

Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
Policy on Development Fees For Tax Credit Projects
Effective October 16, 2020

This MOHCD Policy on Development Fees for Tax Credit Projects applies to all developments seeking City funding in conjunction with new Tax Credit financing for the current project, including recapitalization projects with existing MOHCD loans. This does not apply to non-Tax Credit projects such as Small Sites Program (SSP) projects, which are subject to the SSP Program Guidelines. It also does not apply to HOPE SF or RAD projects, which are subject to separate developer fee policies.

Developers may include fees in their project budgets according to the terms below.

I. MINIMUM FEES: 5% of total development costs.

II. MAXIMUM FEES: Notwithstanding any other section of this Policy, the maximum Total Fee that may be included in basis is the Tax Credit limit (currently 15% of Eligible Basis) subject to the additional limitations identified below.

A. Total Development Fee

("Total Fee") for different project types are further detailed below, and reflect the sum of the Cash-Out Fee (Base, Additional, and Deferred) and Non Cash-Out Fee (Deferred and General Partner Equity Contribution).

B. Fee Components

1. Cash-Out Fee (Base and Additional)

Project Type	9% Project - Maximum Cash-Out Fee	4% Project - Maximum Cash-Out Fee	Notes
New Construction	TCAC Maximum	The lesser of TCAC Maximum or \$2,200,000 (Base) + \$10,000 per unit over 100 units (Additional), if additional cash-out requires no additional MOHCD gap funding.	
Newly Acquired and Substantially Rehabilitated (Per unit Hard Cost >= \$75,000)	TCAC Maximum	Same as new construction fee.	-Hard Cost is defined as "Total Construction Costs" summed in the MOHCD Application in cell K37, Tab 4b-Perms&U.
Substantial Rehabilitation (Per unit Hard Cost >=\$75,000) by Existing or Affiliate GP -- Includes New City Funds or Re-structured City Debt	50% TCAC Maximum	The lesser of TCAC maximum or \$1,100,000 (Base) + \$10,000 per unit over 100 units (Additional), if additional cash-out requires no additional MOHCD gap funding.	-Sponsor may take the allowable fee for Newly Acquired and Rehabilitated projects described above if 1) in the project's original syndication, sponsor did not take the maximum allowable developer fee; or 2) sponsor adds new affordable units to the project.

			<p>-Hard Cost is defined as “Total Construction Costs” summed in the MOHCD Application in cell K37, Tab 4b-Perms&U.</p> <p>-Sponsor cash out permissible only per MOHCD Cash Out Acquisition/Rehabilitation, Resyndication, and Refinancing Policy.</p>
<p>Recapitalization, acquisition, or transfer with less than \$75,000 Per unit hard cost capital improvements</p>	No Fee	No Fee	<p>-Hard Cost is defined as “Total Construction Costs” summed in the MOHCD Application in cell K37, Tab 4b-Perms&U.</p> <p>-Sponsor cash out permissible only per MOHCD Cash Out Acquisition/Rehabilitation, Resyndication, and Refinancing Policy.</p>

- a. A note about Cash-Out Additional Fee: If Eligible Basis is less than Threshold Basis, projects over 100 units may take up to \$10,000 per unit over 100 as cash-out fee, but only if such cash payment does not require additional gap funding from MOHCD (see MOHCD Application, Tab 8-DevFeeCalc, for calculation).
2. Cash-Out Fee (Deferred): If Eligible Basis is less than Threshold Basis, Developers may include a Cash-Out Deferred Fee component in the Total Fee up to the aggregate of 50% of surplus cash flow taken over the project’s first 15 years of operation (after typical payments of base ground rent, the general partner management fee, and investor asset management fee, if applicable). Cash-Out Deferred Fee is shown as both a source and a use of funds in the capital budget. Developers may use industry standard inflators of income and expenses to calculate Cash-Out Deferred Fee.
 - a. Distributions of surplus cash as Deferred Fee are in lieu of (not in addition to) the typical 33.3% distribution of surplus cash to the Sponsor. At Year 15 of operations, or earlier if the Deferred Fee is fully repaid before then, a surplus cash distribution shall commence at 33.3% of surplus cash (after typical payments of base ground rent, the general partner management fee, and investor asset management fee, if applicable).
 - b. For projects supported by the Local Operating Subsidy Program, Cash-Out Deferred Fee must be taken over a minimum time period of 5 years.
3. Non-Cash Out Fee (Deferred and General Partner Equity Contribution): Where Eligible Basis is less than Threshold Basis, Developers should include in Total Fee the maximum amount available for re-contribution as General Partner Equity or as Non-Cash Out Deferred Fee. It is

MOHCD’s intent to use Deferred Fee and General Partner Equity Contribution up to 15% of Eligible Basis to reduce MOHCD’s overall contribution to projects, so that MOHCD may invest its funds in the most projects possible. MOHCD will work with developers, lenders, and investors to ensure that the developer fee structure meets MOHCD financing goals and feasibility considerations.

4. Commercial Developer Fee is not addressed in this Policy. Please see MOHCD’s Commercial Underwriting Guidelines for information regarding development fees associated with Commercial, Community Serving Commercial, and Public Benefit Use spaces.

III. FEE DISTRIBUTION: The Cash-Out Base Fee shall be divided equally between “Project Management Fee” and “At-Risk Fee” (subject to the “At-Risk Fee Adjustment” described below). Any Cash-Out Additional Fee will be distributed as At-Risk Fee. Cash-Out Fees (Base and Additional) shall be distributed according to achievement of certain development milestones, as follows:

Example below assumes Base Fee is \$2.2 M and Additional Fee is \$300,000.

Project Management Milestone	% of Fee Distributed	Fee Amount
Acquisition, if applicable, or predevelopment loan closing (or another agreed-upon milestone if acquisition is not applicable, e.g. being awarded a City-owned site through a RFQ/RFP process)*	15%	\$165,000
During Predevelopment with no more than 50% of the total Project Management Fee to be disbursed prior to construction closing*	35%	\$385,000
At Construction Closing	20%	\$220,000
During Construction (disbursed upon request depending on % of construction completion) or at Completion of Construction	20%	\$220,000
Project Close-Out: Placed-In-Service application; 100% lease-up; City approval of sponsor’s project completion report and documents; and City acceptance of final cost certification.	10%	\$110,000
TOTAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT FEE	100%	\$1,100,000

***Joint Venture development team partners must split all Fee during the pre-development period 50%-50%. This helps ensure the new or emerging partner has access to Fee upfront to support their participation in the project and their capacity building.**

At-Risk Fee Milestone	% of Fee Distributed	Fee Amount
Qualified Occupancy (95% Leased up and Draft Cost Certification Audit)	20%	\$280,000
Permanent Loan Closing/Conversion (Final Cost Certification Audit)	50%	\$700,000
Project Close-Out: Placed-In-Service application; 100% lease-up; City approval of sponsor’s project completion report and documents; and City acceptance of final cost certification.	30%	\$420,000
TOTAL AT-RISK FEE	100%	\$1,400,000

A. At-Risk Fee Adjustment

When outside funding sources limit the Cash Out Fee to a value less than allowed under this Policy (e.g., California’s Department of Housing and Community Development), the Developer may still be paid a maximum of \$1.1M as a Project Management Fee and the At-Risk Fee shall be reduced to bring the total Cash-Out Fee (Base and Additional) in line with the outside funding source cap.

IV. WAIVERS OF THE DEVELOPER FEE POLICY

The Citywide Affordable Housing Loan Committee may approve a waiver or modification of any portion of this Policy for the purpose of assuring project feasibility. All recommendations related to this Policy are subject to the Mayor’s approval in his or her sole discretion.

V. CDBG or HOME REQUIREMENTS

If MOHCD uses CDBG or HOME funds to pay the development fee, it is considered “program income”, and, should MOHCD request it, the Sponsor must provide a report to MOHCD on its use of developer fees.

Recipients of CDBG administrative funding may not also receive a Project Management Fee for the same project covering the same time period.

VI. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy applies to any development that has not received its gap financing commitment or debt restructuring approval from MOHCD by the effective date of the Policy.