-RF, NHTF, and NSP</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household income increased above 80 percent at recertification and Owner failed to properly determine rent</td>
<td>HOME</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of the Integrated Housing Rule</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to resolve final construction deficiencies</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>within corrective action period</td>
<td>HOME, NSP, TCAP-RF, NHTF, SHTF, and for HTC properties that were awarded after</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncompliance with the required accessibility requirements such as §504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the 2010 ADA standards as modified in the Department rules, or other accessibility related requirements of a Department rule</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noncompliance with the notice to the Department requirements described in §10.609 of this</td>
<td>All programs</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to reserve units for Section 811 PRA participants</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to notify the Department of the availability of units</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner failed required criminal history to check criminal history and drug use of household</td>
<td>811 Developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to use Enterprise Income Verification System</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to properly document and calculate adjusted income</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to use required HUD forms</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accepted funding that limits 811 participation</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to properly calculate tenant portion of rent</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to use HUD model lease</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to disperse 811 units</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to conduct interim certifications</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to conduct annual income recertification</td>
<td>811 developments</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>811 Developments</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Management Division has reported that Development has failed to review</td>
<td>HOME, NSP, TCAP</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rents on an annual basis in accordance with §10.403 of this chapter</td>
<td>RF, and NHTF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit Leased to a household that is not qualified for the 811 PRA program</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 10 Uniform Multifamily Rules

Subchapter G Affirmative Marketing Requirements and Written Policies and Procedures

§10.800 Definitions

The capitalized terms in this subchapter shall have the meaning as defined in this title in Chapter 1 relating to Administration, Chapter 2 relating to Enforcement, Chapter 11 relating to the Qualified Action Plan, Chapter 12 relating to the Multifamily Housing Revenue Bond Rules, Chapter 13 relating to the Multifamily Direct Loan Rule, or Tex. Gov't Code Chapter 2306, Internal Revenue Code (the Code) §42, the HOME Final Rule, and other federal or Department rules, as applicable.

§10.617 Affirmative Marketing Requirements

(a) Applicability. Effective April 1, 2015 Compliance with this section is required for all Developments with five or more total units to further the objectives of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 and Executive Order 13166.

(b) General. Owners of Developments A Development Owner with five or more total units Units must affirmatively market their units the Units to promote equal housing choice for prospective tenants, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability and must develop and carry out an Affirmative Fair Housing Marketing Plan (or Affirmative Marketing Plan) to provide for marketing strategies and documentation of outreach efforts to prospective applicants identified as "least likely to apply." In general, those populations that are least likely to apply may include: African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Asians, Native Hawaiians, Other Pacific Islanders, Caucasians (non-Hispanic), Hispanics or Latinos, and families with children. To determine the “least likely to apply” populations, a Development Owner is encouraged to use Worksheet 1 of HUD Form 935.2A, but at a minimum the Owner must document that they have compared the demographic composition of the Development to the market area to determine the populations least likely to apply. All Affirmative Marketing Plans must provide for affirmative marketing to persons with disabilities Persons with Disabilities. Some Developments may be required by their LURAs to market units specifically to veterans or other populations.

(c) Plan format. A Development Owner must prepare and submit upon request a written Affirmative Marketing Plan. Owners are encouraged to use any version of HUD Form 935.2A to meet Affirmative Marketing requirements. Owners An Owner participating in a HUD funded programs program administered by the Department must use the version required utilized by the program.

(d) Marketing and Outreach.

(1) The plan must include special outreach efforts to the "least likely to apply" populations
through specific media, organizations, or community contacts that work with least likely to apply populations or work in areas where least likely to apply populations live. The outreach efforts identified in the Affirmative Marketing Plan must be performed by the Development at least once per calendar year.

(2) To the extent that advertisements and/or marketing materials are utilized for the Development, those materials must contain:

(A) The Fair Housing logo; and

(B) The contact information for the individual who can assist if reasonable accommodations are needed in order to complete the application process. The information about reasonable accommodations must be in both English and Spanish.; and

(C) Property contact information must be provided in both English and Spanish, and may be required to be provided in other languages in accordance with Limited English Proficiency Requirements.

(e) Timeframes.

(1) An Owner must begin its affirmative marketing efforts for each of the identified populations least likely to apply at least six months90 calendar days prior to the anticipated date the first building is to be available for occupancy. As a condition of an award to a new Development, the Board may require affirmative marketing efforts to begin more than six months prior to the anticipated date the first building is to be placed in service; and

(2) An Owner must update its Affirmative Marketing Plan and populations that are least likely to apply every five years from the effective date of the current plan or, for HUD funded or USDA properties, as otherwise required by HUD or USDA.

(f) Record-keeping. Owners must maintain records of each Affirmative Marketing Plan and specific outreach efforts completed for the greater of three years or the recordkeeping requirement identified in the LURA.

(g) Exception to Affirmative Marketing. If the Development has closed its waiting list, Affirmative Marketing is not required. Affirmative Marketing is required as long as the Owner is accepting applications, has an open waiting list, or is marketing prior to placement in service as required under subsection (e)(1) of this section.

§10.610-802 Written Policies and Procedures

(a) The purpose of this section is to outline the policies and/or procedures of the Department (also called tenant section criteria) that are required to have written documentation. If an Owner fails to have such written policies and procedures, or fails to follow their written policies
and procedures it will be handled as an Event of Noncompliance as further provided for in subsection (k) of this subchapter be cited as noncompliance with this section.

(1) Owners must inform applicants/tenants in writing, at the time of application, or at the time of other action actions described in this section, that such policies/procedures as described in this section are available, and that the Owner will provide copies upon request to applicants/tenants or their representatives.

(2) The Owner must have all policies and related documentation required by this section and the TDHCA form based on HUD form 5380 "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" and the HUD form 5382 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation" available in the leasing office and anywhere else where applications are taken Developments that accept electronic applications must maintain on post to their website these written policies and procedures tenant selection criteria and the same noted forms the TDHCA form based on HUD form 5380 "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" and the HUD form 5382 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation."

(3) All policies must have an effective date. Any changes made to the policies require a new effective date, and a notice regarding the availability of new policies must be communicated to tenants in writing.

(4) In general, policies addressing credit, criminal history, and occupancy standards cannot be applied retroactively. Tenants who already reside in the development or applicants on the wait list at the time new or revised tenant selection criteria are applied, and who are otherwise in good standing under the lease or wait list, must not receive notices of termination or non-renewal based solely on their failure to meet the new or revised tenant selection criteria or be passed over on the wait list. However, criteria related to program eligibility may be applied retroactively when a market development receives a new award of tax credits, federal or state funds and a household is not eligible under the new program requirements, or when prior criteria violate federal or state law.

(b) Tenant Selection Criteria. A Development Owner must maintain current and prior versions of the written Tenant Selection Criteria, for the longer of the records retention period that applies to the program, or for as long as tenants who were screened under the historical criteria are occupying the Development. The criteria under which an applicant was screened must be included in the household's file.

(1) The criteria identified by a Development must be reasonably related to the an applicant's ability to perform under the lease (for a Development with MFDL funding this means to pay the rent, not to damage the housing, and not to interfere with the rights and quiet enjoyment of other tenants), and include at a minimum:
(A) Requirements that determine an applicant's basic eligibility for the property Development, including any preferences, restrictions, and any other tenancy requirements. Any restrictions on student occupancy and any exceptions to those restrictions, as documented in the tenant file as provided for in 10 TAC §10.612(b)(2) must be stated in the policies. The tenant selection criteria must specifically list:

(i) The income and rent limits;

(ii) When applicable, restrictions on student occupancy and any exceptions to those restrictions; and

(iii) Fees and/or deposits required as part of the application process. Developments with HOME, NHTF, NSP, Section 811 and/or TCAP RF units cannot collect an application deposit for units designated under these programs. Owners of HTC, TCAP and Exchange Developments are discouraged from collecting an application deposit. If an application deposit is collected it must soon after be converted into a refundable security deposit. No fees or deposits may be collected to place a household or applicant on a waiting list.

(B) Applicant screening criteria, including what applicant attributes are screened and what scores or findings would result in ineligibility.

(C) Occupancy Standards. If fewer than two persons (over the age of six) per bedroom for each rental unit are required for reasons other than those directed by local building code or safety regulations, a written justification must be provided.

(D) The following statement: Screening criteria will be applied in a manner consistent with all applicable laws, including the Texas and Federal Fair Housing Acts, the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, program guidelines, and the Department’s TDHCA’s rules.

(E) Specific age requirements if the Development is operating as an Elderly Property either under the Housing for Older Persons Act of 1995 as amended (HOPA), or the age related eligibly criteria required by its use of federal funds.

(2) The criteria must not:

(A) Include preferences for admission. A property may not have a preference unless it is either in a recorded LURA which has been approved by the Department [preferences are required to be in a LURA when a Development has MFDL funding, except for the preference allowed by paragraph (3) of this subsection], or is required by a program in which the Owner is participating which requires the preference, or is allowed by paragraph (3) of this subsection. Owners that include preferences in their leasing criteria due to other federal financing must provide to the Department either written approval from HUD, USDA, or VA for such preference, or identify the statute, written agreement, or federal guidance documentation that permits the adoption of this preference;
(B) Exclude an individual or family from admission to the Development solely because the household participates in the HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program, the housing choice voucher program under Section 8, United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. §1-437), or other federal, state, or local government rental assistance program. If an Owner adopts a minimum income standard for households participating in a voucher program, it is limited to the greater of a monthly income of 2.5 times the household's share of the total monthly rent amount or $2,500 annually; or

(C) In accordance with VAWA, deny admission on the basis that the applicant has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(3) If the Development is funded with HOME, TCAP RF, NHTF, or NSP funds, in accordance with 24 CFR §93.356 and 24 CFR §92.359, the criteria may have a preference for persons who have experienced domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(4) Occupancy Standard Policy.

(A) If the Development restricts the number of occupants in a Unit in a more restrictive manner than found in Chapter 92.010 of the Texas Property Code, the standard must allow at least two persons per Bedroom plus one additional person per Unit. In an SRO or an Efficiency that is less than 600 square feet, the standard must allow at least two persons per Unit. An Efficiency that is greater than 600 square feet must allow at least three persons per Unit.

(B) A Development may adopt a more restrictive standard than described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, if the Development is required to utilize a more restrictive standard by a local governmental entity, or a federal funding source. However, the Development must have this information available for Department review.

(C) Except for an Elderly Development that meets the requirements of the Housing for Persons Act exception under the Fair Housing Act, the Occupancy Standard Policy must state that children that join the household after the start of a lease term will not cause a household to be in violation of the lease.

(c) Reasonable Accommodations Policy. Owners must maintain a written Reasonable Accommodations policy. The policy must be maintained at the Development. Owners are responsible for ensuring that their employees and contracted third party management companies are aware of and comply with the reasonable accommodation policy.

(1) The policy must provide:

(A) Information on how an applicant or current resident with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation; and

(B) How transfers related to a reasonable accommodation will be addressed; and
(BC) A timeframe in which the Owner will respond to a request that is compliant with 10 TAC §1.204(b)(3) and (d) (relating to Reasonable Accommodations).

(2) The policy must not:

(A) Require a household to make a reasonable accommodation request in writing;

(B) Require a household whose need is readily apparent to provide third party documentation of a disability;

(C) Require a household to provide specific medical or disability information other than the disability verification that may be requested to verify eligibility for reasonable accommodation;

(D) Exclude a household with person(s) with disabilities from admission to the Development because an accessible unit is not currently available; or

(E) Require a household to rent a unit that has already been made accessible.

(d) Waitlist Policy. Owners must maintain a written waitlist policy, regardless of current unit availability. The policy must be maintained at the Development.

(1) The policy must include procedures the Development uses in:

(A) Opening, closing, and selecting applicants from the wait-list, including but not limited to the requirements in 10 TAC §10.615(b);

(B) Determining how lawful preferences are applied; and

(C) Procedures for prioritizing applicants needing accessible units in accordance with 24 CFR §8.27, and Chapter 1, Subchapter B of this title.

(2) Developments with additional rent and occupancy restrictions must maintain a waiting list for their lower rent restricted units. The Development’s wait list policy must inform applicants and current residents of the availability of lower rent units and the process for renting a lower rent unit. Unless otherwise approved at application, underwriting and cost certification, all unit sizes must be available at the lower rent limits. The wait list policy for Developments with lower rent restricted units must address how the waiting list for their lower rent restricted units will be managed and must include policies regarding changes in income that address the options available in §10.615 of this subchapter. The policy must not give a preference to prospective applicants over existing households. However, a Development may, but is not required to, prioritize existing households over prospective applicants.

(e) Developments that elect the income averaging test and all Developments with additional rent and occupancy restrictions must have written policies regarding changes in income that address
(e) Changes in Household Designation Policy. This is applicable if a Development has adopted a policy in accordance with 10 TAC §10.611(c).

(f) Denied Application Policies. Owners must maintain a written policy regarding the procedures they will follow when denying an applications and when notifying denied applicants of their rights.

1. The policy must address the manner by which rejections of applications will be handled, including timeframes and appeal procedures, if any.

2. Within seven days after the determination is made to deny an application, the owner must provide any rejected or ineligible applicant that completed the application process a written notification of the grounds for rejection. The written notification must include:

   A. The specific reason for the denial and reference the specific leasing criteria upon which the denial is based;

   B. Contact information for any third parties that provided the information on which the rejection was based and information on the appeals process, if one is used by the Development. An appeals procedure is required for HOME Developments that are owned by Community Housing Development Organizations, and U-units at Developments that lease U-units under the Department’s Section 811 -PRA program. The appeals process must provide a 14 day period for the applicant to contest the reason for the denial, and comply with other requirements of the HUD Handbook 4350.3 4-9; and

   C. The TDHCA form based on HUD form 5380 "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" and the HUD form 5382 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation."

3. The Development must keep and may periodically be requested to submit to the Department a log of all denied applicants that completed the application process to include:

   A. Basic household demographic and rental assistance information, if requested during any part of the application process; and

   B. The specific reason for which an applicant was denied, the date the decision was made; and

   C. The date the denial notice was mailed or hand-delivered to the applicant.

4. A file of all rejected applications must be maintained the length of time specified in the applicable program’s recordkeeping requirements and include:
(A) A copy of the written notice of denial; and

(B) The Tenant Selection Criteria policy under which an applicant was screened.

(5) If an 811 applicant is being denied, within three calendar days of the denial the Department’s 811 PRA Program point of contact must be notified and provided with a copy of the written notice that was provided to the applicant.

(g) Non-renewal and/or Termination Notices. Owners must maintain a written policy regarding procedures for providing households non-renewal and termination notices.

(1) The owner must provide in any non-renewal or termination notice, a specific and lawful reason for the termination or non-renewal.

(2) The notification must:

(A) Be delivered as required under applicable program rules and the lease. For HOME, TCAP RF, NHTF, NSP, HTC, TCAP and Exchange Developments, see 10 TAC §10.613(a)-(b) of this chapter (relating to Lease Requirements). For Section 811 PRA, see 24 CFR § 247.4(a)-(f);

(B) Include the TDHCA form based on HUD form 5380 "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" and the HUD form 5382 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation." To avoid providing applicants and residents with duplicate information, TDHCA administered Developments layered with other federal funds are permitted to amend the TDHCA VAWA forms to incorporate requirements of other funders. However, none of the information included in the TDHCA created form may be omitted;

(C) State how a person with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation in relation to such notice; and

(D) Include information on the appeals process if one is used by the property Development (this is required under some LURAs, for HOME Developments that are owned by Community Housing Development Organizations, and for 811 PRA units).

(h) Unit Transfer Policies. Owners must maintain a written policy regarding procedures for households to request a unit transfer. The policy must address the following:

(1) How security deposits will be handled for both the current unit and the new unit;

(2) How transfers related to a reasonable accommodation will be addressed; and

(3) For HTC Developments, how transfers will be handled with regard to the multiple building
project election on IRS Form(s) 8609 line 8(b) and accompanying statements in accordance with §10.616 of this subchapter, concerning Household Unit Transfer Requirements for All Programs.

(ih) At the time of application Owners must provide each adult in the household the TDHCA form based on HUD form 5380 "Notice of Occupancy Rights under the Violence Against Women Act" and the HUD form 5382 "Certification of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking and Alternate Documentation." To avoid providing applicants and residents with duplicate information, TDHCA administered Developments layered with other federal funds are permitted to amend the TDHCA VAWA forms to incorporate requirements of other funders. However, none of the information included in the TDHCA created form may be omitted.

(j) HTC Developments that have elected average income test must describe in their leasing criteria how units will be leased and inform applicants of the set asides that the Development offers. Owners must disperse 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70% and 80% units designations across all unit types in a manner that does not violate fair housing laws. HTC Developments that have elected the income averaging test must maintain separate waiting lists for each of the set asides offered by the Development. The waiting lists must be available to both existing households and prospective tenants. The Development cannot provide a preference for applicants over existing households. The Development is not required to place existing households that receive rental assistance on a waiting list for a lower rent unit. Owners are encouraged to designate households that receive rental assistance at the level indicated by the contract rent for the unit.

(k) Developments that participate in the Section 811 program must have a written EIV policy that includes security practices and complies with the HUD Handbook 4350.3, Chapter 9. Owners are discouraged from adopting policies that exceed the minimum requirements established by HUD.

(li) Policies and procedures will be reviewed periodically by the Department’s Fair Housing staff, during monitoring visits, through as a result of resident complaints, or through an owner initiated written policies and procedures review. Owners may request a review of the written policies and procedures for a portfolio of Developments by submitting a request to wppfair.housing@tdhca.state.tx.us. After review by the Department, Owners may make non-substantive changes to their policies. Significant changes to reviewed policies without Department approval may result in findings of noncompliance.

(mj) Development Owners must allow applicants to submit applications via mail and at the Development site or leasing office; if the Development is electronically equipped, the Development may also allow applications to be submitted via email, website form, or fax. The Development's tenant selection criteria must state available alternate means of submission and include address, email, or other necessary contact information on the form or its attached leasing criteria.

§10.803 Compliance and Events of Noncompliance

(a) The Department will provide written notice to the Owner if the Department discovers through
monitoring, review, resident complaint, or any other manner that the Development is not in compliance with the provisions of this subchapter. A 90 day Corrective Action Period will be provided. Documentation of correction must be received during the Corrective Action Period for an Event of Noncompliance to be considered corrected during the Corrective Action Period. The Department may extend the Corrective Action Period for up to six months from the date of the notice to the Development Owner only if there is good cause for granting an extension and the owner requests an extension during the original 90 day Corrective Action Period, and the request would not cause the Department or the Owner to miss a federal deadline. Requests for an extension may be submitted to: fair.housing@tdhca.state.tx.us.

(b) If an Owner submits evidence of corrective action during the Corrective Action Period that addresses each issue, but does not fully address all issues, the Department will give the Owner written notice and an additional 10 calendar day period to submit evidence of full corrective action.

c) If communications to the Owner under this subchapter have a pattern of being returned to the Department as refused, unclaimed, or undeliverable, the Development may be considered not in compliance without further notice to the Owner. The Owner is responsible for providing the Department with current contact information, including address(es) (physical and electronic) and phone number(s). The Owner must also provide current contact information to the Department as required by §1.22 of this title (relating to Providing Contact Information to the Department), and ensure that such information is at all times current and correct.

d) The Department will rely solely on the information supplied by the Owner in the Department's web-based Compliance Monitoring and Tracking System (CMTS) for notifications under this subchapter. It is the Owner's sole responsibility to ensure at all times that such information is current, accurate, and complete. Correspondence sent to the email or physical address shown in CMTS will be deemed delivered to the Owner. Correspondence from the Department may be directly uploaded to the property's CMTS account using the secure electronic document attachment system. Once uploaded, notification of the attachment will be sent electronically to the email address listed in CMTS. The Department is not required to send a paper copy, and if it does so it does as a voluntary and non-precedential courtesy only.

e) Events of Noncompliance identified in the evaluation of the requirements of this subchapter will be those specified in 10 TAC §10.625 of this chapter (relating to Events of Noncompliance).