



Multifamily Subordinate Loans

Mixed-Income Program (2023)

The California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA or Agency) Mixed-Income Program (MIP) provides long-term, subordinate subsidy financing for new construction multi-family housing projects restricting units (tax credit or CalHFA) between 30% and 120% of county Area Median Income (AMI).

The MIP subsidy loan (MIP Loan) must be paired with CalHFA's Conduit Bond Issuer Program and CalHFA's Tax-Exempt Permanent Loan Program. CalHFA will work with MIP applicants to assess the benefits of utilizing CalHFA's Bond Recycling Program during the project construction and/or permanent loan periods and may require recycled bonds to be included as a source, subject to availability and project feasibility. Eligible projects must create newly constructed, regulated units that meet the income and occupancy requirements reflected below. Approval of all MIP funding allocations will be subject to the sole discretion of CalHFA.

Mixed-Income Program Subsidy Loan Limits

MIP Loan amount for each project will be based on project need and will be limited to the lesser of the following:

1. \$4 million; or
2. \$50,000 per restricted unit (between 30%-120% AMI). Projects located within the Highest or High Resource areas pursuant to California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) regulations designated on the [CTCAC/HCD Opportunity Area Map](#) shall be eligible for an additional amount up to \$10,000 per MIP regulated unit; or
3. 50% of the permanent loan amount.

Application

MIP applicants must submit a completed application package which includes all items listed on the application, application addendum, and checklist. Incomplete application packages will not be considered. The application and checklist can be found at www.calhfa.ca.gov/multifamily/mixedincome/forms. If the MIP applicant is not able to meet the readiness timeline referenced below, MIP awards may be rescinded.

Qualifications

Availability

Available to for-profit, nonprofit, and public agency sponsors. Development teams must meet all the requirements in the Development Team Qualifications section below.

Uses

MIP Loans must be used in conjunction with CalHFA's Conduit Bond Issuer Program and a construction loan from a CalHFA Mixed-Income Qualified Construction Lender (as defined below). MIP Loans must also be used in conjunction with CalHFA's Tax-Exempt Permanent Loan Program. CalHFA will work with MIP applicants to assess the benefits of utilizing CalHFA's Bond Recycling



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Program during the project construction and/or permanent loan periods and may require recycled bonds to be included as a source, subject to availability and project feasibility.

Financing Structure

Projects accessing the MIP Loans must be structured as both of the following:

1. Tax-exempt bond and 4% tax credit project where at least 51% of the units in the project must be tax-credit financed; and
2. Qualified mixed-income project through income averaging pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 42 (g)(1)(C).

Readiness

MIP applicants must have evidence of site control and they must be prepared to submit for an award of tax-exempt bond cap and 4% tax credits from the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee (CDLAC) and CTCAC, respectively. Project applicants will only receive funds if an award of tax-exempt bond cap is issued within the issuance timeframes specified in the CDLAC Regulations Section 5100.

- **Site:** The site must be ready for construction. Any potential environmental issues must have been identified, mitigation plans must be in place, and costs associated with the mitigation plan must be incorporated in the development budget. Environmental issues may include, but are not limited to, receipt of clearances for CEQA, NEPA, and applicable tribal land environmental reviews. Pursuant to HUD-Risk Sharing requirements, the MIP applicant is expected to start the NEPA process shortly after CalHFA verifies application completeness and determines that the project is ready to move forward with an initial commitment (notification date). The NEPA clearance and HUD's firm approval letter will be required prior to construction loan closing.
- **General Contractor and/or Third-Party Construction Services Engagement:** At the time of application, the MIP applicant must provide evidence that a general contractor or third-party construction services company has been engaged to provide construction services including, but not limited to; value engineering, bid/budget services, and constructability review of plans and designs. The proposed construction budget must be based on the general contractor's or third-party construction services company's preliminary bid estimates pursuant to the current plans and designs.
- **Disposition and Development Agreement:** The MIP applicant must provide a copy of the disposition and development agreement, if applicable.
- **Construction Start:** All projects must commit to begin construction 180 or 194 days from the earlier of the date of the tax-exempt bond allocation or the 4% federal/state tax credit reservation, unless an extension has been approved by CTCAC, CDLAC, and CalHFA, as applicable. Within the 180- or 194-day period (as may be applicable pursuant to CDLAC Regulations Section 5230(i) and CTCAC Regulations Section 10325(c)(7)), the following items must be submitted to CalHFA in their final form:
 - An executed construction contract.

Qualifications: Construction Start continued

- A complete, updated application form with a detailed explanation of any changes, including but not limited to, changes in sources and uses from the initial application.
- Recorded deeds of trust for all construction financing (unless a project's location on tribal trust land precludes this).
- Binding commitments for construction and permanent financing, including any sponsor loan and any other financing required to complete project construction.
- Copy of a limited partnership agreement executed by the general partner and the investor limited partner/equity provider.
- An updated CTCAC Attachment 16, if applicable.
- Copies of buildings permits (a grading permit does not suffice to meet this requirement, except if the city or county as a rule does not issue building permits prior to the completion of grading, then a grading permit shall suffice; if the project is a design build project in which the city or county does not issue building permits until designs are fully complete, the city or county shall have approved construction to begin) or the applicable tribal documents.
- Copy of the notice to proceed delivered to the contractor.
- If no construction lender is involved, evidence must be submitted within 180 or 194 days, as applicable, that the equity partner has been admitted to the ownership entity, and that an initial disbursement of funds has occurred.
- Other documentation and information required by CalHFA to close construction financing.

Evidence Of Cost Containment

A Cost Containment Certification must be provided at the time of Application and Construction Loan Closing, if applicable. The [Cost Containment Certification](#) acceptable to CalHFA may be found on the agency's website.

The MIP applicant must certify that cost containment measures have been implemented to minimize construction costs. These measures should include, but are not limited to:

1. competitively bidding out all major subcontractor and self-performing trades; and
2. engaging a value engineer/consultant during the design process.

Evidence Of Subsidy Efficiency

A Subsidy Efficiency Analysis will be completed as part of the application review at initial commitment. The analysis will be completed again at final commitment, prior to construction loan closing, and closing of the MIP subordinate loan. The MIP Loan amount may be reduced based on the final analysis. Parameters of the analysis may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A maximum of 1.20x Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) at year 1 (Initial DSCR). CalHFA may allow an initial DSCR higher than 1.20x on a case-by-case basis, if deemed necessary. The underwriting prior to construction and permanent closing must show an on-going minimum DSCR of 1.15x through the term of the CalHFA permanent first lien loan.

Qualifications: Evidence of Subsidy Efficiency continued

- A project cash flow that supports the residential component of the project based on the required CalHFA permanent first lien annual debt service coverage ratio.
- A separate project cash flow that supports any commercial component of a mixed-use project, if applicable.
- A cash flow after debt service shall be limited to the higher of 25% of the anticipated annual must pay debt service payment or 8% of gross income, during each of the first three years of project operation.
- Inflation factors and vacancy rates consistent with the Agency's Underwriting Standards.
- Developer Fee requirements consistent with CTCAC Regulation Section 10327(c)2(B).
- Capitalized reserves subject to approval by Agency for reasonableness consistent with the Agency's Underwriting Standards and the Investor Limited Partnership Agreement (ILPA).
- Review of Excess Sources over final Uses as approved by CalHFA resulting from any of the following:
 - An increase in tax credit equity.
 - An increase in permanent loan debt due to newly obtained financing, a permanent loan rate reduction or adjustments to residential income and operating expense assumptions.
- Construction Cost Savings funds evidenced by final cost certification shall be used to reduce the MIP Loan prior to CalHFA MIP Loan closing or if required by other subordinate lenders, funds may be split on a pro rata basis between CalHFA and other subordinate lenders.
- State tax credits (STC) maximum requested amount shall be consistent with CTCAC Regulations Section 10317. MIP Loan final commitment shall be subject to evidence of project's receipt of CDLAC's preliminary tax-exempt bond allocations and CTCAC's tax credits reservations within the respective year.
- Acquisition cost shall be the lesser of either:
 1. Purchase price pursuant to a current purchase and sales agreement between unrelated parties; or
 2. Purchase price of an arm's length transaction executed within the past 10 years plus reasonable carrying costs; or
 3. Appraised "as-is" value based on a current appraisal acceptable to CalHFA in its sole discretion. The appraised value of the real estate may be considered if the arm's length transaction exceeds 10 years.

Project Application Ranking Qualifications*

The prioritization of MIP project application(s) shall follow a ranking calculation method described below:

1. **Project Public Benefit and Efficiency:** MIP project applications shall be initially assigned a ranking number based on the highest amount of public benefit per dollar of the total cost-adjusted amounts of the tax-exempt bond allocation requested from CDLAC, plus the state tax credit allocation requested from CTCAC consistent with CDLAC Regulation Section 5231(g)(1) and 5231(g)(2) (Project Rank Number). Next, the Project Rank Number may be adjusted pursuant the below bonus factors, subject to eligibility:

- **MIP Efficiency Bonus:** The total requested MIP amount as a percentage of the eligible maximum MIP per unit shall be eligible for an adjustment to the original Project Rank Number based on a sliding scale per the below chart:

MIP as % of Eligible Maximum Per Unit	Adjustment
<20%	-0.500
20-40%	-0.375
41-60%	-0.250
61%-80%	-0.125
>80%	0.000

- **STC and Soft Funds Leveraging Bonus:** The total requested STC amount and total permissible soft funds (refer to limitations section) as a percentage of the maximum STC shall be eligible for an adjustment to the original Project Rank Number based on a sliding scale per the below chart:

STC as % of Eligible Maximum Per Unit	Adjustment
>80%	-0.500
61%-80%	-0.375
41-60%	-0.250
20-40%	-0.125
<20%	0.000

- **New Developer Bonus:** Developers that are new to MIP (requesting MIP funding for the first time) shall be eligible for -1 adjustment to the initial Project Rank Number. Developers that have not received MIP funding awards in the past two years shall be eligible for -0.5 adjustment to the initial Project Rank Number.
- **Geographic Distribution Bonus:** Projects located in a city with a population over 1 million, that has not received MIP funding in the prior two years, will be eligible for -1 adjustment to the initial Project Rank Number. Projects located in a city with a population over 500,000, and up to 1 million, that has not received MIP funding in the prior two years, will be eligible for -0.5 adjustment to the initial Project Rank Number.

Additionally, Application Ranking and Selection will be subject to the following criteria:

2. **Project Cap:** Per Project MIP funds available will be equal to the lesser of the following:
 - a. Maximum MIP Loan Amount of \$4 million per Project application.
 - b. Maximum of \$50,000 per MIP regulated unit for Projects located in Moderate, Low, or Lowest Resource Areas.
 - c. Maximum of \$60,000 per MIP regulated unit for Projects located in High or Highest Resource Areas.¹
 - d. Maximum MIP Loan Amount may be no more than 50% of the CalHFA Permanent Loan.

1. *Determination of resources Area Type shall be pursuant to CTCAC regulation designated on the CTCAC/HCD Opportunity Area Map.*

3. **Sponsor Cap:** No Sponsor (any individual, entity, affiliate and/or related/affiliated entity) may receive an allocation of MIP funds for more than one Project application. Sponsor shall be defined as any individual, entity, affiliate and/or related entities that has 51% or more in the general, managing, and/or administrative partnership of the MIP applicant. An exception to the Sponsor Cap limit may be considered for any Sponsor that partners with an Emerging Developer to submit a MIP project application so long as the Emerging Developer has a 51% ownership interest in the general, managing, and/or administrative partnership entity of the MIP applicant. Emerging Developer will be defined as any Sponsor which cannot independently meet the MIP Developer/Co-Developer/General Partner qualifications as outlined below.
4. **County Cap:** No county may receive more than 25% of total MIP allocations for the respective year.
5. **Age-Restricted Cap:** No more than 25% of total MIP funds for the respective year may be received by age-restricted Project Applications (units that are restricted to residents who are 55 years of age or older under the applicable provisions of California Civil Code Section 51.3 and the federal Fair Housing Act).

* *In future years, MIP may be awarded using additional factors, including, but not limited to cost containment as measured by change in total development cost from initial commitment to construction close.*

CalHFA Mixed-Income Qualified Construction Lender

A CalHFA Mixed-Income Qualified Construction Lender is defined as a Construction Lender that has closed at least five construction loans using tax-exempt bonds and 4% federal and/or state tax credits in California within the last three years and satisfies the requirements set forth within the application.

CalHFA Mixed-Income Development Team Qualifications

- The **Developer/Co-Developer/General Partner** must be registered to do business and in good standing in the state of California. A CalHFA Qualified Developer/Co-Developer/General Partner must have developed at least three comparable projects within the past five years or meet the requirements necessary to receive a minimum of seven points under the CDLAC General Partner Experience category pursuant to CDLAC Regulations Section 5230(f). Developers who do not meet these requirements are encouraged to partner with firms that can provide the required expertise and experience, which may include but is not limited to partnering with another development firm and/or third-party financial consultants.
- The proposed **Project Manager** must have personally managed the development of at least two comparable projects within the past five years.
- **Financial Consultants** hired to assist the Developer in meeting the minimum experience requirements must be able to provide details regarding at least three comparably-financed projects over the last five years.
- **Architects** new to CalHFA must provide information for three comparable projects they designed that were built and occupied within the past five years in California.
- **General Contractor** (GC) must be licensed by the State of California. GCs new to CalHFA must provide information related to three comparable (in design) projects built in the past five years. The GC must provide resumes of the principals, key staff, and the proposed on-site construction supervisor and provide evidence that they are familiar with federal, state, and locality building code requirements for comparable projects.
- **Tax Credit Investors** must have closed/executed at least five investor limited partnership agreements for a comparable deal structure using tax-exempt bonds and 4% federal and/or state tax credits in California within the last three years.
- **Management Company** must have a local presence or a field office in Northern or Southern CA (depending on the location of the Project) and have experience managing at least 10 low- to moderate-income, rent-restricted comparable (size and tenant types) projects. Also required is a resume for the proposed on-site Property Manager, reflecting prior experience during the past five years managing onsite project operations and compliance with rent-restricted units or meet the requirements necessary to receive a minimum of three points under the CDLAC Management Company Experience category pursuant to CDLAC Regulations Section 5230(f).

Permanent First Lien Loan

All project applications receiving an allocation of MIP funds must utilize CalHFA's Permanent Loan Program which includes the requirement that the underwriting prior to construction and permanent loan closing shows a minimum 1.15x initial debt service coverage ratio (including any financing with amortizing debt) for the term of the permanent loan. CalHFA may require the initial DSCR to be higher than the minimum 1.15x if deemed necessary to meet the Agency's underwriting requirements. The initial DSCR must not exceed 1.20x.

Any project application that contemplates a ground lease must accommodate CalHFA's requirement that the first lien permanent loan shall be secured against both the fee and leasehold interests in the Property. The ground lease term must exceed any CalHFA subsidy or permanent loan term(s) by 10 years or more. The term of the ground lease must be equal to or longer than the term of the CalHFA Regulatory Agreement(s).

Construction First Lien Loan

Must be provided by a CalHFA Mixed-Income Qualified Construction Lender. All parties shall permit the Agency to recycle all or a portion of any bond volume cap related to a paydown of the bond-financed loans, at the conversion of the construction financing to permanent financing and payoff of the construction loan, pursuant to the authority provided in Section 146(i)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and CDLAC Regulation Section 5060 (Bond Recycling). The bond documents, loan documents and any other documents related to the financing of the Development shall contain any necessary approvals and permit all actions necessary to accomplish a Bond Recycling.

Limitations

- MIP cannot be combined with the CTCAC 9% program.
- MIP cannot be combined with other state subordinate debt and/or subsidy programs (this does not include state tax credits) except the Infill Infrastructure Grant (IIG), Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) housing programs. Inclusion of these programs is contingent upon restrictions that are compatible with the MIP program requirements outlined herein.
- Inclusion of other debt and subsidy may be considered on a case-by-case basis in CalHFA's sole discretion so long as any restrictions of subordinate debt or subsidy are compatible with MIP program requirements outlined herein.
- Projects that have a below market rate component resulting from an inclusionary obligation or are 100% below market as a result of an inclusionary obligation must demonstrate master developer commitment through a dollar-for-dollar match of CalHFA's subsidy resources. Match can be obtained through a monetary match or equivalent in-kind contributions (e.g., land donation, land use fee concessions.)
- At the time of MIP application, a project must not have already received an allocation of 4% federal and/or state tax credits from CTCAC or a tax-exempt bond allocation from CDLAC.
- Projects will not be eligible for other subsidy resources from CalHFA in addition to MIP.

Mixed-Income Project Occupancy Requirements

Bond Regulatory Agreement Requirements (All Projects)

Must maintain either:

- a. 20% of the units must be rent restricted and occupied by individuals whose incomes are 50% or less of AMI with adjustments for household size (20% @ 50% AMI); or
- b. 40% or more of the units must be both rent restricted and occupied by individuals whose incomes are 60% or less of AMI with adjustments for household size (40% @ 60% AMI): in the latter case, CDLAC and CalHFA requires a minimum of 10% of the unit types must be at 50% or less of AMI (i.e., 30% @ 60% AMI; 10% @ 50% AMI).

Mixed Income Regulatory Agreement Requirements (All Projects)

To qualify, a project must meet the following affordability restrictions, which are based on the HUD and locality (as applicable) income and rent limits which are current at the time of MIP application, for a term of 55 years:

- 20% of total units at or below 50% of AMI; and
- 10% of total units between 60% and 80% of AMI with an average of 70% of AMI or greater, subject to the Maximum Allowable Rents outlined below; and
- Remaining units at or below 120% of AMI (with the exception of any non-restricted manager's unit(s)) OR at the affordability restrictions consistent with CTCAC requirements; and
- The minimum range between the lowest and highest occupancy target levels must be at least 40%.

(Deviations from the above requirements will only be considered if a current market study and/or appraisal report(s) support such deviations.)

The maximum average affordability is up to 60% of AMI across all CTCAC restricted units.

Maximum Allowable Rents

Rents for all restricted units must be underwritten at the lesser of either:

1. The CTCAC or locality maximum rents (whichever is applicable) based on the target occupancy; or
2. 10% below market rents, as evidenced by a current market study and/or appraisal, for the MIP affordability term.

This threshold will be analyzed at time of application and again at CalHFA's final commitment approval and may be monitored on an ongoing basis for the MIP affordability term. The report shall be current within 90 days of Agency's final commitment and may be subject to a new or updated report if the appraisal was completed more than 90 days prior to construction and/or permanent loan closing, in the Agency's sole discretion.

Any units restricted by the Agency pursuant to this program, including those units restricted in addition to the minimum requirements set forth above, shall be rented at rents not to exceed 30% of the applicable income restriction (target occupancy) required in the Agency's Regulatory Agreement.

Mixed Income Program

Mixed-Income Subordinate Loan Rates & Terms

- **Interest Rate:** 3% simple interest. A higher simple interest rate may be used at time of MIP closing in the event the true debt test is at risk for tax credit purposes.
- **Loan Term:** The MIP Loan term shall be coterminous with the CalHFA permanent first lien loan and is due upon prepayment of the CalHFA permanent first lien loan.
- **Lien Position:** MIP Loan shall be in second lien position, after the CalHFA permanent first lien loan.
- **Loan Payment:** “Surplus cash” is determined as net operating income minus total debt service and other Agency approved payments. Surplus cash distributions shall permit 50% to Borrower and 50% shall be paid pro rata as “Residual Receipts” between CalHFA and other governmental residual receipt lenders. Payments shall be applied to the current and/or accrued interest and then principal of the MIP Loan.
- **Affordability Term:** 55 years.
- **Prepayment:** The MIP Loan may be prepaid at any time without penalty.
- **Funded:** Only at permanent loan conversion.

CalHFA Conduit Issuer & Bond Recycling Programs *(subject to change)*

For more information on conduit issuer and bond recycling rates and terms, refer to CalHFA's [Conduit Issuer Program](#) and [Bond Recycling Program](#) term sheets.

CalHFA Permanent First Lien Rates & Terms *(subject to change)*

For more information on permanent first lien rates and terms, refer to [CalHFA's Tax-Exempt Permanent Loan Program Term Sheet](#).

Fees *(subject to change)*

- **Loan Fee:** 1.00% of the loan amount (50% due at final commitment and 50% due at CalHFA MIP Loan closing).
- **Conduit Issuer Program Fees:** Refer to CalHFA Conduit Issuer Program Term Sheet.
- **CDLAC Fees:** Refer to CDLAC regulations for all applicable fees.
- **Other Fees:** Refer to CalHFA Tax-Exempt Permanent Loan Program term sheet for first mortgage loan fees, credit enhancements, trustee fees, legal fees, inspection fees, administrative fees. ■

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