



**NORTH  
CAROLINA  
HOUSING**  
FINANCE AGENCY

*NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Program Guide  
Home Ownership Lending Group*

*April 2025*

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# Section 1: Introduction

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## 1.1 About NCHFA

NCHFA was created in 1973 by North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 122-A as a corporate body with responsibility to provide affordable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income North Carolina households.

NCHFA has office hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The telephone number is (919) 877-5700. The mailing address for NCHFA is the following:

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency  
Home Ownership Lending Group  
3508 Bush Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

This Program Guide and other resource materials may be downloaded from the NCHFA website at [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com). Marketing brochures and flyers may be available from time to time and will be provided to lenders when available. All lender marketing materials must comply with the Guidelines set under our Marketing Policy and Guidelines for NC Housing Finance Agency's Home Buyer Programs.

## 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment™ Program Guide is to provide a basic overview of the key operational and program details of the \$15,000 NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ and associated programs regarding borrower and property eligibility, credit, underwriting, and closing procedures. Lenders must review and understand all program requirements.

This guide is not a substitute for lender training classes offered by NCHFA on a recurring basis for the benefit of loan officers, operations personnel, and other mortgage staff. NCHFA requires all participating lender personnel to attend one of these regular training classes to get a more in-depth understanding of these programs. When changing employers, OPS staff will be required to complete an on-line quiz.

Information contained in the NC 1<sup>ST</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ Program Guide is subject to change. Revisions of or supplements to this Program Guide

may be made from time to time. To ensure prompt notification of any changes, it is the lender's responsibility to provide NCHFA with correct e-mail contact information.

Lenders wishing to use the Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC) program alone or in conjunction with the NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ program must refer to the MCC Program Guide on the NCHFA website.

The Program Guide and Mortgage Origination Agreement signed by lender with Master Servicer, together, govern the rules, policies, and procedures under this program. It is lenders responsibility to understand these agreements in their entirety.

### 1.3 Program Contact Information

Name	E-mail Address	Telephone (919 area code)	Questions and Topics
All Program Related Questions	ratelocks@nchfa.com	877 - 5700	Underwriting, lock questions, interest rate questions, and program questions

NCHFA displays current interest rates, loan types and other program information on the NCHFA website. The NCHFA website address is [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com).

Participating lenders must use NCHFA's Online Lender Services System (OLS) to reserve loans and maintain their pipeline. It can be accessed via <https://www.nchfa.org/MySystems>.



## Section 2: Definitions

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The following words are used in this Program Guide with these meanings:

**ACH**— Automated clearing house. Direct deposit transfer of funds from one bank to another.

**APOR**— Average Prime Offer Rate (APOR) is an index published by the Federal Reserve Board.

**Award Letter**— Letter related to the Down Payment Assistance (DPA) on FHA loans only, provided with Commitment intended by NCHFA to satisfy the requirements of HUD Handbook 4000.1 II.A.4.d.ii (C).

**AUS**— Automated Underwriting System.

**Co-borrower**— An individual who is listed on loan documents and whose income and credit are used to qualify for the loan. A co-borrower must meet the annual income limits and must establish North Carolina residency within 60 days of closing.

**Co-signer/Co-Signer**— A non-occupant who is co-signing the Note for a particular loan. Not allowed on the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage program.

**Commitment**— Letter provided to lender via OLS upon NCHFA’s review and approval of pre-closing documents. Under no circumstances may a lender close any NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ loan until a Commitment has been issued. The Commitment to purchase the loan is subject to the Master Servicer’s review of the closing documents for compliance with GNMA, FNMA, or Freddie Mac regulatory guidelines in addition to any requirements of the Master Servicer.

**CPLP**— Community Partners Loan Pool (“CPLP”), which offers a deferred 0% interest subordinate lien administered by NCHFA, which can be used as down payment or for closing costs.

**Discount Points**— A point equals 1% of the loan amount that is used to reduce the interest rate on a mortgage below prevailing market rates. Discount points are not allowed.

**DPA**— Down payment assistance or subordinate financing offered by NCHFA.

**DTI**— Debt-to-income ratio, which cannot exceed 45.0% for any NC Home Advantage Mortgage™.

**Early Check**— Fannie Mae’s service designed to assist lenders in identifying and correcting potential eligibility and/or data issues early in the underwriting process and prior to loan delivery.

**Electronic Signatures**— Are acceptable on NCHFA non-security documents if they meet E-SIGN<sup>2</sup> and UETA federal standards. Also referred to as “E-signatures” or “e-signing.”

**Eligible Property**— A residence located in North Carolina that is eligible for insurance under FHA, VA, USDA or conventional guidelines.

**Existing Home**— A dwelling unit that has been previously occupied.

**Extension Fees**— Loans may be assessed a 7-day, 15-day or 30-day extension fee at a cost of 0.0625%, 0.125% or 0.25%, respectively. The extension fees are automatically deducted from lender compensation at the time the Master Servicer purchases the loan from the lender.

**Fannie Mae**— Federal National Mortgage Association or FNMA.

**Family Income** — Defined as the gross annual income of the mortgagor(s) and any other person who is expected to both live in the residence being financed **and to be** secondarily liable on the mortgage. Family income would include the income of 1) the mortgagor(s), 2) the spouse of any mortgagor(s), 3) titleholders residing in the subject property, and 4) any person who guarantees the loan and intends to reside in the property.

**First Time Home Buyer (FTHB)**— A borrower (mortgagor), spouse, or titleholder who has not had an ownership interest in a principal residence within three (3) years of closing on the next home purchase.

**FHA**— The Federal Housing Administration.

**FHA Insurance, FHA-Insured**— Insurance provided by FHA for residential mortgages which protects lenders against some or most of the losses that can occur when a borrower defaults on a mortgage loan.

**FNMA**— Federal National Mortgage Association or “Fannie Mae.”

**Freddie Mac** — Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation

**Free-Trader Agreement**— Used between separated spouses when one spouse wants to purchase property without putting the other spouse on the deed. It is used to ensure that the non-owning spouse does not obtain an interest in the property. Used for borrowers who are separated, but yet not divorced. It is not a method for avoiding income of married borrowers. Must be recorded prior to closing.

**GNMA**— The Government National Mortgage Association or “Ginnie Mae.”

**HUD**— The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Industry Standards**— The guidelines published and used by FHA, VA, USDA or FNMA/Freddie Mac to underwrite mortgage loans for acceptance by these entities.

**Legally Enforceable Obligation Letter**— Letter related to the DPA for FHA loans provided with Commitment intended by NCHFA to satisfy the requirements of HUD Handbook 4000.1 II.A.4.d.ii(C)<sup>4</sup>.

**Lender**— Any mortgage lender that is a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac approved seller/servicer in good standing (if originating conventional loans); is approved as an FHA mortgage originator (if originating FHA loans); is approved as a VA mortgage originator (if originating VA loans); or is approved as a USDA mortgage originator (if originating USDA loans).

**Lock-In Expiration Date**— Sixty (60) days past the date the loan is first locked in the NCHFA OLS system. The loan must be purchased by the Master Servicer by the Lock-In Expiration Date to avoid extension fees.

**Manufactured Homes (Mobile Homes)**— A manufactured building designed to be used as a single-family dwelling unit which has been constructed and labeled indicating compliance with the HUD administered National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974<sup>5</sup>. NCHFA will only accept manufactured housing that is new, never occupied, doublewide or larger, and on a permanent foundation for FHA, VA and USDA loans. Manufactured Homes are not eligible for conventional loans.

**Marital Interest**— An ownership interest generated through marriage to a person who owned a property prior to that marriage. Property owned by one spouse prior to marriage and not conveyed to the other spouse during marriage may not, under certain circumstances, prohibit that spouse from being a FTHB.

**Mark-to-Market Fee**— A fee applied on any loan purchased by the Master Servicer for which the lock has expired. The mark-to-market fee is based on market conditions at the time the Master Servicer purchases the loan from the lender. In no circumstance will the mark-to-market fee be less than what an extension fee would have been had an extension been requested timely.

**Master Servicer**— Alabama Housing Finance Authority doing business as ServiSolutions (“ServiSolutions”), the entity designated by NCHFA to purchase and service loans under the NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ programs and who approves eligible Participating Lenders.

**MI Company**— Also known as PMI. A private mortgage insurance company providing mortgage insurance on conventional loans.

**MCC**— Mortgage Credit Certificate issued by NCHFA according to the rules and regulations determined by the IRS.

**Modular Home**— A manufactured building designed to be used as a single-family dwelling unit which has been constructed and labeled indicating compliance with the North Carolina State Uniform Residential Building Code, Volume VII (Look for NC Validation Stamp).

**Mortgage Origination Agreement (“Agreement”)**— An agreement describing the mortgage originator’s rights and responsibilities, made between North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, the Master Servicer and lenders participating in the NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ program.

**Mortgagor**— The borrower(s) in a mortgage transaction. A person or persons who borrows money to finance the purchase of real estate using the value of the property as collateral for the loan and promises to repay the loan.

**Mortgage Revenue Bonds**—Tax-exempt financing authorized under IRS and Congressional regulations and used to finance mortgage loans under the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage programs.

**NCHFA**— North Carolina Housing Finance Agency.

**NC 1st Home Advantage Down Payment**— Mortgage loans and/or down payment funded through tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds NCHFA’s 1st Home Advantage Down Payment is intended for first time homebuyers, qualifying veterans or homebuyers purchasing a property in Qualified Census Tracts, who meet the property acquisition and income limits set by the IRS and HUD. All adult occupants and titleholders must meet the guidelines established by Congress and IRS for recipients of tax-exempt, mortgage revenue bond funding.

**New Construction**— A dwelling unit that is new and/or never occupied.

**Non-Borrowing Co-Occupant**— Any person age 18 years or older who is expected to occupy the property and will not be secondarily liable on the mortgage.

**Online Lender Services System (OLS)**— The system made available by NCHFA to its lending partners for the lock and confirmation of NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ and MCC-assisted loans.

**PMI Company**— Also known as MI Company. A private mortgage insurance company providing mortgage insurance on conventional loans.

**Participating Lender** —A lender approved by NCHFA and the Master Servicer to originate, process, underwrite, close and fund mortgage loans under NCHFA approved programs.

**Permanently Fixed**— Refers to a mobile home with the towing hitch or running gear, including wheels and axles, removed, and which has been attached to a permanent foundation (including basement, crawl space and slab types of foundations).

**POA**— A properly recorded, signed, and executed power of attorney legal document.

**Prepaid Items**— Amounts required by the Participating Lender to be paid at settlement in advance of their due date. These items may include property taxes, accrued interest, association dues, mortgage insurance premiums and hazard insurance premiums. Prepaid items do not include loan origination fees, “Points” or “Discount Points”.

**Principal Residence**— Housing that the eligible borrower will occupy within 60-days after closing as a primary residence. The home cannot be used as an investment property or second home.

**Program Guidelines**— Guidelines used in conjunction with established mortgage industry credit and property guidelines to determine eligibility for NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ financing.

**QM** — Qualified Mortgage per Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

**RESPA**— The "Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act".

**Secondarily Liable** – Refers to a borrower(s), mortgagor, or other person that has or will have a property interest in the property that will be forfeited in the event there is a foreclosure or default on the property by the mortgagor(s). A spouse is an example of someone who would be “secondarily liable” under terms of this program. Secondarily liable on the debt would include someone who acts as a surety or guarantor if they also intend to live in the residence being financed.

**Servicing Agreement**— An agreement describing the mortgage servicer’s rights and responsibilities made between NCHFA, the Participating Lender, and the Master Servicer.

**Seller Contribution**— Amount the seller may contribute toward the borrower’s closing expenses. Follow industry guidelines for Loan Type (i.e., FHA, USDA, VA, or Conventional).

**The State**— The State of North Carolina.

**Titleholder**— Anyone who holds title to the subject property. Non-occupant titleholders not allowed.

**TRID**— The TILA RESPA Integrated Disclosures that went into effect October 3, 2015. The Loan Estimate replaces the initial Truth-in-Lending disclosure and Good Faith Estimate. The Closing Disclosure replaces the final Truth-in-Lending disclosure and HUD-1 Settlement Statement.

**United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Development (USDA)**— The USDA home loan guaranty provides loans in rural areas to finance homes and building sites.

**Veterans Administration (VA)**— The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 authorized this agency to administer a variety of benefit programs designed to facilitate the adjustment of returning veterans to civilian life. The VA home loan guaranty program is designed to encourage lenders to offer long-term, low down payment mortgages to eligible veterans by guaranteeing the lender against some or all loss caused by default of the borrower.

## Section 3: Lender Participation Guidelines

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### 3.1 Lender Participation Guidelines

The Program is restricted to lenders who meet the following requirements:

- 1) Are approved as Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac sellers/servicers in good standing if originating conventional loans, approved as FHA mortgage originators if originating FHA loans, approved as VA mortgage originators if originating VA loans, or approved as USDA mortgage originators if originating USDA loans;
- 2) Have and maintain a retail mortgage origination office physically located in North Carolina that has originated residential mortgages for at least one (1) year. If less than one full year of physical presence, you may apply after six months of having a physical location opened and located in North Carolina originating loans along with a Letter of Recommendation from another state housing finance agency indicating good standing.;
- 3) Originate, process, underwrite, close and fund the loan in their own name;
- 4) In compliance with applicable minimum capital requirements imposed by federal banking laws and regulations;
- 5) Not under supervisory control of, or subject to, enforcement proceedings by federal banking regulators with respect to any violations or alleged violations of federal banking laws or regulations;
- 6) Have a net company asset worth of \$1,000,000 (subject to change);
- 7) Be approved by NCHFA and the Master Servicer and execute a Mortgage Origination Agreement with both; and
- 8) Have the in-house capability and legal authority to provide interim servicing of closed loans prior to purchase by Master Servicer, and
- 9) Complete in-person lender training (or approved webinar training) with NCHFA staff.
- 10) Any lender who does not close a minimum of twelve (12) loans with NCHFA in a calendar year may be removed from the program at the Agency's discretion. A lender may be removed from participation from Agency programs at any time for fraud or program violations, without recourse.

By becoming an approved lender and participating in the Program, the lender understands

and agrees that the Agency reserves the right to suspend the lender's ability to make new locks under the Program if the lender has outstanding fees, late documents, excessive withdrawal of locks, or for any other reason as determined by the Agency in its sole discretion. Any loan not re-purchased by lender as requested under the Agreement by Master Servicer will result in lender being terminated from program.

**Loan officers must reside in North Carolina** with an NMLS address in NC (or a county that touches the NC border). Loan officers are required to attend in-person training (or approved webinar training) before offering NCHFA loan products. When possible, Operations Staff are encouraged to attend in-person training, however attendance at NCHFA conducted webinars, required as indicated, will satisfy the training requirement for Ops staff only. Loan officers must maintain at least five (5) closed loan products with NCHFA in a rolling 12-month period to remain eligible to originate NCHFA products. Loan Officers who fall below that threshold must repeat training.

All staff who originate, process, underwrite, close, or have access to NCHFA's On Line Lender Services system (OLS) must remain current on NCHFA program guidelines and requirements. All staff with access to the OLS must receive training before being issued a User ID by the Lender's System Administrator. After issuing a User ID, the system administrator must notify NCHFA of the new user, including the user's contact information and most recent training date. Loan officers must complete in-person training annually or remain current on NCHFA programs by closing at least 5 loans in a rolling 12-month year.

### **Training Policy**

#### **Operations Staff:**

All processors, closers and underwriters must attend training. Webinars are normally offered monthly. Processors and underwriters are not authorized to work on NCHFA products until they have completed training and passed the required quiz with a score of 80% or higher. The quiz is sent after each webinar and is comprehensive, but it only has to be passed once. After passing the quiz, the Operation's staff member should take a screen shot of their passing grade to give to their supervisor. They should save the screen shot as evidence of their passing score.

Failure to follow both NCHFA and ServiSolutions guidelines may result in a non-purchasable loan or non-issuance of the Mortgage Credit Certificate. All members of the Lender's team must complete required training, even if they have worked with NC Housing Finance Agency products at their previous employer.

#### **Loan Officers:**

Prior to originating any NCHFA product Loan Officers must attend the three-hour ***Let's Make Home Happen*** (LMHH) class, in-person when available (on-line as a synchronous class until further notice). This class is normally offered monthly. After completing the

class, Loan Officers must also pass a quiz with a score of 80% or higher. After completing both the class and the quiz, the Loan Officer should forward their class date and a screenshot of their passing quiz score to their supervisor and the Training Coordinator at NCHFA. At that time, Loan Officers are eligible to originate NCHFA products.

### **3.2 Annual Recertification Requirements**

On an annual basis, each lender will be required to electronically recertify that it is still in compliance with NCHFA mortgage origination guidelines and reconfirm lender locations and loan officer additions/subtractions. Official audited financials are required. The designated corporate contact for each participating lender will receive an e-mail from NCHFA that contains a single-purpose weblink and user ID for performing the recertification process.

**There is a \$375 fee payable by ACH at the end of the recertification.** Failure to recertify may prohibit future participation in NCHFA programs.

In addition, the Master Servicer may require an annual recertification that is separate from the annual NCHFA recertification.

### **3.3 Online Lender Services System (OLS)**

To reserve an NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage™ loan, the lender must access the Online Lender Services System (OLS) at <https://www.nchfa.org/MySystems>. OLS access is granted by the Lender's System Administrator. Access is restricted to lender's authorized staff who have met NCHFA training requirements.



***Instructions for creating a new NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment™ lock***

1. Click the NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ reservation link on OLS home page, left menu.
2. OLS will guide you through a multi-step process for creation and submission of the lock. Use the [Continue>>] button to navigate through these steps.
3. At the Final Review step, review your input and click the [Submit!] button. This action will generate a confirmation e-mail and lock your rate, starting the clock on the closing and delivery timelines required under the program.
4. Make a note of the NCHFA Loan Number displayed on the confirmation page. Please use this loan number when corresponding with NCHFA concerning the loan.

*Note: You must have all the requested loan information available to you at the time you are locking the NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ loan as partially completed data cannot be saved in OLS. If at any time during the lock process you choose to cancel, all previously entered information will be lost.*

### **3.4 Record Retention**

NCHFA, its Master Servicer, or authorized Quality Control firm may perform random reviews of lender records pertaining to NCHFA's NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ program. Therefore, the originating lender is required to maintain for a period of 36 months a copy of the entire loan file, appraisal and credit package, including closing package.

### **3.5 Master Servicer Contact Information**

ServiSolutions is the Master Servicer for the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ loans. Each participating lender must be approved by NCHFA and the Master Servicer through execution of a Mortgage Origination Agreement.

The following contact information for ServiSolutions information may be subject to change:

Master Servicer:

Alabama Housing Finance Authority, doing business as ServiSolutions

Contact e-mail:

- Closed Loan Delivery Questions/Pended conditions - [questions@ahfa.com](mailto:questions@ahfa.com)
- Purchase Advice Questions - [purchaseadvice@ahfa.com](mailto:purchaseadvice@ahfa.com)
- ServiSolutions Policy Questions, Candi Clapp - [cclapp@ahfa.com](mailto:cclapp@ahfa.com)
- Lender Online issues, Brian Hunt - [bhunt@ahfa.com](mailto:bhunt@ahfa.com)

- Loan Collateral & Final Docs Original Notes /Recorded MTGS or DOTs /Final Title Policy, Renee Dotson - rdotson@ahfa.com
- Servicing questions, post purchase, John Feaster - jfeaster@servsol.com

Address:

ServiSolutions - Final Documents  
7460 Halcyon Pointe Drive, Suite 200  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
(334)-244-9200

ServiSolutions provides answers to frequently answered questions on its website at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com). Any questions concerning their guidelines should be directed to ServiSolutions at (334) 244-9200 or [lenderinquiries@servsol.com](mailto:lenderinquiries@servsol.com).

It is the lender's responsibility to understand all ServiSolutions requirements for delivery of loans and requirements for purchase of closed loans under the Program.

Lenders should refer to the ServiSolutions closing package checklist at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com).

### **3.6 Lender Compensation**

The lender shall be paid a fixed amount as a servicing release premium (SRP) for all eligible loans under the NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ program that also meet the guidelines of FHA, VA, USDA or Fannie Mae. The SRP amount is 1.5% for all loan types. The SRP is paid on the net balance of the first mortgage when purchased by the Master Servicer. SRPs may be changed with 30 days' notice by NCHFA to lender.

Please note extension and penalty fees for late and non-delivery in Section 9.

### **3.7 Fraud / Lender Violations / Lender Self-Reporting**

The lender and its personnel are required to report to NCHFA any false statements, program abuses or violations of state and federal laws and regulations within 30 days of occurrence. Any reports or notifications in this regard made to Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, FHA, VA or USDA must also be reported to NCHFA in a timely manner.

Any instances of fraud concerning a NCHFA loan, before, during or after origination, must be reported to NCHFA.

## Section 4: Loan Eligibility Guidelines

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The following section details the various loan options available to participating lenders and their eligible borrowers.

The NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage Down Payment is funded through tax-exempt mortgage revenue bond (MRBs) financing. Certain income and sales price limits apply. Eligible borrowers including anyone who will become the mortgagor must be first-time homebuyers or meet certain exceptions. The use of funds under this program is subject to IRS Recapture Tax rules. Borrowers may be eligible for reimbursement of any potential recapture tax paid to the IRS. Recapture Tax Reimbursement program details can be reviewed at [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com). The DPA is a subordinate lien and subject to repayment under the terms specified below.

Qualified borrowers who utilize the \$15,000 DPA **cannot** combine these funds with the NC Home Advantage 3% down payment assistance program or Mortgage Credit Certificate program (MCC).

### 4.1 NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment™ Loan Program Overview

The NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ program offers all eligible borrowers affordable mortgage financing. NCHFA does not make the loan(s) directly to the borrower; instead, the designated Master Servicer purchases eligible loans from its participating lenders.

To be eligible, all borrowers must:

- 1) meet FHA, VA, USDA, or Conventional industry guidelines. For example, follow standard industry guidelines for seller contribution, student loans, bankruptcy, foreclosure, etc.;
- 2) have incomes within the established limits, which vary by county and household size;
- 3) have a maximum debt-to-income (DTI) ratio of 45.0%;
- 4) be a first-time home buyer, certain military veterans may qualify or targeted census tract
- 5) have at least two (2) credit scores per borrower, with the mid or low score at 640 or better, and receive an AUS approval (660 for manufactured homes); and
- 6) occupy and maintain the property as a principal residence.

## 4.2 Down Payment Assistance (DPA) – \$15,000 Overview

Down payment assistance (DPA) is available to first-time homebuyers and certain other borrowers who qualify for an NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage™ loan from participating lenders. Income limits vary by household size and county of subject property. In addition, minimum FICO credit scores and DTI limits apply.

Eligible borrowers must use the full \$15,000.

The DPA is provided as a 15-year deferred/forgiven subordinate lien. The DPA is deferred for the first 10 years and forgiven by 20% each year at the end of years 11 through 15. After 15 years, the loan is fully forgiven. Repayment of the DPA (any portion not yet forgiven) is due and payable when the house is sold, no longer owner occupied or refinanced before year 15 or there is a breach of the Promissory Note.

### a) Key NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment™ \$15,000 DPA Highlights:

- 15 year deferred/subordinate lien
- Forgiven at 20% per year at end of years 11-15
- 0% interest rate on DPA
- Repayment in full is required when home is sold or refinanced before year 15, or borrower breaches the Promissory Note
- Total, gross family income of all mortgagors (and those expected to live in the home and hold an ownership interest, including a spouse)
- Restricted to first-time home buyers, certain military veterans, and targeted census tracts

## 4.3 Eligible Loan Types

NCHFA accepts 30-year fixed-rate FHA, VA, USDA and conventional loan types under its NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ program. FHA loan types include FHA 203(b) loans and condominium 234(c) loans.

All loans financed under the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment™ program must be purchase transactions. First-time homebuyers and certain military veterans are eligible for the \$15,000 down payment option. Targeted census tracts (listed on our website) are also eligible. Borrowers may only have one outstanding NCHFA loan or home or NCHFA product at a time.

An AUS finding of “Refer” or “Ineligible” is not eligible for the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Program™. Manually underwritten loans are not eligible.

- 1) FHA Loan Program: NCHFA offers 30-year fixed-rate loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration. These loans are underwritten to FHA and program guidelines.

The lender must submit FHA loans through an automated underwriting system approved by FHA and NCHFA. FHA/VA loans may use either LPA or DU.

Note: The FHA Award Letter must be signed by the borrower(s) at or before closing if 2nd

mortgage, subordinate lien is attached. The Obligation Letter is a HUD requirement and does not guarantee the reimbursement of the DPA funds for loans not eligible or purchased by the Master Servicer under the rules of the Agreement.

- 2) VA Loan Program: NCHFA offers 30-year fixed-rate loans guaranteed by the Veterans Administration. These loans are underwritten to VA and program guidelines. The lender must submit VA loans through an automated underwriting system approved by VA and NCHFA.
- 3) USDA Loan Program: NCHFA offers 30-year fixed-rate loans guaranteed by the US Department of Agriculture. Lenders must use USDA's Guaranteed Underwriting System (GUS). All loans must receive a GUS credit recommendation of "Accept."
- 4) Conventional Loan Program: NCHFA offers 30-year fixed-rate loans under the HFA Preferred program from Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac HFA Advantage program. These loans are underwritten to Fannie Mac or Freddie Mac program guidelines under FNMA's "HFA Preferred" or Freddie Mac's "HFA Advantage" program.

Note: Conventional loans must be run through Fannie Mae's Desktop Underwriter (DU) or Loan Prospector Advisor (LPA). HFA Preferred is available through DU using the "Additional Data" screen by selecting "HFA Preferred." Reserves and asset requirements are determined by DU Findings. Special Feature Code (SFC) 782 should be used to identify all HFA Preferred loans and other SFCs as applicable.

If using the Freddie Mac HFA Advantage program, the AUS Findings must show Offering Identifier HFA Advantage.

- 5) Construction-to-Perm Loan Requirements: Construction loans must be less than 24 months old from the origination date. Construction-to-permanent loans may utilize the down payment option. The AUS and Closing Disclosure must be run as a "purchase", or, a refinance if the loan has a valid Sales Purchase Contract. If a manufactured home, the sale must be from the original retailer to customer to be valid.

**Note: All loans must receive an AUS Approve/Eligible or Loan Prospector Accept** credit recommendation. If the information reflected on the final application (Form 1003) differs from the data submitted to the automated underwriting system (AUS), NCHFA may ask the lender to re-run the submission.

Lender must be careful to submit eligible Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac loan types that are specific to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. **AUS Findings are not interchangeable** between GSEs.

The post-closing package must contain the final approved 1003 and AUS findings. Unapproved changes may result in a loan that is ineligible for purchase.

**Upon the effective date per CFPB, all loans must** meet new General Qualified Mortgage (QM) rules for APOR. Lender is solely responsible for verifying that the underlying loans (both 1<sup>st</sup> or subordinate mortgages) meet the points, price, and other criteria of QM before or after closing. In no case can a loan exceed 45.00% DTI regardless of the QM rule.

#### 4.4 Ineligible Loans / Loan Types

The following loans and loan types are not eligible for financing under the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment™ program:

- Refinances (purchase transactions only)
- Vacation homes or “second homes”
- USDA Direct 502
- HUD 184 loans
- FHA 203k Renovation loans
- High-Cost Loans
- Income producing properties (renting, AirBnB, etc.)

High priced mortgage loans (HPML) are acceptable if all federal guidelines and Master Servicer guidelines are met. High-cost mortgage loans (HCML) are not accepted.

#### 4.5 Mortgage Insurance Coverage Requirements

Mortgage insurance coverage factors are based on area median income (AMI) and LTV. The MI coverage factors are to follow all GSE and MI company requirements:

Loan to Value	MI Factor (AMI <b>Over 80%</b> )	MI Factor (AMI <b>Under 80%</b> )
95.01-97%	35%	18%
90.01-95%	30%	16%
85.01-90%	25%	12%
80.01-85%	12%	6%

The applicable MI rates for the coverage factor listed above must be used. Rates may vary by PMI provider. Borrower-paid single premium, split premium and monthly MI are all acceptable. In all cases using MI, the max LTV cannot exceed 97% and the CLTV 105%. Financed MI and Lender Paid MI is not allowed.

The lender is responsible for verifying the correct and accurate MI rates based on loan criteria. Any errors not corrected before closing will result in loan not being eligible for reimbursement/purchase by the Servicer.

#### 4.6 Holdbacks and Repairs

Loans requiring repair escrows are acceptable. However, the lender must follow ServiSolutions

guidelines before proceeding. Approved repairs typically include paint (interior and exterior), carpet, appliances, roofing and minor exterior repairs such as fascia boards, eaves, gutters and window replacements. No structural repairs allowed.

ServiSolutions® does not require prior approval of escrow hold backs. The lender must maintain a copy of the escrow agreement and copies of work bid estimates. The escrow agreement usually provides the list of repairs, cost of repairs, total price of the holdback (150% of repair unless it is a HUD repo, then it is 110%) and who will hold/disburse the funds. **Escrow repairs must be completed prior to submittal of closed loan file to Master Servicer for purchase.** The Final Inspection report verifying repairs have been completed is required. More details are available at: [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com).

The lender is responsible for ensuring that the borrower, property, and other aspects of the loan meet the particular insurer and servicing guidelines of the loan type chosen.

#### **4.7 Repurchase Conditions**

The lender must repurchase from NCHFA or Master Servicer any NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment loan or NC Home Advantage loan upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

- 1) the loan closes before formal NCHFA written approval;
- 2) the lender breaches any covenant, warranty or representation in the Mortgage Origination Agreement or this Program Guide;
- 3) the DPA is defective arising from the origination, closing or delivery of the DPA to the Master Servicer;
- 4) the DPA documents are not delivered in a timely manner or in the form described in the Program Guide;
- 5) the DPA does not conform to the terms of its commitment or approval as per the Program Guide;
- 6) any request by the Master Servicer to repurchase the related first mortgage loan; or
- 7) the lender makes any warranty or representation under the Mortgage Origination Agreement which, in the sole discretion of NCHFA or the Master Servicer, is determined to be false at the time when made by the Lender. Such representations or warranties include any fraud, material misrepresentation, or material act of omission regarding information submitted for the DPA or related first mortgage, regardless of whether the lender had knowledge thereof.

The repurchase of any DPA will be equal to the unpaid balance of the Note plus any interest, attorney's fees, legal expenses, court costs or other expenses that have been incurred by NCHFA or the Master Servicer regarding the DPA.

**Loans that are not purchased by Master Servicer will not be reimbursed by NCHFA under any circumstances, for the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage. This includes FHA loans.**

#### 4.8 Minimum Investment

No minimum investment is required from the borrower. The AUS findings and all industry guidelines for loan type should be followed. All funds for down payment and closing may come from the borrower's funds, a gift, seller contribution to closing expenses, down payment assistance or grant.

#### 4.8 Cash Back Limitation

The borrower(s) **cannot receive funds back at closing that exceed verified borrower-paid POCs and cannot exceed \$2,500 regardless of amount contributed, from any source.** All DPA funds must be used for Down Payment or Closing Expenses. Realtor expenses are not an eligible use of DPA funds.

#### 4.9 Assets

There is no maximum asset limitation for the borrower.

Per Fannie Mae, for the proceeds from a **bitcoin** or other digital currency exchange to be considered as an eligible asset, it must be converted to US currency and deposited into an eligible asset account. All Assets must be verified in accordance with Fannie Mae Seller Guidelines. Follow other GSE rules as appropriate.

#### 4.10 Gift Funds

Gift funds are allowed and must meet the loan type (i.e., FHA, USDA, VA or conventional) Agency guidelines. Conventional loans must also comply with any requirements of the private mortgage insurance (PMI) company used. The maximum cash back regardless of investment by borrower(s) is \$2,500.

#### 4.11 Lien Position Policy

At time of closing, NCHFA will NOT take a lower lien position on down payment assistance loans against any other non-NCHFA subordinate loans from any source. The NCHFA DPA must be in 2<sup>nd</sup> lien position, including when combined with CPLP – in which case CPLP is 3<sup>rd</sup>. IRS tax liens are not allowed.

All subordinate financing must meet all investor, GSE, and federal regulatory requirements.

#### 4.12 Principal Reduction Policy

Master servicer does not allow recasting of loan amounts after closing. Excess funds or investment from borrower after all closing costs are paid should be used to reduce the 1<sup>st</sup> mortgage loan amount before closing.

Maximum cash back at closing cannot exceed \$2,500 and must be from verified POCs paid onto the transaction by the borrower(s). Excess Borrower funds resulting from gift funds, or verified Borrower POCs, EMD, or Due Diligence fee, may be applied as a principal reduction.

To make the necessary changes at closing:



- a. Do NOT change the Promissory Note
- b. Amend the Closing Disclosure to reflect the amount of the Principal Reduction
- c. Post-Closing, after ServiSolutions has purchased the loan, send the amount of the Principal Reduction to ServiSolutions at:
  - ServiSolutions
  - Data Validation
  - 7460 Halcyon Pointe Dr, Ste 200 or PO Box 242967
  - Montgomery, AL 36227

#### 4.13 Eligibility with Other DPA Options

The NC 1st Home Advantage Mortgage Down Payment is \$15,000 DPA for first-time home buyers or qualifying military veterans who meet all the guidelines established for IRS bond funded mortgages as well as NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage guidelines. Targeted census tracts are also eligible. The NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage Down Payment \$15,000 cannot be combined with the MCC program or the 3% DPA options from NCHFA.

#### 4.14 Down Payment Assistance (DPA) – General Guidelines

- 1) NCHFA does not offer stand-alone subordinate liens. The DPA is not assumable.
- 2) The DPA must be in compliance with all federal and state statutes, rules and regulations, as amended from time to time including, but not limited to, RESPA and mortgage loan servicing regulations, and secured by a residential second-lien mortgage against the borrower’s principal residence located within the State.
- 3) A separate Loan Estimate (LE) is required for the subordinate mortgage.

**No attorney fees may be charged on the second mortgage (DPA).**

Allowable fees on the 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage are limited to:

- a) A Housing Counseling fee, if applicable
- b) A recording fee (cost to record at the register of deed’s office)
- c) Application fee, if applicable (subject to max fees cap)

There is no prescribed allowable amount for these fees per the CFPB under the Partial Exemption rule, but they must be reasonable, normal and customary.

- 4) DPA **cannot be used to pay negative equity** (meaning the property appraises for less than the sales price), nor to pay extension fees, or to pay off debts, collections or judgements.
- 5) The borrower may obtain subordinate financing from other sources that also meet FHA, VA, USDA and conventional guidelines. NCHFA will only take 2<sup>nd</sup> lien position.
- 6) Gift funds are eligible as long as loan type (i.e., FHA, USDA, VA or conventional) allows them. Conventional loans must also comply with any requirements of the PMI company used.

- 7) DPA used on USDA or VA loans must meet VA or USDA's program requirements. The lender is responsible for verifying that rates and program meet VA/USDA guidelines
- 8) DPA funds cannot be used for repairs or repair escrows.
- 9) DPA funds cannot be used to pay Realtor / real estate commissions.
- 10) Lender is responsible for 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage (DPA) until purchased by Master Servicer.

#### **4.15 Funding of the DPA by Participating Lender**

The lender must fund the subordinate DPA mortgage at closing, except for CPLP subordinate mortgages.

The subordinate DPA mortgage must be closed in NCHFA's name and utilize NCHFA's Deed of Trust (Form 405) and Promissory Note (Form 406), available at [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com).

The Master Servicer will purchase the first mortgage and NCHFA DPA from the lender after the approval of the closed loan by the Master Servicer, with the exception of CPLP subordinates which will be funded by NCHFA at closing. The Lender must use the ServiSolutions checklist(s) for delivery.

**Failure by Master Servicer to purchase a loan will result in lender retaining both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> (if applicable) mortgage, with no recourse.**

ServiSolutions requires a copy of the NCHFA Commitment to be included as part of the closing package.

For FHA loans, at the time the lender obtains the Commitment Letter, the document will also contain a Down Payment Assistance (DPA) Award Letter and a Legally Enforceable Obligation Letter pursuant to HUD Mortgagee Letter 2013-14 and HUD Handbook 4000.1 II.A.4.d.ii.(C).

The lender must provide a copy of the Down Payment Assistance (DPA) Award Letter and the Legally enforceable Obligation Letter executed by the borrower(s) in the FHA case binder as well as the closed loan file electronically delivered to ServiSolutions.

#### **4.16 Loan Terms and Fees**

The first mortgage associated with the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Mortgage Down Payment must be locked at the mortgage interest rate set daily Monday through Friday on the NCHFA website. Rates are subject to change daily.

The \$15,000 DPA funds may be used toward eligible down payment, mortgage insurance and closing expenses. The **maximum allowed cash back cannot exceed \$2,500** and must be from verified POCs paid into transaction by borrower(s). The DPA cannot cover negative equity.

The \$15,000 DPA has a fifteen-year term with a 0% interest rate. It is a non-recourse, deferred loan, forgiven at 20% per year at the end of years 11-15. At the end of the fifteen years, the note will be considered satisfied and NCHFA will release the lien securing the note. Please note that the forgiveness schedule is annual, not monthly. Non-arm's-length transactions must follow industry guidelines.

The **maximum Origination Fee is capped at 1%** of the loan amount. Fees not directly paid to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party are **capped at \$1,300**. The 1% cap and \$1,300 are shown in Section A of Loan Estimate (LE). Example fees under the \$1,300 cap in Section A of the LE are underwriting fee, application fee, commitment fee, etc. These are capped at \$1,300 max and must meet state or federal high-cost guidelines. Total fees are 1% + \$1,300 as appropriate.

All or a portion of the unforgiven loan funds are due and payable to NCHFA if the home is sold, refinanced or no longer owner-occupied (unless otherwise prohibited under applicable federal law). Loans are repayable from proceeds to borrower from a sale or refinance.

**No subordinations are allowed on any NC Home Advantage down payment loans during the first seven (7) years.**

#### **4.17 Subordination Policy for Refinances (DPA)**

To be eligible for subordination on the down payment assistance (DPA) after year seven (7):

- 1) The **age of the NCHFA second mortgage must be at least 7 years old** from the date of closing (84 months).
- 2) The refinance of the first mortgage must not allow any cash back to the borrower(s) except for a refund of Paid Outside Closing (POC) items paid during the processing of the new mortgage, such as an appraisal fee.
- 3) The new first mortgage Principal and Interest (P&I) payment must be lower than the current first mortgage P&I payment. Exception: Reduction in loan term from 30 years to 25 or fewer years.
- 4) The new first mortgage must be a fixed rate loan. (Credit union ARM loans may be permitted).
- 5) The subordination, if approved, will retain NCHFA's lien position. If the current NCHFA subordinate lien position is second, then the subordinated lien retains the second lien position.
- 6) Closing costs may be financed into the new loan if allowed by the new loan product. The request for subordination will be denied if the sum of any Loan Origination Fee(s) and/or Commitment fees exceeds 1% of the new first mortgage loan amount.
- 7) Subordinations will be allowed if the new first mortgage is a reverse mortgage.
- 8) A non-refundable processing fee must be submitted with the subordination request documents. The check must be payable to North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. No personal checks allowed. Any changes made after NCHFA's subordination approval will require an additional non-refundable processing fee. (Note: No fee(s) will be charged if the source of funding for the subordinate loan is HOME funds.)

9) Requests should be emailed to: [subordinations@nchfa.com](mailto:subordinations@nchfa.com)

## Section 5: Borrower Eligibility Guidelines

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Lenders must review the borrower requirements in this section to assess the eligibility of mortgages to be purchased in the program. Eligibility for the NC 1st Home Advantage Mortgage Down Payment (\$15,000) may be different than other down payment programs offered by NCHFA.

The lender is responsible for ensuring the borrower's compliance with various program requirements, including the income limit requirement.

### 5.1 Borrower Requirements

- 1) Borrower(s) shall occupy the property as a principal residence within sixty (60) days after loan closing
- 2) Mortgagors, a spouse, and titleholders must be first-time homebuyers, certain military veterans, or purchasing subject property in targeted census tracts.

- (a.) Veterans Exception: The borrower is a veteran who purchases a home using the proceeds under a one-time exception allowance. **The veteran cannot own another home at time of closing of the mortgage.**

A veteran is defined as a person who served 181 consecutive days in active duty of the United States Armed Forces or Reserves and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. The application for financing must occur before the 25th anniversary of the last date on which the veteran left active service. A DD214 showing an honorable discharge is the required documentation for eligibility.

- (b.) Targeted Census Tracts: Borrowers purchasing a home located in a targeted Census Tract (Census Tracts listed on our website) do not have to be FTHB. They cannot own any other property at the time of closing.

- (c.) Ownership of a mobile or manufactured home (new or existing) **not** on a permanent foundation, and titled as personal property does not automatically exclude the applicant from obtaining the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage. The lender must show proof that the previous residence was not on a permanent foundation and was not classified as real estate.
  - (d.) Ownership of rental property, or a 2<sup>nd</sup> home, or timeshare, may be allowed if the borrower has not occupied the property as a primary residence within the last three years. The borrower will have to furnish a verifiable rental address for the most recent three-year period.
  - (e.) Retained ownership in a property owned jointly with another person (in a separation or divorce) may be allowed as long as the borrower has not occupied the property as a primary residence within the last three years or had a marital interest. The borrower will have to furnish a verifiable rental address for the most recent 3-year period or other acceptable proof. This applies also if credit report indicates that borrower(s) had a prior mortgage or property interest at any time.
  - (f.) A separated spouse who has not taken conveyance in a property owned by their spouse prior to marriage or joined in a Deed of Trust during that marriage may still be considered a FTHB. Lender must provide copy of Deed of Trust and most recent tax card for the marital home to show no ownership. Section 1 of the 1003 must indicate “Separated” or “Unmarried” under Marital Status, as appropriate. Separated borrowers must provide a Free-Trader Agreement and a signed Letter of Explanation (indicating date married and date separated).
- 3) Co-signors or non-occupying borrowers not allowed.
  - 4) U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States are eligible for NC Home Advantage Mortgage or NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage if they meet all residency requirements applicable to their lender and loan type (i.e., conventional, FHA, VA, USDA). Due diligence for confirming citizenship and/or residency status and compliance with federal and other requirements for mortgage loan financing for borrowers is the responsibility of the lender.
  - 5) Pre-purchase education is required for first-time homebuyers. Certificate is valid for 1-year. Must meet the underlying loan-type guidelines.

## **5.2 Pre-Purchase Education Requirement for First-Time Homebuyers**

Pre-purchase education is required for first-time homebuyers (only one borrower is required to take the training; follow GSE requirements by loan type). The lender should upload the pre-purchase education certificate to NCHFA prior to issuance of NCHFA’s Commitment. FHA, HUD, or Freddie Mac approved on-line or in-person pre-purchase education programs are acceptable. Per Fannie Mae Selling Guide Part B2-2-06, conventional loans require the homeownership education course or counseling meet standards defined by HUD or the National Industry Standards for Homeownership Education and Counseling. HomeView is an

acceptable course. Freddie Mac Programs accepts courses that meet the same standards as Fannie Mae. As an alternative to the programs listed above, Freddie Mac’s free homeownership education curriculum CreditSmart® Homebuyer U meets the homeownership education requirements.

For homebuyers who complete some form of in-person pre-purchase home buyer counseling completed with a HUD approved agency prior to the time an Offer to Purchase is signed (follow GSE requirements), the lender should include SFC 184 on their AUS Findings. Certificate is valid for 1 year after date of completion. CPLP loans require in-person training.

### 5.3 Income Limits

Borrower(s) must meet program income limits, and lenders must calculate income using the procedures outlined in this section.

The NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment program counts total, gross family income of all mortgagors and a spouse (and anyone expected to or anticipated to live in the house and hold an ownership interest).

Income limits vary by county and household size for the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment™ product. Income limits are subject to change. See Section 8 for full details on calculating total, gross family income. Current income limits can be found on the NCHFA website at [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com) or via OLS at <https://www.nchfa.org/MySystems>.

The last three years of IRS Tax Transcripts or valid, signed tax returns are required for NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment loan approval. ServiSolutions may require the most recent year’s transcripts for all borrowers for post-closing audits.

Lender must download the ServiSolutions funding checklist located at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com). In addition to tax documents, a **tri-merged credit report** is also required on all mortgagors/borrowers.

**Table 1: Family Income Chart (Whose Income is Counted?)**

Category of Borrower/Titleholder	Income Counted?	Income Documents Required/Tax Return	FTHB?
Borrower	Yes	Yes	Yes
Co-Borrower	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spouse	Yes	Yes	Yes
Someone Secondarily Liable, Occupant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Titleholder, Occupant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adult Occupant only	No	No	No

## 5.4 Section 8 Vouchers

When using a Section 8 Voucher, the lender must verify that the underlying income calculation meets all GSE guidelines. The Servicer will not accept split payments, meaning that the customer is solely responsible for submitting the full mortgage payment when due. (The non-profit or local issuer of the voucher cannot send in the partial payment to the Servicer.)

## 5.5 Ratios

The maximum debt-to-income ratio for all loan types with or without down payment assistance is 45.00%. These ratio maximums apply to all NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment loans regardless of the AUS recommendation. There is no front ratio limit at this time (however CPLP program does have a front ratio limit). AUS approve eligible is required.

## 5.6 Credit Score Requirements

All loans must receive an AUS Approve/Eligible credit recommendation (DU/GUS/FHA Total Scorecard. LPA allowed on Freddie Mac conventional, FHA/VA only). In addition, all borrower(s) must have a minimum of two credit scores, the lowest or mid-score being 640 or higher (660 if manufactured home type). Both borrower and co-borrower must meet credit score minimum thresholds, including any GNMA, FNMA or MI company minimum credit scores, if applicable.

To determine the applicable minimum credit score, the lender should first evaluate each borrower separately. The applicable credit score is the lower score when two credit scores are obtained or the middle score when three credit scores are obtained.

Borrower(s) with only **one score or no credit scores are not eligible** for the program. Lender will be required to upload a tri-merge credit report for all borrower(s) and/or mortgagor.

If more than one individual is applying for the same mortgage, the lender should determine the applicable credit score for each individual borrower and then select the lowest applicable score from the group as the “representative” credit score for the mortgage. The “representative” credit score for the mortgage should be used to underwrite and evaluate the comprehensive risk for the mortgage application.

NCHFA does not accept loans with non-traditional credit histories, no credit scores or borrower(s) with one credit score.

## 5.7 Collections Policy / Liens / Judgments / Student Loans

Industry standards for payment of collections vary based on loan type. The Automated Underwriting Systems [Desktop Underwriter (DU), Desktop Originator (DO), Loan Product Advisor (LPA), FHA Total Scorecard or Guaranteed Underwriting System (GUS)] must show that all collections were included in the final AUS Finding’s analysis.



All judgments, regardless of balance, must be paid in full prior to or at closing or meet industry guidelines for repayment, if applicable.

IRS liens **not allowed**.

Calculation of student loan debt(s) should comply with FHA, FNMA, FMAC, USDA or VA requirements for calculation of monthly payment and follow any AUS Finding messages.

## **5.8 Bankruptcy Policy**

The participating lender should follow industry standards regarding bankruptcy waiting periods which may vary based on loan type. NCHFA does not have a standalone policy regarding prior or existing bankruptcy waiting periods.

## **5.9 Short Sales/Foreclosures**

The participating lender should follow industry standards regarding short sale/foreclosure waiting periods which may vary based on loan type. NCHFA does not have a standalone policy regarding short sales or foreclosures.

## **5.10 Flip Properties**

The participating lender should follow industry standards regarding flip transaction waiting periods which may vary based on loan type. NCHFA does not have a standalone policy regarding flip transactions.

Non-arms-length transactions must follow industry guidelines.

## Section 6: Property Eligibility Guidelines (NC 1st Home Advantage \$15,000 DPA only)

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Lenders must review the property requirements of this section to ensure the eligibility of mortgages to be purchased in the program.

### 6.1 Property Requirements

The NCHFA sales price limit for a home financed through the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage™ program is \$490,000 and subject to change annually.

The residence must be in North Carolina and must be eligible for mortgage insurance under FHA, VA, USDA, or conventional guidelines as a principal residence.

#### Eligible Property Types by Loan type (\$15,000 DPA):

<b><u>FHA, USDA, VA Eligible Properties</u></b>	<b><u>Conventional Eligible Properties</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Single family detached</li> <li>▪ Townhomes</li> <li>▪ Condos (warrantable)</li> <li>▪ Modular homes – new or existing; <b>permanent foundation</b></li> <li>▪ Manufactured homes – new only (New, never occupied; double-wide or greater only) <b>permanent foundation</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Single family detached</li> <li>▪ Townhomes</li> <li>▪ Condos (warrantable)</li> <li>▪ Modular Homes–new or existing; <b>permanent foundation</b></li> </ul> <p>Note: Duplexes and Manufactured homes NOT eligible under the conventional program.</p>

**Requirements for manufactured homes** are more restrictive than for other property types. These include the following:

- 660 credit score or higher
- New doublewide construction only (never previously occupied)
- Must be on permanent foundation and taxed as real estate
- Appraisal must be on Form 1004C
- ALTA 7.1-06 title endorsement required

Property that is 100% complete and has been completed less than one year from the date of the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy or equivalent. The property must have never been occupied and sold by dealer/builder to borrower(s).

## **6.2 Repairs and Escrows for Completion**

Repairs to the property and escrows for completion are handled by the originating lender and must be completed according to Master Servicer requirements. Master Servicer's requirements can be located at <http://www.servsol.com/>.

Loans requiring repair escrows are acceptable. However, the lender must follow ServiSolutions' guidelines before proceeding. ServiSolutions® does not require prior approval of escrow hold backs. The lender must maintain a copy of the escrow agreement and copies of work bid estimates.

Repair work must be completed prior to closed loan submittal to Master Servicer. The Final Inspection report verifying repairs have been completed is required. More details are available at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com).

All escrow funds must be released prior to submission of closed loan file to and purchase of loan by ServiSolutions.

## **6.3 Owning More Than One Home**

If the borrower(s) intends to retain ownership in more than one residence after closing, including rental, vacation, or second homes, the lender must verify that the borrower(s) are eligible for financing according to industry guidelines from FNMA, FHA, VA or USDA.

The occupying borrower(s) must not have an ownership interest in more than two financed residential properties, including the subject property.

The property seller must be the owner and on title at the time of the initial loan application. A transfer of title ownership any time after the initial loan application and prior to the closing is not acceptable.

In no case may a borrower have more than one (1) property financed through NCHFA at any time or one outstanding NCHFA product.

## **6.4 Property Appraisal Condition Requirements**

Eligible property conditions are C1, C2, C3, and C4. Appraisal waivers are not allowed. If the URAR appraisal indicates a C5 and C6 property condition, it is not eligible for NCHFA programs or financing. The property condition will be shown on the Uniform Appraisal from a licensed appraiser.

All homes must have a working heating system (HVAC) and meet all appraisal and/or repair inspection requirements.

Any appraisal with a CU Risk Score of 4 or 5 will require a written signed statement from the Participating Lender's Underwriter explaining why the appraisal was approved with a credit risk score 4 or 5. This statement must be provided as part of the Closing Package to ServiSolutions for evaluation and does not guarantee approval.

**Property Inspection Waivers are not allowed under this program.**

## **6.5 Maximum Acreage**

The land acquired in connection with the mortgage loan may not exceed five (5) acres. No portion of the land or property may be used as an income producing property, including rental.

We do not finance properties with lots or parcels that are not contiguous. Property must be under one deed and include the primary residence.

## **6.6 Business Use of Property**

No more than fifteen percent (15%) of the total area of the principal residence can be used for:

- 1) the principal place of business for, or in connection with, any trade or business on an exclusive and regular basis;
- 2) a place of business that is used exclusively and on a regular basis for meeting or dealing with patients, clients, or customers in the normal course of trade or business;  
or
- 3) a place that is used on a regular basis where the inventory is held for use in the trade or business of selling products at wholesale or retail but only if the residence is the sole fixed location of such trade or business.

### **Not Allowed:**

- i. Rental to any person, this includes rental to a roommate. Roommate rental is assumed to be using more than 15% of the residence for business purposes.

- ii. Use of the home on a regular basis as a place in the trade or business of providing day care for children, or for other individuals, regardless of age, is not permitted.

## **6.7 Other Restrictions**

The following restrictions must be observed:

- The Business Use Worksheet is required when the subject property (or business use is shown on tax information) will host a business use. The business use calculation is based on the property being purchased. If an error is made in calculating the amount of business use, the worksheet can only be changed if the square footage of the entire dwelling used for the calculation was incorrect.
- Attached structures or square footage that appear to be intended for a rental or business use may require additional documentation or information.
- Property acquisition costs may not exceed NCHFA's limits, which are based on the home's sale price. Some living units include unfinished space (i.e. an area designed or intended to be completed or refurbished and used as living space). For example, if the unfinished square footage in the lower level of a tri-level residence or the upstairs of a Cape Cod exceeds 25% of the total square footage, the cost to complete this area, whether or not the work is actually to be done, must be added to the sales price to arrive at the acquisition cost.

The lender may use the appraiser's cost estimation for completion or a contractor's estimate. Alternatively, \$35/sf as a proxy to determine finished cost is also acceptable. The Seller Affidavit (Form 013) must include this estimated cost in the overall acquisition cost.

The mortgages are also subject to the FHA 203(b) maximum mortgage limits or published Agency acquisition limits, whichever are lower.

## Section 7: Loan Origination and Underwriting Steps

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### 7.1 General

Eligible borrowers apply for the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment™ program through participating lenders by completing a standard mortgage application. If the loan meets the applicable credit and underwriting guidelines, the lender will enter the requested information and lock the loan in OLS, establishing the Lock-In Expiration Date (the date by which the Master Servicer must purchase the loan). After locking the loan, the lender must upload the requested documents for NCHFA's review prior to closing. Once NCHFA approves the documents, it issues a Commitment, pending the Master Servicer's approval of the loan post-closing. Under no circumstances should any NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ loan close without a Commitment from NCHFA.

Documents required to be uploaded via OLS electronically should be submitted as early as possible, but not before the final underwriting review has been completed, to allow sufficient time for NCHFA to review the file and for the lender to make corrections. NCHFA will make its best efforts to review files on a first-come, first-served basis within 48 hours of receipt. This policy also applies to any additional or revised documentation which is submitted at a later date.

**Once all documents have been submitted to NCHFA via the OLS online system, no changes may be made to the documents unless requested by NCHFA.**

### 7.2 NCHFA Normal Review Time

Every effort will be made to review all loans within 48 hours of submission to NCHFA via the OLS portal. Pend conditions may take an additional 48 hours to review, after the last condition has been received.

### 7.3 Loan Origination

Borrowers are required to meet all FHA, VA, USDA, Fannie Mae HFA Preferred or Freddie Mac HFA Advantage industry guidelines, and loans must be eligible for FHA insurance, VA, or USDA guarantee or private mortgage insurance (PMI). Conventional loans may use any Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and ServiSolutions approved PMI company. Conventional loans equal to or less than 80% LTV do not require PMI.

Note: The following procedures outlined here suggest the typical sequence of events for NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ loans:

- 1) Borrower reviews program details or visits the NCHFA website at [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com) and schedules an appointment with a participating lender.
- 2) If the preliminary screening indicates that the borrower meets NCHFA Program Guidelines and the loan meets FHA, VA, USDA, or conventional underwriting guidelines, the lender takes a formal application.
- 3) Lender verifies that gross mortgagor(s) family income, DTI ratio, and industry guidelines are met. The lender's underwriting staff runs AUS Findings and completes a formal underwriting review of the loan file.
- 4) A separate Loan Estimate (LE) is required for the subordinate mortgage. No attorney fees may be charged on the second mortgage (DPA). Allowable fees are a Housing Counseling fee, a recording fee (cost to record at the register of deed's office), and an application fee. There is no prescribed allowable amount for these fees per the CFPB, but must be reasonable and customary.
- 5) All loans must receive an AUS Approve/Eligible credit recommendation (DU/GUS/FHA Total Scorecard). In addition, all borrower(s) must have a minimum of two credit scores, the lowest score being 640. For conventional loans, only loans that are DU eligible or LPA Accept are allowed. LPA is acceptable for FHA and VA and conventional HFA Advantage and Closing Cost Assistance.
- 6) To determine the single applicable credit score, the lender should first evaluate each borrower separately. The single applicable credit score is the lower score when two credit scores are obtained or the middle score when three credit scores are obtained. A borrower with only one credit score is not eligible for financing.
- 7) NCHFA will not accept loans with non-traditional credit histories or those with only one credit score, regardless of the loan type.
- 8) After the lender has underwritten the borrower loan file, the lender will access the Online Lender Services System (OLS) (<https://www.nchfa.org/MySystems>) and input the loan information and print the lock confirmation form. Once this step is complete, the interest rate is locked for a period of 60 days. Expired locks are subject to a mark-to-market fee based on market conditions at the time the loan is purchased. To avoid a mark-to-market fee, an extension must be requested via OLS, for which extension fees apply.
- 9) After the rate is locked and the loan has received final underwriting approval by lender, and prior to closing, the lender must upload the documents required for NCHFA's review via OLS.

- 10) Once all required documents are uploaded, NCHFA will review the documents within 48 hours. NCHFA will notify the lender via OLS if there are any issues to be addressed with the uploaded documents. If the documents are approved, NCHFA will issue a Commitment via e-mail to the participating lender. For an FHA loan with DPA, the printing of the Commitment will also include a Down Payment Assistance Award Letter which the lender will provide to the borrower as well as a Legally Enforceable Obligation Letter pursuant to HUD Mortgagee Letter 2013-14 and HUD Handbook 4000.1 II.A.4.d.ii.(C).

NCHFA reserves the right to reject any mortgage loan application if, in its sole discretion, if NCHFA believes the mortgage loans do not comply with all rules, procedures and guidelines set forth in this Program Guide.

#### **7.4 Pre-Approval Forms/Documents Required**

The participating lender shall upload via OLS the following documents prior to closing an NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ loan:

- Final Uniform Residential Loan Application (Form 1003)
- Automated Underwriting System (AUS) Findings (final)
- Uniform Residential Appraisal Report (URAR), all pages, PDF, Color
- Loan Estimate (LE) on first
- Loan Estimate (LE) on the second (DPA)
- Proof of homebuyer's pre-purchase education (if first-time home buyer)
- 3 Years Tax Transcripts or valid, Signed Tax Returns
- VOEs, W2s, Paystubs (all current and past jobs from prior year)
- Lender supplied tri-merged credit report on all borrowers and/or mortgagors

#### **7.5 NCHFA Forms and Documents Required**

The lender must submit all forms required by the NC 1st Home Advantage Mortgage. The NC 1st Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage requires certain documents and forms signed by all borrower(s) and/or mortgagors. The seller must also sign the Form- 013 Seller Affidavit. Limited exceptions made for REOs sold by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, VA, or HUD (contact NCHFA).

For borrower(s) living rent-free per the 1003 URLA, provide a VoR or signed statement from the landlord/relative/parent (whomever they are living with) that includes the following information:

- VoR or signed statement to verify occupancy from landlord/relative/parent,
- statement should include verification that borrower(s) had no ownership interest in the residence,
- VoR or signed statement should indicate time period borrower(s) resided in property
- Does not need to be notarized. E-signed is acceptable.



**This requirement is to cover the period of time borrower(s) lived rent-free.** VoR is not required for time periods where borrower(s) paid rent per the URLA 1003.

The additional NCHFA forms are:

- Form-08 (Underwriter Certification)
- Form-013 (Seller Affidavit)
- Form-015 (Preliminary Notice to Applicants of Potential Recapture)
- Form-016 (Mortgage Affidavit and Borrower Certification)
- Form-026 (Notice to Borrower)
- Form-101 (Borrower Closing Affidavit)
- Form-102 (Lender Closing Affidavit)

**Table 2: Who Is Required to Sign the Forms?**

<b>Category of Borrower/Titleholder</b>	<b>Recapture Notice Form - 015</b>	<b>Mortgage Affidavit Form - 016</b>	<b>Notice to Borrower Form - 026</b>
Borrower (s) / Mortgagors	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spouse	No	Yes	No
Someone Secondarily Liable, Occupant	No	Yes	No
Titleholder, Occupant	No	Yes	No
Adult Occupant only	No	Yes	No

IRS Recapture Tax applies to the mortgage loan(s). The lender is required to explain and provide the Form-015 Preliminary Notice to Applicants of Potential Recapture to the customer at time of loan origination. Borrower(s) and/or mortgagors are required to sign the Recapture Notice.

Please note the NC 1st Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ loan cannot be paired with an MCC.

Once all documents are uploaded, NCHFA reviews the submission package for completeness and verifies income and ratios according to program guidelines.

If the submission package is acceptable, NCHFA will issue a written Commitment, which the lender can print via OLS. No loan may close without the formal approval and Loan Commitment from NCHFA. Any loan that closes before NCHFA approval is subject to non-purchase by Servicer or repurchase.

If the loan is an FHA loan and has DPA attached, the Commitment letter will also contain the FHA Award Letter and a Legally Enforceable Obligation Letter. Award letter must be

signed before closing or the entire loan is no longer FHA eligible.

The Master Servicer will purchase a first mortgage loan and a DPA loan in a specified amount from the lender upon evidence of compliance with the NC 1st Home Advantage Down Payment™ program requirements and the closing of the mortgage loan.

Note: Any changes on Form 1003 or to the AUS findings after the issuance of the Commitment Letter will render the loan subject to non-purchase. A Loan Estimate (LE) is always required on the second mortgage. No attorney fees can be charged on the second mortgage.

## 7.6 Loan Closing After NCHFA Issues Commitment

- 1) No loan can be closed without NCHFA's formal Commitment Letter. Any loan that closes before formal NCHFA approval will be subject to non-purchase by Servicer and/or NCHFA.
  - NCHFA's Conditional Commitment is a specific approval based on loan type, AMI, and other criteria when submitted to the Agency for review and approval. The Commitment contains a warning indicating that any changes occurring after NCHFA's approval could result in non-purchase. Beginning January 1st, 2024 the Agency will be charging a \$500 fee for unauthorized changes after our approval. The fee will be billed to the lender, and must be paid before the loan will be authorized for purchase by our Master Servicer. This applies to loans that remain eligible for purchase with any changes from our Conditional Commitment according to GSE guidelines. NCHFA's Conditional Commitment does not guarantee that a loan can be purchased.
- 2) The lender should provide the Quality Control Certification & Authorization to the closing attorney prior to closing (forms available at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com)). If the loan does not meet all program and industry guidelines, the loan will not be purchased by the Master Servicer.
- 3) The lender closes the loan following its normal procedure after NCHFA approval. The NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ DPA Deed of Trust (Form 405) and the NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ DPA Promissory Note (Form 406) must be used. These forms are available on the NCHFA website.
- 4) All participating lenders must be MERS® members.
- 5) All Closed Loan Files are submitted separately to BOTH NCHFA and Master Servicer (ServiSolutions) for review.
- 6) A copy of the **General Warranty Deed** will need to be uploaded after closing.

### Steps for MERS® Members

- 1) Generate a MIN (Mortgage Identification Number) within your system and place the MIN on the Deed of Trust.
- 2) Use the MOM (MERS® as Original Mortgagee) Deed of Trust form.
- 3) Register the loan in your name with the MERS® System using your MERS® Org. ID as Servicer and Investor within 10 business days of closing.
- 4) Initiate Transfer of Beneficial Rights (TOB) and Transfer of Servicing Rights (TOS) or combined TOS/TOB to ServiSolutions.

- 7) The lender should further instruct the closing attorney/agent as follows:
- The borrower(s) cannot be charged discount points or extension fees.
  - The mortgage payment must include amounts to pay the property taxes and all applicable insurances. For loans closing after July 31st, all taxes for current/prior year MUST be paid in full with proof provided with closing package.
  - Principal adjustments at closing must be on 1<sup>st</sup> mortgage only.
  - The **maximum allowed cash back cannot exceed \$2,500** and must be from verified POCs paid into transaction by borrower(s).
  - The Trustee fee on all Deeds of Trust must be 5%.

The Closing Disclosure for the first mortgage must reflect the correct subordinate financing calculation. An initial and a final CD are required on the first mortgage per ServiSolutions' funding checklist available at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com). No CD is required on the 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage.

Homeowners' and flood insurance mortgagee clauses: First Mortgage:

ServiSolutions a department of Alabama Housing Finance Authority

ServiSolutions

Its successors and/or assigns, as their interest may appear

PO Box 242967

Montgomery, AL 36124-2967

Second Mortgagee – NCHFA Subordinate Loan (DPA) - Additional Mortgagee Clause

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency

Its successors and/or assigns, as their interest may appear

3508 Bush Street

Raleigh, NC 27609

## 7.7 Interest Credit

ServiSolutions will allow an interest credit through the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## 7.8 Interim Servicing

Until the closed loan is formally purchased by the Master Servicer, the originating lender must process all mortgage payments, including servicing of the loan. Lender is required to follow all federal and state requirements for proper servicing of customer payments.

Bi-weekly payments are **not allowed** on NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ program loans.

## 7.9 Hazard/Flood Insurance Requirements

Per ServiSolutions, the maximum deductible is not to exceed greater of 2.5% of the face amount of the policy or \$2,500 unless a higher amount is required by state law. Wind, hail and hurricane policies deductibles should not exceed 5% of the face amount of the policy. Lower amounts apply if loan type regulations mandate different amount. Separate coverage on the 2<sup>nd</sup> lien/DPA is recommended, but not required.

Maximum **Flood Insurance** deductible varies by loan type:

- FNMA/FHLMC - 2.5% or \$2,500 whichever is greater
- FHA/VA - \$2,500
- USDA - \$1,000

For more information refer to ServiSolutions AllRegs at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com)

## 7.10 Electronic Signatures

Electronic Signatures are allowed on certain Agency forms and industry forms, subject to the following general rules. The e-Signature must be e-Sign or UETA compliant.

The use of e-signatures is voluntary, but lender transactions utilizing e-signatures must meet the following standards:

- 1) NCHFA does not accept documents that have been signed solely via voice or audio. The electronic signature and date should be clearly visible on any and all documents when viewed electronically and on a paper copy of an e-signed third-party document.
- 2) for borrowers that are entities, the signatory must be a representative who is duly authorized in writing to bind the entity;
- 3) evidence of such written authority must be maintained by Lender;
- 4) lenders are not permitted to have borrowers sign documents in blank or with incomplete documents;
- 5) e-signatures and the accompanying dates must be clearly visible on all e-signed documents;
- 6) e-signatures are **NOT permitted** on promissory notes, deeds of trust, mortgages,

documents that require notarization or witnesses, or transactions utilizing a power of attorney; and

- 7) e-signature must meet all state and federal laws and regulations.

### **7.11 Power of Attorney (POA) Guidelines**

NCHFA will accept Powers of Attorney (POA) that meet certain criteria. In all cases the POA must be provided to NCHFA PRIOR to approval of the loan and before closing. POAs may be used on NCHFA forms including the Deed of Trust and Promissory Note if they meet the criteria below and all legal requirements under NC State Real Estate law. Nothing below supersedes federal or state laws.

The criteria for use of a POA on any document in the NC Home Advantage program are as follows:

- 1) The power of attorney used for signature on a deed of trust or deed (or other recorded document) must be recorded in the county where the property is located prior to the documents being recorded. The date of the power of attorney must be valid as of the time of execution of the closing documents.
- 2) The name on the power of attorney must match the name of the person on the loan documents for which that person is acting as attorney-in-fact.
- 3) The power of attorney must be notarized (so it can be recorded) and in recordable form.
- 4) It is preferred that the wording for a POA specifically refers to the subject property address. It is not required by NC Statute, but is recommended whenever possible.
- 5) A copy of the power of attorney and Agent Certification form must be provided to NCHFA prior to loan approval by NCHFA and prior to closing of the first and/or second mortgages.
- 6) “Agent’s Certification for POA” document required when the borrowers are using POA for their closing docs.

In addition to the above, the following guidelines also apply as appropriate:

- 1) An authorized seller may sign the Seller Affidavit (Form-013) by POA as long as we have a copy of the POA for review prior to our loan approval.
- 2) A relocation company is authorized to sign Seller Affidavits if properly authorized.
- 3) Active-duty military personnel with a military POA will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- 4) A POA is NOT acceptable if the attorney-in-fact or authorized party is:
  - a. the lender;
  - b. any affiliate of the lender;
  - c. any employee of the lender or any other affiliate of the lender;

- d. the loan originator;
- e. the employer of the loan originator;
- f. any employee of the employer of the loan originator;
- g. the title insurance company providing the title insurance policy or any affiliate of such title insurance company (including, but not limited to, the title agency closing the loan), or any employee of either such title insurance company or any such affiliate; or
- h. any real estate agent with a financial interest in the transaction or any person affiliated with such real estate agent.

# Section 8: Income Eligibility Guideline

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## 8.1 Income Limits

Total, gross family income limits apply to the \$15,000 DPA and can be found on the NCHFA website at [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com) under Income Limits. The income limits are subject to change. The income limits are based on mortgage revenue bond financing and IRS guidelines. The income limits will vary based on total number of people living in the home, and reflect gross family income of all borrower(s). Any person expected to live in the house and hold an ownership interest in the subject property must be counted in total income (e.g., a non-borrowing spouse income should be counted).

### Family Income Chart (Whose Income is Counted?)

Category of Borrower/Titleholder	Income Counted?	Income Documents Required?	FTHB?
Borrower	Yes	Yes	Yes
Co-Borrower	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spouse	Yes	Yes	Yes
Someone Secondarily Liable	Yes	Yes	Yes
Titleholder, Occupant	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adult Occupant only	No	No	No

## 8.2 Tax Returns/Transcripts and Program Compliance

1) To meet the first-time home buyer requirement, the Lender must obtain the last three years of Federal Tax Transcripts or signed tax returns for the borrower(s) and any titleholder. NCHFA requires a copy of all the prior year's W-2s & 1099s. No W-2s are required for the previous two years, unless the loan is closing between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year. In that case, the last two years of W2s & 1099s must be provided. If current year W2s &/or 1099s are not available, a year-end paystub with year-to-date information will be required. The sum of the W2s must match the federal tax transcripts/tax returns. Complete details are described throughout Section 6.

Note: IRS form 8453, U.S. Individual Income Tax Declaration for an IRS e-file return cannot be used in lieu of the actual tax return.

- 2) If mortgage interest or real estate taxes are shown on tax returns or credit reports, the borrower(s) must furnish documentation to support their first-time buyer eligibility. The lender includes this documentation to NCHFA in the submission package.
- 3) IRS Tax Transcripts or valid, signed Tax Returns are acceptable tax documentation along with tri-merged credit report(s).

NCHFA will accept IRS Tax Transcripts or valid, signed tax returns for the prior three (3) years as required by our program guidelines. Under the program, all **borrower(s) and/or titleholders must have filed their current year federal tax returns no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

- 4) The customer should sign and provide NCHFA Form-018 (Income Tax Affidavit) for any year indicating a missing tax return.
- 5) For borrowers/mortgagors who are required to sign the Income Tax Affidavit (Form-018) or who mark item #7 on Form-016 stating they have not filed taxes for a certain year(s), lenders are required to provide a borrower(s) Letter of Explanation (LoX) stating reason for non-filing. The reason for non-filing must meet IRS legal definitions for non-filing.
- 6) A Tax Summary transcript is not acceptable in any circumstance.

### **8.3 If Federal Income Tax Returns/Transcripts Are Not Available**

If the borrower/titleholder is not required by law to file federal income tax returns for any year during the last three years, the lender must check 7(c) on the Mortgage Affidavit and Borrower Certification (016). The form should include the specific reason that the borrower was not required to file. Lender must also provide the Income Tax Affidavit (Form-018) with item 1(a) completed. Include this document in the NCHFA submission package. Tri-merged credit reports for all borrower(s) are required.

If the loan is to close between January 1st and April 15th and the borrower has not yet filed a federal income tax return for the preceding year, the lender must complete 7(d) on the Mortgage Affidavit and Borrower Certification (016) for the preceding year. Lender must also provide the Income Tax Affidavit (Form-018) with item 1(b) completed. These sections on both forms state that the borrower is not entitled to claim deductions for taxes or interest on a principal residence for the preceding calendar year.

sign

All NC 1st Home Advantage Mortgage Down Payment loans that close after April 15th must provide the previous year's signed tax return. Extensions on filing are NOT acceptable.

If an occupant does not have a social security number or ITIN, they must correctly complete Form 018, the Income Tax Affidavit.

If the spouse of the borrower is not eligible for entry to the U.S., and there is no separation



agreement, or signed notarized letter of intent to live separately, then the borrower/lender must provide documentation that the spouse has been denied entry to the U.S., otherwise the lender must verify the absent spouse's income and FTHB status.

If the borrower or any occupant who will hold an ownership interest in the property recently submitted federal tax returns directly to the IRS for prior tax years, NCHFA will accept a valid, signed copy of the return.

## 8.4 Income Calculation for Compliance Underwriting

Total family income is defined as the gross annual income of all borrowers (i.e., mortgagors) expected to live in the residence being financed, including income received by any household member who is 18 years of age or older (who will hold an ownership interest in the property), and will be secondarily liable on the mortgage. Non-borrowing spouses must have their total gross family income included.

Once a file is submitted to NCHFA via the OLS portal, no changes to income are allowed. All income at time of submission to NCHFA is counted unless a VoE from employer verifies they are terminated or no longer working there at time of submission. In cases where employer is out of business, lender must provide proof company is no longer in business.

Verification of income includes the following documents as proof of income:

- Three years of tax returns or transcripts
- Paystubs
- Verification of Employment (VOEs)
- P&L (if self-employed)

### a) Compliance Income Calculations

NCHFA will **count the family income of mortgagors, anyone who will be secondarily liable, spouse, and titleholders** earned as of the date the lender submits the loan documents to NCHFA for approval. Income calculations for compliance underwriting are different from qualifying income calculations for the investor (i.e., FHA, VA, USDA or conventional) credit underwriting.

NCHFA will review copies of the Verification of Employment (written or verbal VOE), last year's W-2s, pay stubs and copies of additional income verifications to substantiate income calculations (i.e., social security award letter, pension, National Guard or Reserve income, child support, etc.).

Note: The pay period ending date on the paystub must be dated within 45 days of submission of documents to NCHFA for loan approval and clearly indicate all sources of income (i.e., shift differential, overtime, et cetera) and verify total YTD earned income. If employer does not issue pay stubs it will be necessary to obtain a copy of the latest payroll ledger on company letterhead, signed by a company official.

NCHFA requires a copy of all W-2s & 1099s from the previous year. The sum of the W-2s must match that reported on federal tax returns. No W-2s are required for the previous two years. The lender must document the employment dates for all employers represented on the last year's tax returns. Verbal Verifications of Employment (VOE's) are acceptable. In cases where employer is out of business, lender must provide proof company is no longer in business.

**b) Disclosure of Income**

Lenders should always ask the borrowers and/or titleholders to disclose their current base income (before any payroll deductions). Current base income includes income from primary and part-time jobs and all other income that the borrowers receive at the time the lender submits loan documents for NCHFA approval. This information must be used for compliance underwriting.

All income is projected for 12 months to calculate compliance income (regardless of its likelihood to continue). Bonus income will be counted as part of total household income.

For borrowers quitting or resigning from a job, a resignation letter and verification from prior employer must be dated, signed, and acknowledged by former employer. If borrower is starting a new job, a copy of resignation letter and proof of acceptance from prior employer is required, otherwise income from both jobs will be used in calculating gross, family income.

For borrowers starting a new job where a paycheck/paystub is not yet available a signed, valid offer letter from new employer that shows salary and start date will be required. For positions that are hourly or other than salaried, the lender may be asked to obtain a written VOE from employer. Master Servicer will require a paystub as part of the final closing package submitted after closing.

**c) Other Income**

The lender should verify and ask the borrower for other sources of income.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Alimony
- Annuities (recurring or guaranteed will be counted as income; verified one-time non-recurring lump-sum will not be counted as income)
- auto allowance
- bonus income (recurring)
- housing allowance
- interest income
- received from business
- activities or investments income received from trusts
- insurance policies (if received on a continuous basis)
- net rental income
- overtime
- pensions
- per diem income (gross amount shown on paystub)
- public assistance
- recurring monetary contributions regularly received from persons not living in the unit royalties
- shift differential
- sick pay
- social security benefits
- tips
- unemployment income
- VA compensation and/or pension
- Workers' compensation
- special pay and allowances of a member of the armed forces (excluding hazardous duty pay)
- child support
- death benefits
- dividends
- death benefits
- education benefits used for subsistence income

**d) Income Calculation: Salaried Base Pay**

The lender will use each borrower's/titleholder verified gross annual income for calculation of income for salaried borrowers. When the verified gross income disclosed does not agree with the gross income on the borrower's pay stub, the lender's file must be documented with the gross income that was applicable at the time the lender submitted documents for NCHFA loan approval with an explanation of the variance in the lender's file.

Verifications of employment are used to determine the income of a salaried borrower. The lender must compare the current annual salary with year-to-date earnings and with the borrower's current pay stubs to note any discrepancies. The lender should investigate discrepancies and document the file appropriately.

For borrowers starting new employment, we will accept a valid offer letter from employer on company letterhead, signed by the employer and signed as accepted by the borrower. A valid written VOE from employer is also required. In that case a paystub is not required prior to closing unless AUS findings, investor guidelines, or ServiSolutions post-closing guidelines require different documentation.

NCHFA will calculate compliance income for salaried and hourly borrowers by projecting current base pay for the next 12 months, and averaging "other" income for the previous tax year and year-to-date until June 30th. On July 1, we will use the current base pay and the current year's other income. Other income will be averaged by # of pay periods for that year and prorated out for the remainder of year.

Illustrated below is an example how we calculate the income for an hourly salaried borrower. Current base pay is calculated using what is shown on the most current VOE/paystub. We will take the hourly salary shown multiplied by the number of hours verified per pay period to compute the annual base pay. Any income over base pay is considered "other income".

We will use 40 hours for a work week unless the written VOE verifies applicant works less than 40 hours per week.

For example:

***Base Pay Calculation:***

salary rate (\$) per hour x number of hours worked (paystub or VoE) = base per pay period (\$)

+

Base pay (\$) x number of pay periods per year = total annual base pay

***Year-to-Date Other Income Calculation:***

Total gross income (shown on paystub or VoE) - base pay calculated above = other income

Base pay and "other income" are added together to get total annual income used to meet our program's maximum income limits.

Any income over base pay is considered “other income”. If the pay period's end date is June 30<sup>th</sup> or before, we divide (prorate) last year’s other income and current year’s other income by the total pay periods over that last year/this year period worked and prorate for the remainder of the current year.

**e) Income Calculation: Self-Employment Income**

The lender must calculate gross annual income for a self-employed borrower by averaging year-to-date income and the reported net income from signed federal tax returns from the previous two years. Year-to-date earnings will be taken from a current, signed, year-to-date profit and loss statement. This information may be self-prepared.

Example:

2022 net earnings from Schedule C		\$ 33,003.00
Depreciation	+	2,550.00
2022 earnings (12-month period)		<u>\$ 35,553.00</u>
2023 net earnings from Schedule C		\$ 38,000.00
Depreciation	+	3,000.00
2023 earnings (12-month period)		<u>\$ 41,000.00</u>
2024 net earnings for 9 months from P&L		\$ 36,000.00
Depreciation	+	<u>1,000.00</u>
2024 year-to-date earnings (9-month period)		\$ 37,000.00
2022 earnings		\$ 35,533.00
2023 earnings	+	41,000.00
2024 year-to-date earnings	+	<u>37,000.00</u>
	=	\$ 113,553.00
$\$113,553 \div 33 \text{ months} = \$3,441 \times 12 \text{ months}$	=	<b><u>\$41,292.00</u></b>

If the sum of the self-employed income from the past two years and year-to-date equals a negative income figure, NCHFA will treat the sum as zero (\$0).

If the borrower is a 25% or greater partner in a partnership or has a 25% or greater ownership interest in a corporation, then partnership or corporate returns, together with all schedules, must be submitted with the loan application.

If the tax returns indicate that the borrower was self-employed full-time or part-time in the prior year and the borrower is no longer self-employed, the borrower must provide a signed statement indicating he/she is no longer self-employed. The statement should verify the most recent date of self-employment.

**f) Income Calculation: Part-Time Salary Income**

Part-time salary income must be included when calculating the borrower's gross annual compliance income if the borrower is **employed at time of lender submission of documents** for NCHFA loan approval. It is considered current income. If borrower(s) are no longer employed, a VOE must show a termination date and be provided with initial loan submission to NCHFA. The lender must calculate income based on what the borrower is making at the time of lender submission of documents for NCHFA loan approval if the part-time employer verifies a specific hourly rate and gives the specific number of hours worked (or states the monthly amount). The lender must ensure that year-to-date figures equal this amount. If not, the reason for the discrepancy must be documented in the file. If the part-time employer does not state a specific hourly rate and gives the specific number of hours worked (or states the monthly amount), the lender must average past year and year-to-date earnings and project the income on an annual basis.

In cases where a borrower who works for the same employer changes from a part-time position to a salary only based position, employer must provide a written VoE documenting the exact date. In such case, the annual salary will be used for compliance income calculation (bonus or O/T income will not be excluded).

**g) Income Calculation: Commission Income**

Income for a 100% commissioned individual will be calculated as it is for a self-employed borrower (past two years and year-to-date average).

Income for commissions received in addition to a base salary (or a “guaranteed” draw) is treated as “other income.” NCHFA will average the commission income for the previous year and year to date until June 30. On July 1, year-to-date to averages are to be used to project forward for the next 12 months.

In cases where a borrower who works for the same employer changes from a commission-based position (or paystubs show any commission income) to a salary only based position, employer must provide a written VoE documenting the exact date and a full 30-days of paystubs after the transition must be provided showing zero commission income. In such case, the annual salary will be used for compliance income calculation (bonus or O/T income will not be excluded).

**h) Income Calculation: Bonus and Overtime Income**

The lender must average past year and year-to-date bonus and/or overtime income. If the borrower was not employed full-time for twelve months during the past year, the borrower’s income should be averaged using the applicable number of months. If the borrower has been with the same employer for the previous year and year-to-date, then the bonus should be averaged with overtime for the previous year and year to date until June 30. On July 1, year-to-date to averages are to be used to project forward for the next 12 months.

**i) Income Calculation: Dividends and Interest Income**

The lender must average past year and year-to-date dividend and interest income. The tax returns will indicate dividend and interest income received for the prior tax year. The borrower should furnish copies of bank statements, or other documentation to substantiate year-to-date dividend and interest income. This information should be made a part of the lender's file.

**j) Income Calculation: Child Support and Alimony Income**

The lender must use the monthly amount of child support or alimony indicated in the separation papers or divorce decree. If the occupant pays or receives child support, the occupant must complete the applicable questions in the Child Support Income Certification section on the Mortgage Affidavit (Form - 016). For married borrowers (or non-borrowing co-occupants) who do not have a separation agreement or divorce decree, NCHFA will require a recorded free-trader agreement and statement of the borrower's intent to live separately from their spouse, which must include information regarding child support, alimony and ownership interest in any other property, if applicable.

**k) Income Calculation: Social Security Income**

The lender must annualize gross benefits based on the benefit letter from the Social Security Administration. Social Security benefits include payments received by adults on behalf of minors for their own support.

**l) Income Calculation: Other Income Excluded**

The following types of income can be excluded in determining a borrower's and/or titleholders income eligibility for the program:

- amounts of educational scholarships paid directly to the student or to the educational institution;
- amounts paid by the Government to a veteran for use in meeting the costs of tuition, fees, books, and equipment;
- amounts that are specifically for reimbursement of business and/or educational expenses (paystubs must clearly state reimbursement for actual expenses);
- one-time sign-on bonus (must be verified by HR or payroll of employer);
- lump sum additions to family assets, such as inheritance, insurance payments (including payments under health and accident insurance and workers' compensation), capital gains, and settlement for personal or property losses;
- payments received for the care of foster children;
- amounts that are specifically for or in reimbursement of the cost of medical expenses;
- single, non-recurring one-time distribution from IRA/401k plan
- one-time relocation costs paid by employer to employee
- severance pay; and
- inheritance (lump-sum).

## 8.5 Recertification of Income

If the loan is scheduled to close 120 days after the period ending date of the latest pay stub, the borrower's income must be re-verified and a Recertification of Income (Form-103) form must be submitted for approval by NCHFA prior to closing. The lender must receive a new updated pay stub (or payroll ledger) reflecting current year-to-date earnings for salaried employees and a more current profit and loss statement for a self-employed borrower.

Other income must be re-verified as well as the borrower's base income.

### Example:

The period ending date on the latest pay stub is March 8, 2024. The income verifications are valid for 120 days, in this case until July 5, 2024. If the loan closes after July 5, 2024, the borrower's income must be re-verified prior to closing.

## 8.6 Compliance Certification for Non-Borrower Occupant

All adult occupants must sign NCHFA Form-016.

**The income of the non-borrowing spouse or other occupant who will be secondarily liable or have a property interest will be included in calculations to determine eligibility.** The lender must provide all current and prior year's VOEs, current pay stub, award letters, W-2s and 1099s, the most recent year signed federal tax returns along with IRS tax returns and/or transcripts for the prior two years to cover all three years of taxes.

Borrower(s), any other occupant(s) who will be mortgagor(s), and titleholders cannot have owned a principal residence within the last three years.

Co-signors or non-occupant borrowers are not allowed.

## 8.7 Separation Agreement and/or Divorce Decrees; Free-Trader Agreement

In order to verify additional sources of income, NCHFA may request a copy of any separation agreement and/or divorce decree and any subsequent modification documents for any borrower, co-borrower or non-borrowing co-occupant that has been previously married or receives alimony or child support.

If the borrower (or titleholder) does not have a separation agreement containing free-trader language or divorce decree, they will be required to **provide a recorded, signed free-trader agreement and statement** that must include the date of separation, amount of child support or alimony received, if any, and that they have not owned any property as a principal residence within three years of the closing date.

Information regarding child support or alimony can be disclosed on the Form 016 (Program Certification) and supported by other documents gathered by the lender.

**Spouses who are not separated must provide all applicable gross income documentation.** They must meet all IRS tax exempt financing rules, meet all other NCHFA



guidelines, and provide all income documentation at time of NCHFA loan review and approval. Otherwise, loan is invalid and will not be purchased.

## Section 9: Rate Extensions, Changes to Lock-In and Loan Withdrawal Guidelines

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The lender is responsible for ensuring that loan officers and underwriters understand all the qualifying guidelines and program requirements, including program income limits and all information described in this Section.

### 9.1 Late File Submission

The loan must be purchased by the Master Servicer prior to the Lock-In Expiration Date to avoid extension fees. The locked interest rate does not expire, just the protection from extension fees if loan is not funded & purchased by Master Servicer before the expiration date. If the loan is not going to be purchased by the Lock-In Expiration Date, and the loan has not been delivered to ServiSolutions and NCHFA, the lender must request an extension via OLS prior to the Lock-In Expiration Date, and an extension fee will apply. If the loan has been delivered to ServiSolutions prior to the lock in expiration, but not yet purchased, ServiSolutions will extend the loan in 7-day increments for up to 30 days. If the lock expires, a mark-to-market fee will be applied to the loan which is assessed based on market conditions at the time the Master Servicer purchases the loan.

An extension fee or mark-to-market fee cannot be charged to the borrower. Proper disclosures and re-disclosures must meet all federal and state requirements. Loans remain valid and active, until either canceled or withdrawn by lender.

#### **Extensions and extension fees are applied in the following manner:**

If the complete closing package has been uploaded by the Lender in the proper stacking order prior to the original Lock-In Expiration Date, the lock will automatically be extended in 7-day increments with an associated extension fee of 0.0625% applied for each 7-day extension until the loan is purchased by the Master Servicer or has exceeded the maximum 30-day extension period.

If the closing package has not been uploaded by the Lender prior to the original Lock-In Expiration Date, the lender must request an extension via OLS prior to the Lock-In Expiration Date.

If the lender fails to request an extension via OLS prior to the Lock-In Expiration Date, the lock will be assessed a mark-to-market fee based on market conditions at the time the Master Servicer purchases the loan. The loan (and locked interest rate) is still active unless canceled or withdrawn by lender, regardless of expiration status.

If the lender requests an extension via OLS prior to the Lock-In Expiration Date, 7-day extension option is available, as well as a 15-day or 30-day extension. A 30-day extension is assessed an extension fee of 0.25%.

If the lender uploads the complete closing package in the proper stacking order prior to the end of the extension period, the lock will automatically be extended in 7-day increments with an associated 7-day extension fee of .0625% applied for each 7-day extension until the loan is purchased by the Master Servicer.

If the lender requested a 30-day extension, but the Lender has not yet uploaded the complete closing package prior to the end of the 30-day extension period, the lock will be assessed a mark-to-market fee based on market conditions at the time the Master Servicer purchases the loan. The exact amount is unknown until day of purchase by Master Servicer.

If the lender requested a 15-day extension, but the lender has not yet uploaded the complete closing package prior to the end of the 15-day extension period, the Lender has one additional opportunity to request a second 15-day extension in OLS. If at the end of the second 15-day extension period, the complete closing package has not been uploaded, the lock will be assessed a mark-to-market fee based on market conditions at the time the Master Servicer purchases the loan. The loan is still active unless canceled or withdrawn by lender.

For the closing package to have been properly uploaded, it must contain all the documents requested and in correct stacking order as directed by the Master Servicer on its website: [www.servsol.com/lenders/nchfa\\_documents.aspx](http://www.servsol.com/lenders/nchfa_documents.aspx). Uploading an incomplete file does not constitute a valid upload and will result in delays in the review process and may require the documents to be uploaded again in the proper order.

Any loan not cleared for purchase by Master Servicer by day 70 after Date of Closing will be returned to lender as non-purchasable. Lender will be responsible for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage, if applicable. Original Notes will be returned to the lender and the loan(s) will not be purchased. No exceptions.

All extension fees or mark-to-market fees will automatically be deducted from lender compensation at the time that the Master Servicer purchases the loan from the lender. The lender will be notified once via e-mail prior to the expiration of any lock.

## 9.2 Interest Rate Lock-In Policy

The NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage™ program is available on a loan-by-loan, first-come, first-served basis. NCHFA offers a 60-day lock-in period, which may vary from time to time. The mortgage loan must close and be purchased by the Master Servicer by the Lock-In Expiration Date. Once the mortgage loan closes, the lender must upload the Closing Package for review by the Master Servicer and NCHFA in accordance with Section 8. If the loan is not purchased by the Lock-In Expiration Date, but the lock has been granted an extension, extension fees will apply and will be deducted from the final remittance amount. The loan is still active unless canceled or withdrawn by lender.

If the original lock-in period has expired, the loan will be assessed a mark-to-market fee based on market conditions at the time the Master Servicer purchases the loan from the lender. In no instance will the mark-to-market fee be less than what would have been charged if a timely extension had been requested. The loan is still active unless canceled or withdrawn by lender.

**Note:** If a lock is **withdrawn or canceled, the lender cannot initiate a new lock for the borrower until 60 days after the withdrawal/cancellation date.** There is an exception for customers who are switching subject properties. Each lock-in applies to a specific borrower and subject property.

If the property is not purchased and the borrower later goes under contract for a different property (new subject property address), a new lock can be requested immediately by logging into the OLS system and making a new lock reservation. The new lock request will be reviewed within 48 hours and confirmation or denial will be emailed to lender.

## 9.3 Requesting an Extension

Extensions for expiring locks may be requested via OLS. All extensions will incur an extension fee, which will be deducted from lender compensation at the time that the Master Servicer purchases the loan.

If the complete closing package has been uploaded in the proper stacking order prior to the original Lock-In Expiration Date, the loan will automatically be granted up to a 30-day extension. If the loan has not been purchased by the Master Servicer by the end of the 30-day extension period, then a mark-to-market fee may be assessed. The closing package that is uploaded must be complete in accordance with the Master Servicer stacking order as directed in the following link: [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com).

If closing file documents do not reflect a complete closing package in accordance with the Master Servicer stacking order checklist, it will be deemed as not having been received.

The only two instances in which a lock will expire are the following:

- If the complete closing package has not been uploaded by the original Lock-In Expiration Date, and the lender fails to request an extension via OLS prior to the Lock-In Expiration Date. The loan is still active unless canceled or withdrawn by lender.

- If the lock expires, the loan will be assessed a mark-to-market fee that will be based on market conditions at the time loan is purchased by the Master Servicer. The loan is still active unless canceled or withdrawn by lender.

#### **9.4 Changes to a Lock-In**

A lender may update the initial lock-in data by e-mailing the requested changes to [ratelocks@nchfa.com](mailto:ratelocks@nchfa.com). The request will be reviewed to determine if the changes may be made. Subject property address changes are not valid change requests!

If any loan amounts, DTI, loan types, AMI, or credit score changes occur before closing, all changes must be submitted to NCHFA prior to closing including at any time prior to NCHFA underwriting review.

#### **9.5 Withdrawal of Loan Locks**

The lender must notify NCHFA of any loan withdrawals by accessing OLS (<https://www.nchfa.org/MySystems>) and withdrawing the lock. The reason for withdrawing the loan must be entered.

If a lender withdraws or cancels a loan lock, the borrower(s) will not be eligible to re-lock under the same subject property address or same loan program for 60 days after the withdrawal date.

Only new locks due to customer changes in subject property address are allowed under 60 days. Rates and program guidelines in effect at that time are not transferrable.

#### **9.6 Duplicate Locks or Borrowers**

If lender determines upon entering a borrower's information into OLS that a duplicate lock was previously made, complete the reservation as normal. NCHFA will review the new lock within 48 hours and either Confirm or Deny the new lock reservation.

#### **9.7 Lock Expiration**

Unless Lender cancels/withdraws the locked loan, the original locked interest rate will be honored by NCHFA. The Lender will pay a mark to market fee for the current cost of the original locked rate. The lock expiration date is the guarantee date of Lender Compensation. Loans purchased after lock expiration date are subject to extension fees or mark to market fees, which exact amount is unknown until day of purchase by Master Servicer.

#### **9.8 Re-locking a Cancelled/Withdrawn Loan**

The **lender cannot re-lock the same borrower on the same property** until 60 days have elapsed from the time of cancellation/withdrawal. The interest rate does not expire for the loans that have not been withdrawn or cancelled, only the Lender's guarantee of compensation expires and extension fees accrue.

## Section 10: Post-Closing Processing Steps

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### 10.1 General

After the participating lender has closed the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ loan according to the guidelines specified in Section 7, it should follow the procedures outlined below for post-closing steps. NCHFA's designated Master Servicer will only purchase mortgages that are originated by approved participating lenders, and which comply with program guidelines including federal and state requirements.

The closing package related to the closed loan must be uploaded to BOTH NCHFA and Master Servicer in designated stacking order within 10 calendar days after closing. The stacking order of documents is detailed in the following link on the ServiSolutions website: [www.servsol.com/lenders/nchfa\\_documents.aspx](http://www.servsol.com/lenders/nchfa_documents.aspx). The closing package needs to contain all documents in the proper order\* and uploaded as one pdf file to ensure a timely review of the documents by ServiSolutions. Neither NCHFA nor the Master Servicer is obligated to purchase a loan past its Lock-in Expiration Date if the loan has not been timely extended by the lender via OLS prior to its expiration date.

The current Closing Package Checklist is available at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com).

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\* Loans not in proper stacking order may be subject to delayed review and purchase.

### Review of the Mortgage Loan

The closed mortgage loan package must be received by ServiSolutions within ten (10) days of loan closing (**upload closing file to BOTH NCHFA and ServiSolutions websites**).

- 1) Lenders must check the closed loan package to confirm that all items listed on the Funding Checklist are included in the package. Loans will not be funded if any of the items on the checklist are missing or incorrect.
- 2) All loans purchased by ServiSolutions will require mandatory registration with MERS®. No assignments will be accepted for first or second mortgages. Lenders must transfer all applicable rights in MERS® to ServiSolutions immediately after purchase.
- 3) Loans where the interest rate, loan amount, or loan type do not match the Commitment issued by NCHFA may not be eligible for purchase by Master Servicer (ServiSolutions).

Upon completion of the closed loan file compliance review, the mortgage loan(s) will be funded if the file is complete and is in compliance with all requirements. Closed loan packages will not be funded until all required fundable documentation has been received and all compliance issues cleared.

**b) Penalties Withheld from Funding**

Lenders have 10 days from closing to deliver the complete closed loan package to ServiSolutions and NCHFA (upload to both websites). A loan is considered to be in a fundable condition when a complete closed loan package is delivered without errors or missing documents. Loans with delinquent payments will not be purchased. Lenders will have 40 days from the date of closing to clear the loan exception with no penalty. If the loan is not cleared until 41 days from the date of closing, the lender will be charged a late delivery fee of 50 basis points (0.50%) of the principal purchased. **If the file is not cleared by the 71st day from the date of closing, original Notes will be returned to the lender and the loans (including DPA) will not be purchased.** This section does not override any applicable lock expiration period.

Extension fees may be required if the loan is not funded by the applicable expiration date. The amounts of all fees and penalties are subject to change. The current schedule of penalties and fees is located at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com).

**c) Funding of the Mortgage Loan**

ServiSolutions will issue an ACH (or wire) on single and multiple funding's every Wednesday and Friday for each lender. A breakdown of the multiple lenders' funding's will be included with the ACH or wire. Any discrepancies should be communicated to the Funding and Delivery Department at ServiSolutions.

Only one set of ACH/wiring instructions will be accepted from each lender. Lenders are allowed one change to the wiring instructions per calendar year. Subsequent changes to ACH/wiring instructions will result in a \$500 fee per transaction.

Lenders are responsible for servicing the loan until purchased by ServiSolutions to include the payment of all required escrow disbursements for each loan during the period from closing to purchase.

In general, fundable closed mortgage loan packages received by the close of the business day on Monday of each week will be funded on Friday. Those received by the close of business on Thursday will be funded on Wednesday of the next week. All loans must be approved and cleared for purchase by ServiSolutions prior to funding.

The funding amount for both first and second mortgages will consist of:

- 1) Scheduled unpaid principal balance.
- 2) Servicing Release Premium per the Program Guidelines (1st mortgage only).

- 3) Interest from the closing date through the purchase date or interest from the last paid installment date to purchase date at the loans per diem rate.

Amounts to be deducted from funding of both first and second mortgages will consist of:

- 1) penalties or fees assessed in 9.1;
- 2) prepaid interest (Loans purchased by the 15th of the month prior to the first payment due date only);
- 3) prepaid escrow (unless after first payment) or current amortized escrow balance on the loan, less any disbursements;
- 4) Tax Service fee of \$85; and
- 5) Loan funding fee of \$211.

**d) Final Documentation.**

The lender is to submit the final mortgage loan documentation consisting of the following original documents to Master Servicer (ServiSolutions) within 120 days of closing:

- 1) Recorded General Warranty Deed showing conveyance of subject property from the seller to current borrower.
- 2) Recorded First Mortgage Deed of Trust (MERS)
- 3) Title Policy
- 4) Mortgage Insurance documentation (FHA Mortgage Insurance Certificate, PMI Certificate of Coverage, Loan Guaranty Certificate)
- 5) **Recorded** Second Mortgage Deed of Trust (NCHFA Form 405 for DPA Home Advantage) (if applicable)
- 6) Original, recorded intervening Assignment/ MERS® assignment

**e) Transfer of Loan Servicing Rights and Benefits.**

The originating lender retains loan servicing rights and benefits until ServiSolutions purchases the loan. The originating lender will perform all servicing duties until that time. Servicing and benefits rights transfer to ServiSolutions at the time of loan purchase. The lender will be sent a reminder along with the purchase payment advice to send out a goodbye letter to the borrower. ServiSolutions will send the borrowers a Notice of Sale, Assignment or Transfer and two temporary payment coupons at the time of loan purchase.

The first payment due to ServiSolutions will be determined based upon when the Notice of Sale, Assignment or Transfer is sent. If the loan is purchased (purchase date) on or before the 15th of the month, the first payment due to ServiSolutions will be the next scheduled monthly payment due date. After the 15th, the effective date will roll to the following



scheduled monthly payment due date. The lender must transfer the loan to ServiSolutions through the MERS<sup>®</sup> system immediately after purchase.

**Examples:**

- 1) A loan that closed on 06/02/23 is received by ServiSolutions 06/8/23 and is being funded on 06/10/23. This loan will be purchased at the original note amount with no late delivery penalty.
- 2) A loan that closed on 06/24/23 is not received by ServiSolutions until 7/28/23 and is ready to be funded on 08/16/23. The initial payment on this loan is due on 08/01/23. If the loan is purchased after the 15th day of the month, the effective date of transfer to ServiSolutions will roll to the following scheduled monthly payment due date with the lender collecting the next scheduled payment. The lender will be charged a late delivery fee of 50 basis points (0.50%) of the principal purchased.

**10.2 Closing of DPAs in NCHFA’s Name**

The lender must close the NCHFA DPA subordinate mortgage in NCHFA’s name and utilize NCHFA’s Deed of Trust (Form 405) and Promissory Note (Form 406), available at [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com). MERS assignment is not required on NCHFA 2nds. 1st mortgage loans determined to be non-purchasable will also include the 2nd loan being non-purchasable.

**NCHFA will be under no obligation to fund or reimburse lender for the DPA or 2nd loan if 1st mortgage is determined to be non-purchasable, for any reason.**

**10.3 Signatures on the DOT and Promissory Note**

Only the borrower(s) must sign the Deed of Trust (Form – 405). Non-borrowing spouses may sign the Deed of Trust, but are not required to sign if they are not a borrower. For separated borrowers, a recorded free-trader agreement, either stand-alone or containing such language in a Separation Agreement is required regardless of the AUS Findings or loan type. Grantor section of Deed of Trust must list marital status for both 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> mortgage.

**A signed free-trader agreement for separated borrowers is required (must be recorded).**

Only the borrower(s) sign the Promissory Note (Form 406).

Any person who is a titleholder must be listed on the General Warranty Deed. Income of all titleholders must be included in the calculation of Family Income. Non-occupant titleholders are not allowed. Any person added as a titleholder to the title/General Warranty Deed at closing not approved by NCHFA in advance will make the loan ineligible for purchase and is invalid.

**10.4 Uploading the Closing Package (Required to BOTH NCHFA and ServiSolutions)**

Closing must be uploaded to BOTH the Master Servicer (ServiSolutions) Lender Portal website and NCHFA OLS website. Files will not be reviewed until upload is complete.

All closing documents are to be uploaded within 10 calendar days after closing to ensure that the Master Servicer has adequate time to review the documents, clear contingencies and purchase the loan no later than the Lock-In Expiration Date.

The Master Servicer provides a complete checklist and stacking order of required documents on its website at [www.servsol.com/lenders/nchfa\\_documents.aspx](http://www.servsol.com/lenders/nchfa_documents.aspx). Assistance may be requested by emailing the Master Servicer at [lenderinquiries@servsol.com](mailto:lenderinquiries@servsol.com).

The closing package will be uploaded as a single, combined pdf document following the stacking order specified by ServiSolutions for its review. As part of its review process, if the Master Servicer needs additional documents or corrections to documents already provided, the Lender must upload additional documents directly to Master Servicer via their Lender Portal (go to [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com)). Omission of required documents or documents that do not follow the stacking order as directed by ServiSolutions will result in delays of the review process and may require another upload of the entire package.

The lender must endorse the first mortgage Note as follows:

“Pay to the Order of ServiSolutions, a Department of Alabama Housing Finance Authority without Recourse.”

The Note must be signed by the appropriate lending official. This endorsement should be on the last page of the Note.

The use of an Allonge is not acceptable.

The original Note and Deed of Trust for the first mortgage and the original Promissory Note (Form 406) and Deed of Trust (Form 405) for the NCHFA subordinate mortgage (DPA) must be mailed to ServiSolutions at the following address:

ServiSolutions  
Attn: Funding and Delivery  
7460 Halcyon Pointe Drive, Suite 200  
Montgomery, AL 36117

The signature(s) and date on the Promissory Note must match the first mortgage Note. Under no circumstances is the lender allowed to advance a mortgage payment on behalf of the borrower.

The Master Servicer website, which has copies of its checklist and other information, may be found at [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com).

## **10.5 Loan Purchase Review and Funding**

As noted in Section 10.1, mortgage loan **closing documents must be uploaded within 10 calendar days after closing** for review by the Master Servicer.

- 1) The Master Servicer reviews the closing package for completeness and compliance. If the Master Servicer needs corrected documents or additional documents in its review process, it will notify the lender by e-mail. The lender should upload the additional documents directly to Master Servicer via their eDocs platform. ServiSolutions must have the correct contact information, and the contact email address inbox must be monitored. ServiSolutions will use the contact information provided on the Funding Checklist.
- 2) ServiSolutions may require the most recent year's tax transcript for all borrowers.
- 3) The Master Servicer purchases loans twice weekly: on Wednesdays and Fridays. If the loan has not been delivered to the Master Servicer by the Lock-In Expiration Date, the lender must request an extension via OLS and an associated extension fee will be assessed. Locks that expire without an extension will be assessed a mark-to-market fee at the time of purchase based on market conditions.
- 4) The Master Servicer will purchase mortgages in the order in which they are approved for funding. The Master Servicer will transfer funds via wire or ACH to the specified account of the lender. The Master Servicer cannot make assurances about the time required for mortgages to be purchased.
- 5) Purchase schedules will be forwarded to originating lenders by the Master Servicer indicating which loans will be purchased.
- 6) Upon completed purchase of the loan(s), the Master Servicer will pay to the lender compensation based on the first loan amount, inclusive of any servicing release premium. Any extension fees (for extended locks) or mark-to-market fees (for expired locks) will be netted from the lender compensation amount at the time of purchase.
- 7) For fees and costs at loan purchase/funding please refer to section 10.1.

## **10.6 Shipping the Final Documents to Master Servicer**

- 1) All final documents (recorded Deed of Trust, Title Policy, and any corrections and/or title endorsements must be received by the Master Servicer within 120 days of loan closing.
- 2) The lender should send all final documents to the following address:

ServiSolutions /Final Documents  
7460 Halcyon Pointe Drive, Suite 200  
Montgomery, AL 36117
- 3) The Master Servicer checklist can be found at:  
<https://www.servsol.com/lenders/lender-libraryallregs>

- 4) The lender must submit to the Master Servicer the original executed FHA Mortgage Insurance Certificate (MIC), Loan Guaranty Certificate (LGC) for VA, Loan Note Guarantee (LNG) for USDA loans or Mortgage Insurance Certificate (MIC) for conventional loans. Failure to submit the insurance or guaranty certificate may result in a claim for the mortgage to be repurchased.
- 5) If a subordinate mortgage is included in the transaction, the Title Policy may reference both the first and second Deed of Trust mortgages in the policy. The title insurance companies may include the second Deed of Trust (the “DPA”) under Part II and list the specific coverage. The insurer must endorse the title policy and complete the Part II information correctly.
- 6) A separate Title Policy for the subordinate lien is not required.
- 7) The Master Servicer, ServiSolutions, does not offer mortgage life or disability insurance or any other type of optional insurance. Lenders may not include any optional insurance products with loans sold to ServiSolutions.

## Section 11: IRS Recapture Tax Provisions and Disclosures – Applicable to NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage \$15,000

The following information applies to the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage Down Payment.

### 11.1 Summary of Recapture Requirements

<i>Condition</i>	<i>Provision</i>
<i>Recapture applies to:</i>	Buyers who receive FirstHome or other NCHFA Mortgage or MCCs starting January 1, 1991.
<i>Recapture is due:</i>	The year in which the owner sells or otherwise disposes of the home.
<i>The amount of recapture:</i>	The maximum amount is 6.25 percent of the assisted mortgage amount.
<i>Reductions and limitations:</i>	<p>The recapture amount increases from \$0 to the maximum amount over the first 5 years of ownership, and then decreases to \$0 after 10 years.</p> <p>The recapture amount cannot exceed 50 percent of the gain realized on the sale.</p> <p>The recapture amount can be reduced depending on how much the household income exceeds the threshold income for that household size at the time of sale.</p>
<i>Recapture payment method:</i>	Recapture is part of the mortgagor's individual income tax liability.
<i>Other provisions</i>	<p>The housing agency must inform the mortgagor of the potential recapture amount within 90 days of settlement.</p> <p>Home improvement loans are exempt from recapture.</p> <p>Other requirements, including limited exceptions to those subject to recapture and refinancing, were also enacted.</p>
<i>You may have to pay recapture if:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sell your house prior to ninth anniversary date of closing;</li> <li>• Have significant increase in income and;</li> <li>• Make a significant net gain in the sale of the home.</li> </ul>

## 11.2 The Basics of Recapture

Recapture applies to certain NCHFA Mortgages and MCC-assisted loans closed after December 31, 1990.

The maximum recapture will occur if the home is disposed of during the fifth year. The lowest recapture will occur within the first year and the ninth year.

Recapture does not apply if the home is disposed of more than nine years after the loan closing.

Recapture does not apply if disposition occurs due to the death of the mortgagor(s). A successor may be subject to recapture if the property is disposed of.

Recapture does not apply to transfers to spouses and former spouses in which no gain or loss is recognized.

The maximum recapture amount is provided immediately after the loan closing. The actual recapture amount is calculated at the time of disposition. A holding period adjustment and an income adjustment may reduce the amount of recapture.

The recapture amount will be determined separately according to the respective interests in the residence when two or more persons (generally unmarried) receive an MCC-assisted mortgage or a bond loan.

The borrower is responsible for paying the recapture amount as additional federal tax liability upon the disposition of the home financed with an MCC-assisted mortgage or certain NCHFA mortgage loans. The borrower is responsible for the recapture calculation and payment of the recapture amount to the federal government.

## 11.3 Recapture Provision

### a) Purpose

Congress enacted legislation in 1988, subsequently amended in October of 1990, to recapture some or all the subsidy from first-time homebuyers who receive qualified mortgage bond assistance after January 1, 1991. This includes all buyers who use NCHFA FirstHome mortgage revenue bonds and mortgage credit certificates (MCCs). The purpose of recapture is to retrieve the subsidy from owners who receive rapid income increases after they purchase their home and, as a result, do not need the subsidy to remain homeowners. Recapture became effective for all loans closed after December 31, 1990.

**b) Recapture Concept**

The recapture of subsidy on a NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage or MCC is triggered when a disposition of the financed residence takes place within nine years of the purchase date. Transfers to a spouse in which, no gain or loss is recognized and dispositions by reason of death are excluded. The amount of recapture that owners might have to pay depends on how much their incomes have increased, their family size at the time of the sale, the size of their mortgages, the length of time they owned their home and any gain realized on disposition of their residence. The owner is responsible for paying the recapture amount as an additional federal tax liability for the tax year in which the home is disposed of. The owner is responsible for the calculation and payment to the federal government. The originating lender is only responsible for disclosure at time of application and closing.

**c) How It Works**

No recapture is required if the borrower's income at the time of disposition is below the threshold income. The threshold income is calculated as in the following example:

*Example:* The federal income limit at the time of purchase is \$35,200 based on a family size of two at the time of disposition. The disposition occurred 2 years and 2 months from the purchase date.

Threshold Income  
 $\$35,200 \times (1.05)(1.05) = \$38,808$

**d) Adjustments**

Two adjustments may reduce the maximum recapture amount.

*1. Holding-Period Adjustment*

The holding period adjustment affects the actual recapture amount based on how long the home is owned prior to disposition. The holding period percentage increases from 20% to 100% of the original mortgage amount over the first 5 years and then decreases evenly during years 6 to 9. Assume the mortgage was \$60,000 and the unit is sold at the end of 2 years and 2 months.

Maximum Recapture Amount after Application of Holding-Period Percentage (HPP)  $\$60,000 \times .0625 \times .6$  (year 3 HPP) = \$2,250

## 2. Income Adjustment

The income adjustment is to estimate, at the time of sale, whether the owner will still meet the income eligibility limits for an NCHFA mortgage or MCC. The threshold income is subtracted from the borrower's adjusted gross income at the time of disposition and divided by a constant factor of 5,000 to determine an income adjustment percentage. The income adjustment percentage cannot exceed 1.0. The owner's income in the year of disposition is \$41,000.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Income Adjustment Percentage} \\ &\$41,000 - \$38,808 \div 5,000 = .4384 \end{aligned}$$

### e) Gain-on-Disposition

The gain-on-disposition limitation ensures that the actual recapture amount does not exceed 50% of the gain realized on the disposition. Assume the realized gain is \$12,000.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Gain-on-Disposition Limitation} \\ &50\% \times \$12,000 = \$6,000 \end{aligned}$$

### f) Adjusted Recapture

The adjusted recapture amount includes the holding period adjustment and the income adjustment percentage.

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Adjusted Recapture} \\ &\$2,250 \times .4384 = \$986.40 \end{aligned}$$

### g) Recapture Calculation

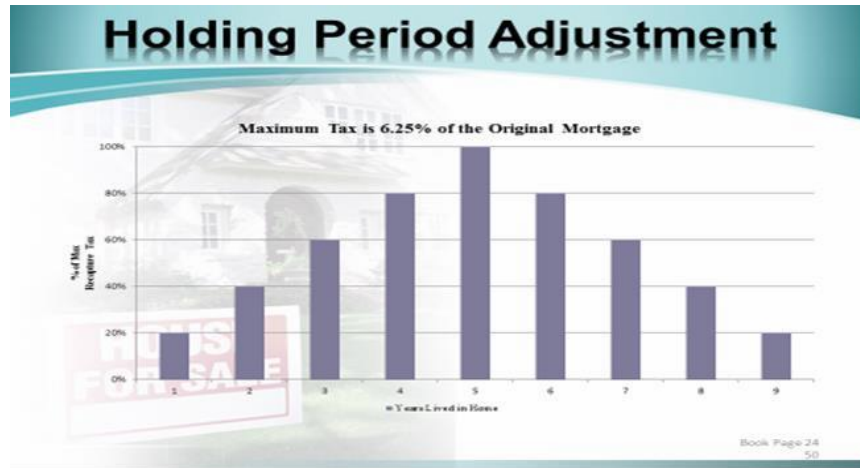
The actual recapture equals the lesser of Adjusted Recapture (\$986.40), or one-half the realized gain on the disposition (\$6,000). In this example the recapture amount will be \$986.40.

## 11.4 Recapture Formula

Several steps are required to calculate the actual recapture amount owed. Adjustments may be made based on the number of years the home is owned prior to disposition and the borrower's income at the time of disposition. The steps involved in the calculation are defined below.



a) **Holding Period Percentage**



b) **Threshold Income (Adjusted Qualifying Income)**

The highest federal family income (based on family size at the time of disposition) at the date of the loan closing multiplied by 1.05 to the nth power, where n equals the number of full years between the loan closing and the date of disposition.

c) **Maximum Recapture Amount**

The federally-subsidized amount which is 6.25% multiplied by the original principal amount of the mortgage, multiplied by the holding period percentage.

d) **Income Percentage**

The modified adjusted gross income of the borrower for the taxable year in which the disposition occurs minus the threshold income divided by 5,000.

e) **Adjusted Recapture Amount**

The maximum recapture multiplied by the income percentage.

f) **Recapture**

Equals the lesser of the Adjusted Recapture Amount, or one-half the gain realized on the disposition.

## 11.5 Recapture Examples

### a) Recapture Example 1

<i>Mortgage Amount</i>	<i>\$ 108,800</i>	<i>\$ 108,800</i>	<i>\$ 108,800</i>	<i>\$ 108,800</i>	<i>\$ 108,800</i>
<i>Disposition Period</i>	13 months	27 months	38 months	49 months	61 months
<i>Family Size at Disposition</i>	3	3	1	3	3
<i>Owner's Income at Disposition</i>	\$ 62,000	\$ 62,000	\$ 59,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 62,000
<i>Federal Income Limit</i>	\$ 61,870	\$ 61,870	\$ 53,800	\$ 61,870	\$ 61,870
<i>Realized Gain on Disposition</i>	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
<i>Threshold Income</i>	\$64,963.50	\$71,622.26	\$56,490.00	\$64,963.50	\$78,963.54
<i>Maximum Recapture</i>	\$ 2,720	\$ 5,440	\$ 2,720	\$ 2,720	\$ 5,440
<i>Income Percentage</i>	0	0	.5020	1.0	0
<i>Adjusted Recapture</i>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1,365.44	\$ 2,720	\$ 0
<i>Recapture Amount (lesser of adjusted recapture or ½ gain realized)</i>	\$ *0	\$ *0	\$ 1,365.44	\$ 2,720	\$ *0

\*Owner's income at disposition less than threshold income.

### b) Recapture Example 2

J, a single individual, purchases a home with a \$110,000 loan. At the time of purchase, the applicable income limit for small families (2 or fewer persons) was \$71,600 and for large families (3 or more persons) was \$82,340. He marries S, and they have two children. They sell their home 2 years and 2 months later and realize a gain of \$15,000 on the sale of the home. In the year of sale, J and S's household income (adjusted gross income plus tax-exempt interest) is \$92,000.

<i>Threshold Income:</i>	$\$82,340 \times (1.05)^2 = \$90,780$
<i>Holding Period Percentage (from Table)</i>	60% (.6)
<i>Maximum Recapture:</i>	$\$110,000 \times .0625 \times .6 = \$4,125$
<i>Income Adjustment:</i>	$(\$92,000 - \$90,780) / 5000 = .2440$ (rounded down)
<i>Income Adjustment Calculation (not to exceed 1.0)</i>	Recapture equals Income Adjustment x Maximum Recapture
<i>Adjusted Recapture:</i>	$\$4,125 \times .2440 = \$1,006.50$

Recapture equals the lesser of Adjusted Recapture (\$1,006.50), Maximum Recapture (\$4,125), or one-half the gain on the house (\$7,500).

## 11.6 Federal Subsidized Amount and Family Income Limits

### a) Adjusted Qualifying Income Family Members Living in the Home at the Time of Sale (Example)

The maximum recapture tax that may be required in addition to federal income tax is \$7,375. This amount is 6.25% of the original principal amount of the mortgage loan and is the federally subsidized amount with respect to the loan.

<b>DATE HOME IS SOLD</b>	<b>HOLDING PERIOD PERCENTAGE</b>	<b><u>2 OR LESS</u></b>	<b><u>3 OR MORE</u></b>
BEFORE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2007)	20%	\$ 71,600.00	\$ 82,340.00
ON OR AFTER THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2007), BUT BEFORE THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2008)	40%	\$ 75,180.00	\$ 86,457.00
ON OR AFTER THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2008), BUT BEFORE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2009)	60%	\$ 78,939.00	\$ 90,780.00
ON OR AFTER THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2009), BUT BEFORE THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2010)	80%	\$ 82,886.00	\$ 95,319.00
ON OR AFTER THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2010), BUT BEFORE THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2011)	100%	\$ 87,030.00	\$100,085.00
ON OR AFTER THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2011), BUT BEFORE THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2012)	80%	\$ 91,382.00	\$105,089.00
ON OR AFTER THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2012), BUT BEFORE THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2013)	60%	\$ 95,951.00	\$110,343.00
ON OR AFTER THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2013), BUT BEFORE THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2014)	40%	\$100,749.00	\$115,860.00
ON OR AFTER THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2014), BUT BEFORE THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (DECEMBER 1, 2015)	<b>20%</b>	<b>\$105,786.00</b>	<b>\$121,653.00</b>

*Note: The closing date for the loan is December 1, 2006.*

**b) Adjusted Qualifying Income Family Members Living in the Home at the Time of Sale (blank)**

The maximum recapture tax that may be required in addition to federal income tax is \$\_\_\_\_\_. This amount is 6.25% of the original principal amount of the mortgage loan and is the federally subsidized amount with respect to the loan.

<b>DATE HOME IS SOLD</b>	<b>HOLDING PERIOD PERCENTAGE</b>	<b><u>2 OR LESS</u></b>	<b><u>3 OR MORE</u></b>
BEFORE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING (SEE NOTE BELOW)	20%	\$ _____	\$ _____
ON OR AFTER THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING, BUT BEFORE THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING	40%	\$ _____	\$ _____
ON OR AFTER THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING, BUT BEFORE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING	60%	\$ _____	\$ _____
ON OR AFTER THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING, BUT BEFORE THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING	80%	\$ _____	\$ _____
ON OR AFTER THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING, BUT BEFORE THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING	100%	\$ _____	\$ _____
ON OR AFTER THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING, BUT BEFORE THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING	80%	\$ _____	\$ _____
ON OR AFTER THE SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING, BUT BEFORE THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING	60%	\$ _____	\$ _____
ON OR AFTER THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING, BUT BEFORE THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING	40%	\$ _____	\$ _____
ON OR AFTER THE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING, BUT BEFORE THE NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING	20%	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Note: Closing means the closing date for the loan.*

## 11.7 Recapture Calculation

### a) Recapture Calculation Worksheet (Example)

A	Maximum federal family income for area, year, family size	\$ 54,500.00		
B	Home was sold or transferred <u>3</u> years <u>4</u> months from the date of original loan closing.			
C	Amount in A x (1.05) to the nth power where n equals the number of full years from B	= \$ 63,090.56		
D	Mortgagor(s) modified adjusted gross income for year in which house is sold (Form 1040)	\$ 65,000.00		
	(tax-exempt income)	+ 0		
	(gain on sale on home) (report on tax returns as capital gain only.)	- 0		
	(modified adjusted gross income)	= \$ 65,000.00		
E	If the amount in C is greater than or equal to the amount in D, no recapture; stop here.			
F	Original mortgage loan amount	\$108,896.00		
G	Applicable holding period percentage (year in which sale or disposition takes place)	80%		
	Year 1      20%		Year 4      80%	Year 7      60%
	Year 2      40%		Year 5      100%	Year 8      40%
	Year 3      60%		Year 6      80%	Year 9      20%
H	Amount in F x 6.25% x percentage from G	= \$ 5,444.80		
I	The amount in D subtract the amount in C ÷ 5000 (\$1909.44 ÷ 5000) (use the lesser of the calculated % or 1% )	= .382%		
J	The amount in H x I	= \$ 2,079.91		
K	Gain on sale of the home \$10,000 x 50%	= \$ 5,000.00		
L	The recapture amount is the lesser of the amount in J or in K	= \$ 2,079.91		

**b) Recapture Calculation Worksheet (Blank)**

A	Maximum federal family income for area, year, family size	\$
B	Home was sold or transferred ___years ___months from the date of original loan closing.	
C	Amount in A x (1.05) to the nth power where n equals the number of full years from B	= \$
D	Mortgagor(s) modified adjusted gross income for year in which house is sold (Form 1040)	\$
	(tax-exempt income)	+
	(gain on sale on home) (report on tax returns as capital gain only.)	-
	(modified adjusted gross income)	= \$
E	If the amount in C is greater than or equal to the amount in D, no recapture; stop here.	
F	Original mortgage loan amount	\$
G	Applicable holding period percentage (year in which sale or disposition takes place)	
	Year 1      20%	Year 4      80%
	Year 2      40%	Year 5      100%
	Year 3      60%	Year 6      80%
	Year 7      60%	Year 8      40%
	Year 9      20%	%
H	Amount in F x 6.25% x percentage from G	= \$
I	The amount in D subtract the amount in C ÷ 5000 (use the lesser of the calculated % or 1% )	= %
J	The amount in H x I	= \$
K	Gain on sale of the home \$    x 50%	= \$
L	The recapture amount is the lesser of the amount in J or in K	= \$

## 11.8 Recapture Threshold Income

### a) Recapture Threshold Income Calculation (Example)

Holding Period*	Federal Income Limit	Multiplier	Threshold
1 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>1</sup>	\$57,225.00
2 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>2</sup>	\$ 60,086.00
3 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>3</sup>	\$63,090.56
4 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>4</sup>	\$66,245.09
5 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>5</sup>	\$69,557.35
6 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>6</sup>	\$73,035.21
7 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>7</sup>	\$76,686.97
8 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>8</sup>	\$80,521.32
9 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>9</sup>	\$84,547.39

\* Number of full years between loan closing and the date of disposition.

### b) Recapture Threshold Income Calculation (Blank)

Holding Period*	Federal Income Limit	Multiplier	Threshold
1 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>1</sup>	\$
2 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>2</sup>	\$
3 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>3</sup>	\$
4 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>4</sup>	\$
5 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>5</sup>	\$
6 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>6</sup>	\$
7 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>7</sup>	\$
8 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>8</sup>	\$
9 years	\$54,5000	x (1.05) <sup>9</sup>	\$

\* Number of full years between loan closing and the date of disposition.

### 11.9 Recapture Provision Federal Family Income Limits Table (Example only)

Federal Income Limit					Federal Income Limit				
Counties	Small Family 2 or Less		Large Family 3 or More		Counties	Small Family 2 or Less		Large Family 3 or More	
	Non-Target	Target	Non-Target	Target		Non-Target	Target	Non-Target	Target
Alamance	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Davidson	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Alexander	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Davie	\$58,200	\$69,840	\$66,930	\$81,480
Alleghany	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Duplin	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Anson	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Durham	\$61,700	\$74,040	\$70,955	\$86,380
Ashe	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Edgecombe	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Avery	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Forsyth	\$58,200	\$69,840	\$66,930	\$81,480
Beaufort	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Franklin	\$71,600	\$85,920	\$82,340	\$100,240
Bertie	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Gaston	\$64,400	\$77,280	\$74,060	\$90,160
Bladen	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Gates	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Brunswick	\$53,900	\$64,680	\$61,985	\$75,460	Graham	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Buncombe	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Granville	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Burke	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Greene	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Cabarrus	\$64,400	\$77,280	\$74,060	\$90,160	Guilford	\$56,400	\$67,680	\$64,860	\$78,960
Caldwell	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Halifax	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Camden	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Harnett	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Carteret	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Haywood	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Caswell	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Henderson	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Catawba	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Hertford	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Chatham	\$61,700	\$74,040	\$70,955	\$86,380	Hoke	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Cherokee	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Hyde	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Chowan	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Iredell	\$56,900	\$68,280	\$65,435	\$79,660
Clay	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Jackson	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Cleveland	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Johnston	\$71,600	\$85,920	\$82,340	\$100,240
Columbus	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Jones	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Craven	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Lee	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Cumberland	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Lenoir	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Currituck	\$60,300	\$72,360	\$69,345	\$84,420	Lincoln	\$55,100	\$66,120	\$63,365	\$77,140
Dare	\$57,900	\$69,480	\$66,585	\$81,060	Macon	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320

Table continued on following page



**Federal Income Limit**

**Federal Income Limit**

Federal Income Limit					Federal Income Limit				
Small Family 2 or Less		Large Family 3 or More			Small Family 2 or Less		Large Family 3 or More		
Counties	Non-Target	Target	Non-Target	Target	Counties	Non-Target	Target	Non-Target	Target
Madison	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Stokes	\$58,200	\$69,840	\$66,930	\$81,480
Martin	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Surry	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
McDowell	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Swain	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Mecklenburg	\$64,400	\$77,280	\$74,060	\$90,160	Transylvania	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Mitchell	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Tyrrell	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Montgomery	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Union	\$64,400	\$77,280	\$74,060	\$90,160
Moore	\$56,300	\$67,560	\$64,745	\$78,820	Vance	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Nash	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Wake	\$71,600	\$85,920	\$82,340	\$100,240
New Hanover	\$53,900	\$64,680	\$61,985	\$75,460	Warren	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Northampton	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Washington	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Onslow	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Watauga	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Orange	\$61,700	\$74,040	\$70,955	\$86,380	Wayne	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Pamlico	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Wilkes	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Pasquotank	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Wilson	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Pender	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Yadkin	\$58,200	\$69,840	\$66,930	\$81,480
Perquimans	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320	Yancey	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320
Person	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Pitt	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Polk	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Randolph	\$56,400	\$67,680	\$64,860	\$78,960					
Richmond	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Robeson	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Rockingham	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Rowan	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Rutherford	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Sampson	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Scotland	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					
Stanly	\$53,800	\$64,560	\$61,870	\$75,320					

**Note:** Actual figures will be sent to mortgagors within 90 days of closing.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Information available at NCHFA’s website:  
[https://www.nchfa.com/sites/default/files/page\\_attachments/107RecaptureTaxClosingPacket.pdf](https://www.nchfa.com/sites/default/files/page_attachments/107RecaptureTaxClosingPacket.pdf)

## 11.10 Notice to Mortgagors of Potential Recapture of Federal Subsidy

The below-market rate on your NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Mortgage or Mortgage Credit Certificate has been made possible through the use of tax-exempt bond authority by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA).

If you dispose of all or part of the interest in your home at a gain within nine years of the date of loan closing, your federal income tax for the year in which the disposition occurs may be increased by a portion of the federal subsidy received by you ("Recapture").

The recapture is accomplished by an increase in your federal income tax for the year in which you sell your home. The recapture only applies, however, if you sell your home at a gain and IF your income increases above specified levels.

Within 90 days of the loan closing NCHFA will provide you with a "Notice to Mortgagors of Federally-Subsidized Amount and Family Income Limits." This form contains information that you will need to calculate the maximum amount that you may be required to pay as an addition to your federal income tax liability if you dispose of all or part of the interest in your home. You may wish to consult a tax advisor or the local office of the Internal Revenue Service at the time you sell your home to determine the amount, if any, of the recapture tax. None of these calculations need be made unless you dispose of an interest in your home within nine years from the date of closing.

The actual amount of Recapture can only be calculated at the time of disposition. Several steps are required to calculate the actual Recapture amount. Adjustments may be made based on the number of years the home is owned by you and your income at the time of disposition.

The steps involved in the calculation of Recapture are defined below.

### a) **Threshold Income (Adjusted Qualifying Income)**

The highest federal family income, (based on family size at the time of disposition) at the date of the loan closing multiplied by 1.05 to the n<sup>th</sup> power where "n" is the number of full years between the loan closing and the date of disposition.

### b) **Holding Period Percentage**

The percentage is based on the year in which the disposition occurs after the loan closing date according to the following table:

Year 1	20%		Year 4	80%		Year 7	60%
Year 2	40%		Year 5	100%		Year 8	40%
Year 3	60%		Year 6	80%		Year 9	20%

**c) Maximum Recapture Amount**

The federally-subsidized amount which is 6.25%, multiplied by the highest principal amount of the mortgage, multiplied by the holding period percentage.

**d) Income Percentage**

The modified adjusted gross income of the borrower for the taxable year in which the disposition occurs minus the threshold income divided by a constant factor of 5,000.

**e) Adjusted Recapture Amount**

The maximum recapture multiplied by the income percentage.

**f) Recapture**

Equals the lesser of the Adjusted Recapture Amount, or one-half the gain realized on the disposition. If the disposition occurs other than through a sale, exchange or involuntary conversion, gain for purposes of Recapture will be determined as if the interest had been sold for its fair market value on the date of disposition. Further, in the event your home is destroyed by fire, storm, flood or other casualty, no Recapture will be required if you purchase additional property for use as your principal residence on the site of the home financed with this mortgage within the period of time specified in Section 1033 (a)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code.

This notice is furnished by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency according to the requirements of Section 143 (m)(7) of the Code. It should be kept by you with your mortgage loan files. You should consult your own tax advisor regarding the calculation of the Recapture amount if you dispose of any interest in your home within nine years of the date of this notice.

**11.11 Notice to Mortgagors of Maximum Recapture Tax and Method to Compute Recapture Tax on Sale of Home**

**a) General**

If you sell your home within nine years after closing your mortgage, you may have to pay a recapture tax as calculated below. The recapture tax may also apply if you dispose of your home in some other way, for example, if you give your home to a relative. Any reference in this notice to the “sale” of your home also includes other ways of disposing of your home.

**b) Exceptions**

In the following situations, no recapture tax is due:

- Home is sold or otherwise disposed of more than nine years after mortgage closing.
- The home is disposed of as a result of mortgagor's death.
- Transfer of home spouse or to former spouse incident to divorce and mortgagor has no gain nor loss included in income under section 1041 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- The home is disposed of at a loss.

**c) Maximum Recapture Tax**

The maximum recapture tax that may be required is calculated in the enclosed notice. This amount is 6.25% of the original principal amount of the mortgage loan, and is the federally subsidized amount with respect to the loan. If recapture tax is due, the mortgagor would pay it in addition to any federal income tax for the year in which the mortgagor disposed of the home.

**d) Actual Recapture Tax**

The actual recapture tax, if any, can only be determined when the home is sold. It is the lesser of (1) 50% of any realized gain, regardless of whether the gain must be included in income for federal income tax purposes, or (2) the recapture amount determined by multiplying the following three numbers:

- The maximum recapture tax, as described above and as shown in the enclosure, multiplied by
- The holding period percentage, as listed in the enclosure, multiplied by
- The income percentage

**e) The income percentage is calculated as follows:**

1. Subtract the applicable “Adjusted Qualifying Income” in the taxable year in which you sell your home, with the following two adjustments:
  - a. your adjusted gross income must be increased by the amount of any interest that you receive or accrue in the taxable year from tax-exempt bonds that is excluded from your gross income (under section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code); and
  - b. your adjusted gross income must be decreased by the amount of any gain included in your gross income by reason of the sale of your home.
2. If the result is zero or less, you owe no recapture tax.
  - a. If it is \$5,000 or more, your income percentage is 100%.
  - b. If it is greater than zero but less than \$5,000, it must be divided by 5,000.
3. This fraction, expressed as a percentage, represents your income percentage.
  - a. For example, if the fraction is  $\$1,000 \div 5,000$ , your income percentage is 20%.

**f) Limitations and Special Rules on Recapture Tax**

If you give away your home (other than to your spouse or ex-spouse incident to divorce), you must determine your actual recapture tax as if you had sold your home for its fair market value.

If your home is destroyed by fire, storm, flood, or other casualty, there generally is no recapture tax if, within two years, you purchase additional property for use as your principal residence on the site of the home financed with your original subsidized mortgage loan.

In general, except as provided in future regulations, if two or more persons own a home and are jointly liable for the subsidized Mortgage loan, the actual recapture tax is determined separately for them based on their interests in the home.

If you repay your loan in full during the nine-year period and sell your home during this period, your holding period percentage may be reduced under the special rule in Section 143(m)(4)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Other special rules may apply in particular circumstances. You may wish to consult with a tax advisor the local office of the Internal Revenue Service when you sell or otherwise dispose of your home to determine the amount, if any, of your actual recapture tax. See Section 143(m) of the Internal Revenue Code generally.

**g) Recapture Reimbursement**

NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage borrowers who pay Recapture tax to IRS will be reimbursed upon application to NCHFA based on certain criteria (the \$15,000 DPA loans only). Requests must be made in writing to NCHFA within 2 years of the payment date to the IRS. The loan cannot have been refinanced for reimbursement to apply.

## Section 12: FAQ and \$15,000 DPA Program Summary

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### 12.1 Preliminary Lender Participation Guidelines

Participating lenders who have executed a Mortgage Origination Agreement (the Agreement) with NCHFA and the Master Servicer may originate, close and fund 30-year fixed-rate mortgages and deliver such mortgages for purchase to the Master Servicer subject to the program eligibility of borrowers. FHA, VA, USDA, conventional, down payment and credit underwriting guidelines will be used where applicable. In addition, the Agreement with NCHFA and the Master Servicer permits participating lenders to originate and close deferred subordinate mortgages, subject to the program eligibility of borrowers.

**At their option, participating lenders may charge a 1% origination fee but no discount points.** In addition, the borrower may pay any normal and customary fees such as application fee, survey fee, credit report fee, appraisal fee, insurance fee or similar settlement or financing cost. In all cases the lender must meet RESPA rules, Dodd-Frank, CFPB, and North Carolina lending laws regarding fees and charges. Total fees in Section A of LE cannot exceed \$1,300 + 1% origination.

Participating lenders must review, execute and understand the terms of the Mortgage Origination Agreement with NCHFA and the Master Servicer and this Program Guide prior to originating, processing, underwriting, closing and delivering mortgages for purchase under the program.

### 12.2 Eligibility Criteria

- 1) The mortgagor(s), a spouse, titleholders and any person who intends to reside in the house with a property interest must meet published income guidelines. Income limits for the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™ program vary by county and are dependent on family size.

- 2) Income limits vary by county and are subject to change. The income qualification for the borrower(s) is based on the total, gross family income of all mortgagors and anyone who may be secondarily liable. Spouses' income must be included.
- 3) The borrower(s) and titleholders must be first-time homebuyers or certain military veterans or purchasing in certain targeted census tracts.
- 4) The borrower(s) must have a mid or low FICO credit score of 640 or higher. Each Borrower must have at least two credit scores.
- 5) The borrower(s) cannot have a DTI ratio that exceeds 45.00%.
- 6) The home must be used as the borrower's principal residence. (Please see Section 6 of this Program Guide for a complete explanation.)
- 7) All loans must be underwritten by the lender to meet FHA, VA, USDA, or Fannie Mae HFA Preferred conventional established guidelines. For conventional loans, only Desktop Underwriter (DU) findings will be accepted (LPA can only be used for Freddie Mac conventional HFA Advantage loans and Closing Cost Assistance).
- 8) All loans must receive a commitment from NCHFA prior to the participating lender closing the loan.
- 9) For conventional loans, any GSE and ServiSolutions approved PMI company may be used.
- 10) NCHFA reserves the right to request any additional documentation needed to make an accurate determination on any given loan.

### **12.3 Down Payment Assistance (\$15,000 DPA) Offered Under NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™**

- 1) The DPA is a 0% interest rate subordinate mortgage, deferred for the first 10 years and forgiven at a rate of 20% per year at the end of years 11 through 15. If the first mortgage loan is paid in full prior to the end of year 15, the borrower must repay the un-forgiven portion of the DPA.
- 2) The DPA may be used for down payment assistance, closing costs, and pre-paid items. DPA cannot be used to cover negative equity in the property. DPA cannot be used to pay extension fees, or to pay off debts, collections or judgements.
- 3) The borrower may contribute their own additional cash resources for down payment and closing costs as allowed by FNMA, FHA, VA, or USDA guidelines.
- 4) A separate Loan Estimate (LE) for the subordinate mortgage is required.
- 5) The lender will fund the first mortgage and the DPA directly at closing.



## 12.4 Closing/Purchase Guidelines

- 1) The **maximum allowed cash back cannot exceed \$2,500** and must be from verified POCs paid into transaction by borrower(s). Lender credits are allowed; however, neither NCHFA nor ServiSolutions pays lender credits. Total fees in Section A of LE cannot exceed \$1,300 + 1% origination.
- 2) Borrower(s) may contribute additional cash resources for closing costs and/or prepaid items from their own verified funds.
- 3) All loans must be purchased by the Master Servicer. Upon purchase, the Participating Lender will be paid lender compensation inclusive of SRP, by the Master Servicer upon purchase of the loan based on the first loan amount. Any extension fees and mark-to-market fees are reduced from lender compensation at the time of purchase.
- 4) All 1<sup>st</sup> lien loans locked through NCHFA must close in the name of the Participating Lender in which the lock was made. DPA mortgages close in the name of NCHFA.
- 5) In order for the loan(s) to be purchased, it must be current in payments of principal and interest, be approved by NCHFA, and be in compliance with the applicable requirements of FHA, VA, USDA, PMI insurer, GNMA, FNMA, and/or Freddie Mac.

## 12.5 Operations Process

- 1) Participating Lenders can only submit lock requests via OLS for this program on business days between the hours of 9:00 am and 6:00 pm EST. During periodic rate updates, OLS will not be able to accept locks.
- 2) Interest rates for the program will appear on the NCHFA website. When a Participating Lender locks a loan via OLS, the lock confirmation will reflect the current interest rate in effect for that loan.
- 3) A participating lender must be approved by NCHFA and the Master Servicer.
- 4) The purchase of the loan by the Master Servicer must occur by the Lock-In Expiration Date. If the complete closing package in the proper stacking order has been received by the Master Servicer by the Lock-In Expiration Date, the lock will automatically be granted 7-day extensions until the loan is purchased. If the complete closing package has not been received by the Master Servicer by the Lock-In Expiration Date, the lender may request an extension via OLS prior to the expiration date. If the lock is extended, it is subject to extension fees.

If the loan is not extended and expires, it is subject to a mark-to-market fee if loan is purchased by the Master Servicer. Extension fees and mark-to-market fees are deducted from lender compensation at time the loan is purchased by the Master Servicer.

- 5) The Participating Lender must upload any requested conditions to NCHFA via OLS.

## 12.6 Documentation Matrix - NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ & MCC-Assisted Loans

<b>Documents Submitted for Loan Approval by NCHFA</b> (Note: Additional docs will be needed for Closing Package sent to Servicer)	<b>NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ (97% LTV, 3% DPA)</b>	<b>NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ with MCC</b>	<b>MCC Only</b>	<b>NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage (e.g., \$15,000)</b>
Form 08 – Underwriter Certification		X	X	X
Final AUS findings	X	X		X
Final Application (1003)	X	X	X	X
URAR Appraisal, PDF, Color – Subject Property	X	X	X	X
All VOE’s for current employment		X	X	X
Credit Report(s)		X	X	X
Other income documentation		X	X	X
Last Year’s W-2 and/or 1099’s		X	X	X
Last 3 years tax returns/IRS Transcript		X	X	X
Form-013: Seller Affidavit		X	X	X
Form-015: Preliminary Notice to Applicants of Potential Recapture		X	X	X
Form-016: Mortgage Affidavit		X	X	X
Form-026: Notice to Borrower	X (w/ DPA)	X (w/ DPA)		X
Form-101: Borrower Closing Affidavit		X	X	X
Form-102: Lender Closing Affidavit		X	X	X
Loan Estimate (LE) on 1 <sup>st</sup>	X	X		X
Loan Estimate (LE) on 2 <sup>nd</sup> (DPA)	X	X		X
Pre-purchase education (only if all borrowers are first-time homebuyer)	X	X		X

*Note: The lender must close the NCHFA DPA subordinate mortgage in NCHFA’s name and utilize NCHFA’s Deed of Trust (Form 405) and Promissory Note (Form 406), available at [www.nchfa.com](http://www.nchfa.com). Closing documentation required by ServiSolutions are available at <http://www.servsol.com>.*

## 12.7 Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) Can I reserve a loan online without locking in a rate? Do you offer a float option?
  - A. No. The loan and rate will be locked upon completion of the lock process using OLS. There is no float option. In addition, if the lock process is not completed to the point of the submission of the rate lock, the data will not be saved. Therefore, all data should be ready to enter at the time of rate lock.
- 2) What happens if my borrower is locked into a rate, and the market rates decline?
  - A. Rates are locked upon receipt of the lock confirmation. Borrowers cannot withdraw and re-lock at a lower rate. A borrower must wait 60 days after the withdrawal/cancellation of a lock before s(he) may re-lock under the NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ program.
- 3) When should I lock in the interest rate?
  - A. Lenders should only lock their loans after a full underwrite has occurred by their internal underwriting staff. At a minimum, loans should be locked only after credit, AUS Findings and an appraisal are completed. The loan must be purchased by Master Servicer (ServiSolutions) within the 60-lock period to avoid penalties.
- 4) My borrowers decided not to buy the property for which a rate has been locked. Instead, they want to buy a different property. Market rates have changed since the initial lock-in. Does the borrower retain the old interest rate lock and Lock-In Expiration Date, or does the borrower get a new interest rate lock at today's rates, with a new 60-day Lock-In Expiration Date?
  - A. Borrowers may only be allowed to re-lock if the original subject property has changed and verification of changed property is provided. Rates and current program guidelines in effect the day of new lock apply.
- 5) The original lock-in data included two borrowers. Now, one of the borrowers will not be on the loan after all. How do I correct OLS?
  - A. The lender must contact NCHFA for all changes to locked loans.
- 6) My borrower is currently locked in for an NC Home Advantage Mortgage™ loan with DPA using an FHA-insured loan. My borrower now wants to change the loan type to conventional. Can I do that and keep the same interest rate and expiration date?

Borrowers may change loan program types; however, the original Lock-In Expiration Date still applies. If the loan type changes, the interest rate will be determined based on date of original lock-in date with NCHFA.

- 7) My borrower is using the NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment Mortgage™. How do I calculate the DPA loan amount?
  - A. The full \$15,000 is required to be used regardless of loan amount.
- 8) My borrower is buying a “fee simple townhome.” Is he/she eligible for a conventional NC Home Advantage Mortgage™?
  - A. Townhomes are acceptable. Condominiums are eligible for conventional financing and must meet all Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac guidelines.
- 9) Our underwriter denied the mortgage loan based on information included in the underwriting file. Once the loan was denied, I withdrew the loan from OLS. We have been able to more fully document the underwriter’s concern, and a loan approval has now been issued. Now that the loan has been approved, how do I re-establish the lock-in? Does the borrower still receive the original lock-in rate, or do current market conditions apply?
  - A. The borrower(s) must wait 60-days from withdrawal date in the system to re-lock.
- 10) The first mortgage loan amount has changed from what I locked in. How do I change the information in OLS?
  - A. The lender must contact NCHFA to make any changes to an existing loan lock – [ratelocks@nchfa.com](mailto:ratelocks@nchfa.com). Interest rate may be affected by area median incomes below or above 80% AMI on conventional loans.
- 11) When are Tax Transcripts required and for whom?
  - A. The NC 1st Home Advantage \$15,000 DPA requires the past three (3) years of federal tax transcripts or valid, signed tax returns for all borrower(s) and/or mortgagors.
- 12) For a conventional loan, what MI coverages are required under the program used by NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Mortgage™?
  - A. MI coverage is based on LTV and area median income (AMI).

The table below shows the required coverage for conventional loan types (subject to change at any time, refer to final AUS Findings).

Loan to Value	MI Factor (DU, Conv AMI Over 80% AMI)	MI Factor (DU, Conv AMI Under 80% AMI)
95.01-97%	35%	18%
90.01-95%	30%	16%
85.01-90%	25%	12%
80.01-85%	12%	6%

- 13) We will not be able to have the loan purchased by the Master Servicer by the Lock-In Expiration Date. What do I do? Are there any penalties?

All loans must be purchased by the Master Servicer by the Lock-In Expiration Date. If the loan is not able to be purchased by the Master Servicer by the Lock-In Expiration Date, the lender may request an extension via OLS prior to the expiration date, and the loan will be subject to extension fees. If the lock is not extended, it will be subject to a mark-to-market fee if the loan is purchased by the Master Servicer. Maximum lock-in is 90 days. Loans past 90 days from original lock-in date may be charged mark-to-market fees. See Section 10 of Program Guide for details.

The loan must be purchased by ServiSolutions by day 40 after loan closing to avoid a late delivery fee. A late delivery fee of .5% will be assessed by ServiSolutions for all loans purchased from day 41 through day 70. On day 71 after closing, the loan will no longer be eligible for purchase by ServiSolutions and all documents received by ServiSolutions will be returned to the originating lender. See Section 9 for full details.

**Lender will be responsible for both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> loan if not purchased by Master Servicer, and will not be reimbursed.**

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## Major Revisions History

July 8, 2017:

1. Added 7.5 - Electronic Signatures Policy
2. Updated Sales Price limit to \$250,000 in \$15k section

August 29, 2017:

### Definitions

3. Extension Fees – Changed to .25% effective September 1, 2018
4. First Time Homebuyer added
5. Free-trader Agreement added
6. Seller Contribution added

### Section 4

- 4.2 – added “only 1 NCHFA loan at a time”.
- 4.2 – 4 - HFA preferred access clarified
- Escrow Holdbacks and Repairs clarified
- 4.3 – Added 203k as ineligible loan type
- 4.4.1 – DPA cannot be used to cover negative equity

### Section 5

- 5.2 – Clarified Pre-Purchase education requirement

### Section 7

- 7.2 – Added Review Time – 48 hours
- 7.3 – Added Perfect Submission
- 7.4 – Added Interest Credit
- 7.5 - Added DOT
- 7.6 - Added Power of Attorney
- 7.7 - Added Free Trader

### Section 8

- 8.1 A.3 – Loans...may not be eligible for purchase

### Section 9

- 9.1 – Changed Extension fee to .25%

### Appendix A – NC Home Advantage Mortgage Summary

1. Down Payment Assistance -2 – DPA cannot be used for negative equity
  2. Closing/Purchase guidelines – 1 – Added POCs for cash back at closing
- Removed Section 11 - \$15k DPA Option

September 26, 2017:

### Section 4

- 4.7 – Subordination Policy defined All Sections – DTI increased to 43%

### Section 8

1. 8.2 – XML File upload added



September 29, 2017:

Definitions updated

1. Removed Substitute TIL
2. Removed TIL

Section 7

1. 7.4.4 – Changed LE information and fees allowed
2. 7.5 – Added LE required as #4.
3. 7.5 – Changed Note to reflect new LE requirement

Program Summary – Removed language about APR not allowed to exceed “0”%

Document Submission Matrix – Removed TIL

October 9, 2017:

Section 7 – 7.5 Added URAR – Uniform Residential Appraisal Report

November 21, 2017:

Added new policy on POAs being acceptable.

January 26, 2018:

Section 4 – 4.3 – Added Rebuttable Presumption

Section 8 – 8.1 – C 5 - changed Tax service fee to 71.50

8.3.7 – added Rebuttable Presumption not allowed

February 18, 2018:

Section 10 – NC 1<sup>st</sup> Home Advantage Down Payment added to Program Guide

April 28, 2018:

- Section 8: Added non-warranty deed exception and free-trader requirement
- Section 4.7: Added lien position requirement for NCHFA loans being in 2<sup>nd</sup> position

May 21, 2018:

The following changes apply to the entire document

- Edited for grammar, typos, punctuation and formatting consistency
- Created text box to pull out 2<sup>nd</sup>-person instructions
- Added dynamic Table of Contents
- Formatted headings, sections and lists
- Moved Program Summaries and FAQs to earlier in the document
- Revamped Section 12 (Recapture) to better align with rest of document
- Suggest creating flow chart for late fees

August 28, 2018

- Removed Early Default document
- Clarified Citizenship eligibility

- Added ServiSolutions requirement for 1-year tax transcripts for borrowers for post-closing audits.
- added IRS tax liens not allowed.

September 26, 2018

- Section 9.1 - Clarified allowable circumstances for Extension fees to be paid by borrower

October 5, 2018

- Added "Color" to appraisal requirement

December 21, 2018

- New fee structure from Alabama
- Max cash back of \$1,000
- Added form08, Underwriter Certification
- Removed UCD XML upload requirement.
- Added two-step process for upload of closing file to NCHFA and Alabama.

January 23, 2019

- Section 8.1 – C 4 – updated Tax Service fee

January 31, 2019

- Created separate \$8,000 manual.
- Removed all references to 3% and 5% programs.
- Clarified closing date/recording date/funding date.
- FHA does not allow DACA as an eligible borrower status.

May 10, 2019

- Section 7 revised who signs Deed of Trust. Non-borrowing spouse not required.
- \$1,000 limit on hazard for USDA loans per ServiSolutions.
- Added \$1,500 and \$2,500 closing cost assistance option

June 17, 2019

- Updated TBA income limits

September 24, 2019

- Updated sales price limit to \$275,000
- Update MI factors chart for AMI and Freddie Mac

June 2020

- Addition of secondarily liable and family income definitions
- Credit report required
- Sales price \$290,000

January 11, 2021

- Updated Insurance Deductible to align with ServiSolutions Sect 7.
- Updated QM change Sect 4.3

March 3, 2021

- Updated # of allowed NCHFA products at one time Sect 4.3
- Added Bitcoin Sect 4.8
- Added at closing guidance for cash back in excess of \$1,000 Sect 4.12
- Added Veteran's Exception & expanded Census Tract Explanation 5.1 (a) & (b)
- Removed DACA Sect. 5.1 4
- Added Section 8 Voucher information Sect. 5.4
- Amended IRS Liens Policy Sect. 5.7
- Added EIN # 10.1 General
- Amended Final Documentation Sect. 10.1d
- QM / APOR

April 29, 2021

- Added Fannie Mae closing costs assistance

June 28, 2021

- Added additional training info
- Hazard insurance not required on 2<sup>nd</sup> lien/DPA
- FTHB training – only one borrower
- SPC 184 and Form 1017
- Added 401k/IRA withdrawals

August 4, 2021

- Clarified FTHB requirements, added info on mfg homes, rental, & sep/div.

Dec 6, 2021

- Removed 10-day wording under repair escrows.
- Clarified that free-trader language is needed in Separation agreement or stand alone

Mar 7, 2022

- Raised cash back to \$2,500 from \$1,000
- Raised DTI to 45% from 43%.

Aug 12, 2022

- Rural closing cost assistance ended Sept 15.

Dec 19, 2022

- Changed minimum loan production from 10 to 12 loans.

- Clarified that DPA cannot be used to pay Realtor/real estate commissions.
  - Updated Alabama Funding Fee / Tax Fee
- Jan 9, 2023
- Over 80% AMI Freddie Mac loans allowed
- Apr 1, 2023
- DPA amount increased to \$15,000 from \$8,000 for new locks on or after 4/1/23.
  - SRP updated.
  - Added construction-to-perm clarification
- Apr 26, 2023
- Third party Deed restrictions – not allowed.
- July 1, 2023
- Updated Sales price limit to \$480,000
- July 17, 2023
- Removed Closing Date requirements. See [www.servsol.com](http://www.servsol.com) for details.
- August 7, 2023
- Update 48-hour wording to show best effort.
  - Clarified that construction-to-perm can include refinance AUS Findings as applicable.
  - No change to submitted documents unless requested by NCHFA.
- Nov 1st, 2023
- Require VoR or signed statement for borrower(s) living rent-free.
  - Added example of income calculation for salaried borrowers
  - Added manufactured home details on what is considered “new”
- Nov 17, 2023
- Add \$500 fee for unauthorized loan changes after NCHFA approval.
  - Updated PT and OT and Bonus income analysis to year-to-date.
  - Updated Contact List
- Feb 19, 2024
- Clarified that married borrowers may sign DoT, but are not required to sign. Income counted for both spouses regardless.
  - Changed February 15<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> on tax return due date.
  - Removed detached buildings exclusion.
- June 24, 2023
- Updated Sales price limit to \$490,000
- July 25, 2024
- Clarified that we do not finance separate parcels. Must be contiguous and under

one deed.

Aug 7, 2024

- Clarified that SPC 184 designation is required on AUS Finding for in-person or one-on-one Housing Counseling.
- Added required HFA Advantage restriction on owning more than one property. Section 6.3
- Updated Master Servicer tax fee to \$85.

Nov 20, 2024

- Clarified and added additional information defining marital status first-time home buyer status for purposes of our program.
- Added information for borrowers changing job position with same employer from commission based to non-commission, salary-based employment.

March 5, 2025

- Clarified annuity income between recurring and lump sum.
- Updated contacts page for NCHFA and ServiSolutions
- Clarified addition of title holders to general warranty deed
- Removed non-permanent resident alien eligibility
- Revised offer letter status