2018 Mid-Atlantic AHMA Conference

Compliance Updates Erica D. Etterling Rental Compliance Support Manager VA Housing Development Authority November 14, 2018



Virginia Housing Development Authority

VHDA Rental Compliance & Asset Management Department Updates

- The Compliance & Asset Management Department
 - Mission
 - Department Overview
- Emergent Compliance Issues
 - Program Complexity
 - Income Averaging Minimum Set-Aside
 - Resident Selection Criteria
 - DOJ Settlement & Special Needs Populations
- Questions



Mission

• Mission

- Protect VHDA's interests in the properties in the VHDA portfolio
- Ensure properties are in compliance with IRS requirements, HUD regulations, and VHDA's enabling legislation
- Promote quality, affordable housing for residents
- Ensure Goals & Programs Align with State Housing Policy
- House people and work with partners to ensure they receive the benefits of administered programs



Monitoring

- Monitoring Responsibilities
 - Monitor the financial and physical performance of properties
 - Handle acquisition, management, and disposition of owned properties
 - Monitor compliance for Low Income Housing Tax Credit, Tax Exempt Bond, and VHDA Loan Programs
 - Monitor compliance for HUD Section 8 Contract Administrator



Regulatory Compliance Key Functions of VHDA Monitoring

- Financial Monitoring for VHDA Loans
- Tenant File Monitoring of Program Specific Requirements
- Regular Physical Inspections
- HAP Voucher Processing
- Utility Allowance Analysis for Tax Credit properties
- Annual Reporting to the IRS, HUD, Treasury
- Provide Guidance to Business Partners



VHDA Rental Portfolio

- Monitor total of 1,432 properties (115,585 units); 950 (65,499 units) with VHDA financing
- Outstanding VHDA loan balance: \$3.1 billion
- Average property size: 81 units
- Just over 50% of properties have loan balances in excess of \$1 million



Rental Portfolio Changes

- Complex financing programs (Section 8, Rural Development, LIHTC, Tax Exempt Bond, HOME)
- More emphasis on preservation and revitalization.
- Mixed Use Mixed Income (MUMI) deals
- The portfolio is aging fast due to increased physical needs
- Increased Qualified Contracts or Owner Changes
- Work to Align Federal program requirements
 - Unit Inspections
 - Student Rule (Tax Credit & Bond Only)
 - Some Certification Alignment Permitted (FAST Act)



Program Monitoring

- Tax Credit
- Conventional Tax Exempt Bond
- Home/RD/REACH/SPARC/HCD
- Conventional Taxable without Tax Credits
- Exchange TCAP
- Section 8/Rental Assistance Demonstration (Subsidy)
- Mixed Use Mixed Income (MUMI)
- Extended Use Period



Portfolio Assignments by Region

• Regional structure with four specific teams:

- Northern Virginia
- Tidewater
- Central Virginia
- Assisted Housing

Assigned regional staff work with owners and management agents to address issues as they arise, mitigating any negative impact to the residents



How Is VHDA Changing?

- More focus on:
 - Troubled properties
 - Monitoring Multiple Program Requirements
 - Proactively working with Owners as needed to provide guidance and support
 - Management Certification Assessments
 - Physical Inspections



Compliance Support Team

Erica Etterling, Compliance Support Manager Policy Updates, Training, Great Listener, & Bacon! <u>Erica.Etterling@vhda.com</u>

Mary Hastings, Compliance Data Officer ProLink, Transfer of Ownership, DD Waivers Mary.Hastings@vhda.com

Dorothy Harris, Compliance Support Officer Communication, Tax Exempt Bond Minimum Set-Aside Reviews

Dorothy.Harris@vhda.com



Compliance Support Team

Michael Baskerville, Compliance Support Business Analyst

HDS/WTCMS Administrator

Michael.Baskerville@vhda.com

Ruben Mendez, Compliance Support Coordinator Utility Allowances, Records Coordinator <u>Ruben.Mendez@vhda.com</u>



Virginia Housing Development Authority

How Is Our Industry Changing?

- Tax Credit New Minimum Set-Aside effective March 2018
- RD Eligibility Areas Changed effective June 2018
- Section 8 RAD Conversions
- Housing Trust Fund –Project Commitment & Completion Deadline Changes
- HOME Program Commitment Deadline Changes
- VHDA REACH Funds used for Taxable, MUMI, and Tax Exempt Financing

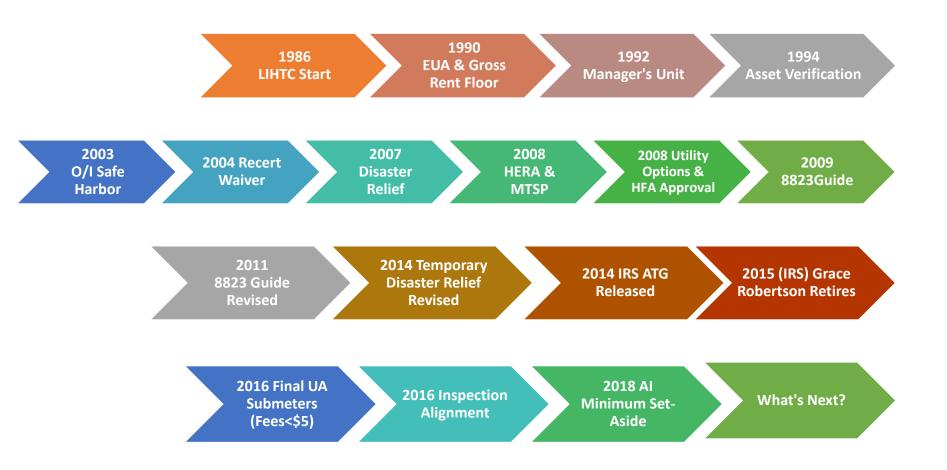


Emerging Issues

- Income Averaging (IA) Minimum Set-Aside
- Section 8 Expiring Contracts
- Aging Portfolio Expiring Extended Use Pre-1990
- Federal Alignment of Affordable Housing Programs
- Mixed Income/Mixed Use (MUMI) Properties
- 2nd Tax Credit Allocation & Layered Requirements
- Increasing Scrutiny
 - GAO LIHTC Program Review (3 Reports)
 - All things Fair Housing
 - Resident Selection Criteria
 - Integrated Housing and Target Populations



Time Line of Industry Changes





Minimum Set-Asides of Area Median Income (AMI)

20/50 Set-Aside

20% of units at 50% of AMI

40/60 Set-Aside

40% of units at 60% of AMI or

Average Income 40/60 Set-Aside (AI)

40% of units at Average of 60% of AMI

Includes Additional Income Limits

20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, **60%,** 70%, & 80%



VHDA Adopted Policies for Average Income (AI) Minimum Set-Aside

- Permitted for all future developments
- Forfeit Qualified Contract Option
- Will consider projects already approved for funding
 - Reviewed on a case by case basis



Al Minimum Set-Aside Income & Rent Limits

- HUD has not published the income limit tables for the new Multifamily Tax Subsidy Program (MTSP) AMI bands
- The Extremely Low Income (ELI) Limits may be different for other programs
- The Rent Charged Must Not Exceed the Gross Rent at Each Set-Aside



VHDA Adopted Requirements for AI Minimum Set-Aside

- 100% Low Income No Market Units
- Yes, on Line 8b of the 8609 Form Multiple Building Election
- Initial Unit Mix Showing the Average Set-Aside must be provided



Al Minimum Set-Aside Other Considerations

- Tax Credit Developments Seeking a New Tax Credit Allocation May Elect This Minimum Set-Aside
 Existing EUA <u>Will Not</u> be Terminated or Amended
- Assigned Unit Set Asides Must Float
- Must Have a Reasonable Distribution of Set-Asides
 Across All Unit Sizes



Al Minimum Set-Aside Other Considerations

- Total Rent equal to or less than the AMI Gross Rent
- Next Available Unit Rule Changes Applied to the New Federal Set-Asides
- Calculation of Income & Rent Based Upon Published MTSP 50% AMI Limits
- Property Management Software Enhancements



Al Minimum Set-Aside Compliance Monitoring

- No Change
 - Initial Extended Use Agreement Term and Requirements
 - VHDA Audit cycle or sample size
 - 100% Tax Credit Properties Must Complete One Full Annual Certification
 - Tax Exempt Bond Minimum Set-Aside
 Requirements when combined with Tax Credits



AI Compliance Monitoring Possible Changes

- [Possible] Changes
 - Year End Reporting
 - Reportable Non-Compliance for All Set-Asides on Form 8823 – TBD
- Leasing Guidelines to Address Changes in Household Income and Adjustment of Set-asides as Applicable
- When Can the Unit Set-Aside Change? When
 Should the Unit Set-Aside Change?
- Unidentified & Mysterious



Al Minimum Set-Aside

Roundtable Discussion With Industry Professionals Planned

QUESTIONS?

Tenant Selection Criteria & Community Rules

- Rules and regulations created for your developments must apply to all residents and be enforced consistently.
- Establish written guidelines for everything
- When tenants break the rules, apply the consequences fairly, consistently, and according to established procedures.



Criminal Screening

Do not impose blanket prohibitions on housing applicants with any past convictions without further individualized review

- Fair Housing & Civil Rights
- Disparate Impact
 Arrest vs. Conviction
- Nature/Severity of Crime
- Timeframe of Criminal Activity

Review Update your Tenant Selection Plan as needed at regular intervals



Violence Against Women Act VAWA

- Yes, it's important and it's the Law!
- Required for HUD assisted properties
- TC properties
 - Implement the Required Notification Documents
 - Document Review Will Be a Part of the VHDA Audit



Disability Units

Tax Credit 504 units

- Required in the QAP
- Must Actively Market the Units
- Identify the Units in WTCMS (*)
- Required Lease Addendum for Non-Disabled Residents



STRATEGIC GOAL #1



Partnering with the Housing Delivery Network

Preserve and Strengthen the Housing Delivery Network.

VHDA will work to better understand and prioritize the capacity building needs of the affordable housing delivery network. There is growing recognition that housing is tied to other public policy priorities such as economic development, education, health, and transportation, which must be addressed on an interagency basis. This reinforces the importance of VHDA's external relationships, and challenges us to strengthen those partnerships as we strive to address more complex policy issues and needs.

Use VHDA Resources to Leverage State Housing Initiatives.

VHDA is a housing partner and works diligently to support state initiatives. Examples include the Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice, DHCD's Vibrant Communities Initiative and HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration Program. Our mutual success will require organizational discipline, a strategic focus on risk management and the ability to use our resources, including REACH, in the most impactful manner.





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2019-2020 QAP Threshold

Special Needs Population

- Unless prohibited by an applicable federal subsidy program, each applicant shall commit in the application to provide a leasing preference to individuals (i) in a target population identified in a memorandum of understanding between the Authority and one or more participating agencies of the Commonwealth, (ii) having a voucher or other binding commitment for rental assistance from the Commonwealth, and (iii) referred to the development by a referring agent approved by the Authority. The leasing preference shall not be applied to more than ten percent (10%) of the units in the development at any given time.
- No longer a point item
- No longer requiring a Compliance waiver from VHDA



Roles for Special Needs Units

VHDA

- Provides access to units
- Provide a system to track referral activity (e.g., referrals, leased units, application status, etc.)
- Work as a liaison between the referral partners and property managers

Referral Partner – DBHDS for DD Units

Provide rental assistance and supportive services to individuals and families with a serious, persistent mental illness, a chronic chemical addiction, or a serious and persistent mental illness with a co-occurring chronic chemical addiction who are also facing a housing crisis (e.g. experiencing or at risk of homelessness) or exiting a residential housing or treatment program.



Roles for Special Needs Units

Owner/Property Management

- Regularly share unit availability with Referral Partners & VHDA using WTCMS and VAHousingSearch.com
- Consistently follow Resident Selection Criteria for accepting applicants from referral partners
- Accept rental assistance for referred applicant

Referral Applicant

- Applies with State Rental Assistance or other rent assistance
- If not interested, may not appear to apply or proceed with the application



Developmentally Disabled (DD) Units

Department of Justice (DOJ) Settlement with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

Required Communication

- Regularly Communicate With Your Assigned Referral Agent When You Have Available Units
- Ensure Property Status Is Updated On VirginiaHousingSearch.com



Developmentally Disabled (DD) Units

- Rent Loss Payments Are Available for Units Held For a Pending Referral
- Request if a referral is available each vacant unit – each time until up to 10% of units have been leased
 - Must Include Documented Communication With the DBHDS Referral Partner for Approval

Contact Mary Hastings, <u>mary.hastings@vhda.com</u> if you have questions about unit marketing, holding units, or the waiver process.



Resources for Landlord and Property Managers

There is a requirement that the Service Provider have back-up assistance if the individual has an issue:

- Q: As a property manager, who do I contact when an individual...
 - misses a rent payment?
 - damages their unit?
 - violates their lease? (noise, housekeeping, illegal activity, etc.)
 - abandons their unit?
- A: There are multiple "eyes on" an individual. Each person may have a different primary contact, depending on the assistance they receive. The key players are:
 - Support Coordinators
 - Provider of Support Services
 - Family/Guardian
 - DBHDS' Regional Housing Specialist



What Happens in an Emergency?

- Call 9-1-1 In cases of a true emergency involving fire, health, and safety
- Contact the individual's emergency contact listed included in the applicant file
- Follow-up with the designated Case Worker or Support Manager
- Complete an incident report

Basically, ask yourself "What policies/procedures does my company follow when any other tenant has an emergency?"



TC Annual Reports

- No Change in Monitoring Fees
- ACH for fees Required for 2018 Annual Reporting
- Electronic Signatures through Adobe workflow

January 11, 2019 – Owner Reports Forwarded February 11, 2019 – Deadline for All Annual Reports and Fee Payments



Other Topics

- Sign up for <u>VHDA Updates &</u>
 <u>Announcements</u>
- Register and Update Property Info on <u>www.VirginiaHousingSearch.com</u>
- Additional Training Opportunities See Mid Atlantic AHMA website



Constant Contact

About Us	Our Programs	Homebuyers	Homeowners	Renters	Business Partners	Search	€
VHD						Follow VHDA 🛅 😭	2 <mark>8 8</mark> 8
VHDA > Business Partners > Property Owners & Managers > Updates and Announcements						Español Text Size: A- A A+ Print 🗗	
Updates and Announcements						Updates and	
Please sign up to receive periodic updates that will address:						Announcements Compliance Workshops and	
Changes to existing programs						Training	
New loan programs						Multifamily Loan Servicing	
Modifications to processes and procedures						VHDA Multifamily Loan Compliance	
Changes in Social Security, Medicare, and other programs that impact property managers This will be our primary method of communicating important updates regarding VHDA's multifamily programs. Sign Up for Updates						Project-based Section 8 and Section 236/RAP	
						Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Compliance	
						Income Limits & Fair Market Rents Multifamily Financial Reporting Requirements	



Virginia Housing Search

- Free marketing website paid for by VHDA.
- State disaster recovery initiative.
- Assist in helping to find accessible housing better
- You can add a link to your company website.
- Not just for VHDA financed properties.
- Must update periodically.



