

# Year 15: Transition Strategies for Expiring LIHTC Properties

National Webinar February 25, 2025



#### YEAR 15: TRANSITION STRATEGIES FOR EXPIRING LIHTC PROPERTIES

### **Presenters**



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### **Objective of This Training**

- Understand Background on Year
   15
- Discuss Key Exit Options, Including ROFR & Buyout Options
- Understand Perspectives of Stakeholders

- Re-syndication
- Capital Accounts & Exit Taxes
- Learn how to Develop an Action Plan
- Review Case Studies

### **National LIHTC Stock**

### **Over 3 Million Units**

- Urban, Suburban & Rural Markets Across the Country
- Housing for Families, Seniors, People with Special Needs



Extended use expiration is approaching, will be a rising wave in coming years



# **Enterprise's Experience to Date**

**OVER 1,560 Projects Transferred** 

**Projecting in Excess of 100/YEAR** 

Over the Next

**5 YEARS** 

### The Year 15 "Mantra"

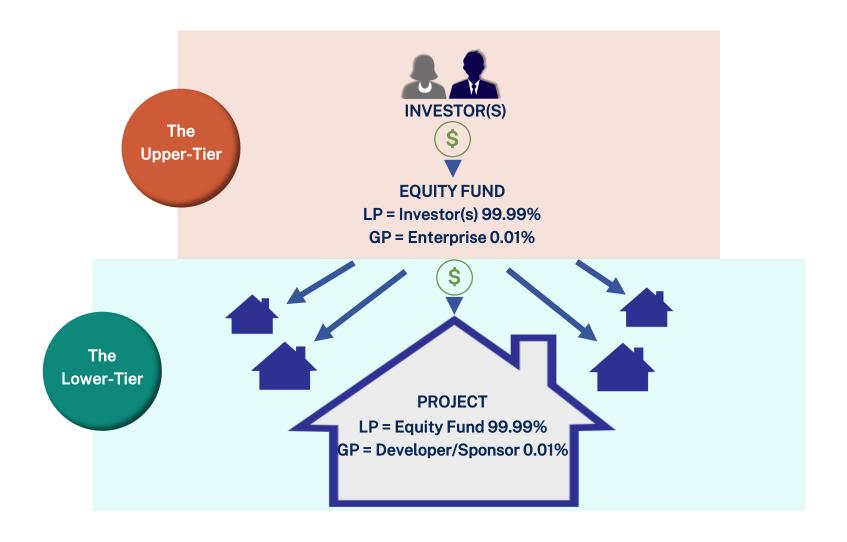


### The Stakeholders

- Residents
- General Partners/Sponsors/Developers
- Investors
- Syndicators
- Private Lenders
- Public Lenders
- Allocating Agencies
- The IRS



# **Overview of Tax Credit Investing**





YEAR 15 TRAINING

### Structure of LIHTC Investments

Investments are Sold Through Limited Partnerships and LLC's

Partnership Agreements Control **Dispositions, Providing:** 

- **Transfer Restrictions and Price**
- **Consent Requirements**
- Distribution of Proceeds
- **Liquidation and Dissolution**

# Type of Investors

### **Types of Investor Vary:**

- **Direct Investors**
- Syndicators ("Intermediaries")
  - Single Corporate Investor Funds
  - Multiple Corporate Investor Funds
  - Multiple Individual Investor Funds

### **Types of Syndicators Vary:**

- National For-Profit
- National Nonprofit
- Regional (Mostly Nonprofit)

# **Enterprise's Goals**

- **Deliver Expected Investor Benefits**
- Exit investor in Year 16
- Transfer to Sponsors



- Preserve affordability & viability
- Avoid displacement of low-income residents
- Can provide equity to re-syndicate the project with new tax credits
- Can provide debt to refinance the project



# Significance of Year 15

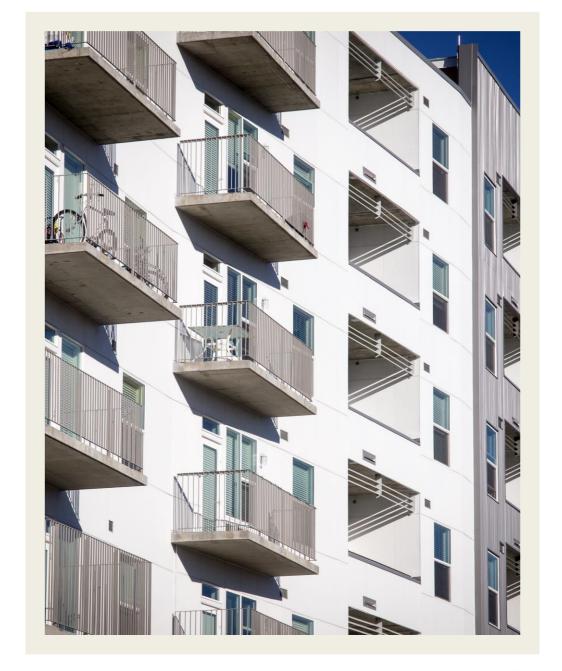
### Initial Compliance Period Expires at the End of Year 15

- Can transfer ownership in year 16 without recapture
- Tax credit transactions are envisioned by investors as 15-year investments
- Most investors are ready to dispose of their interest in year 16

# **Determining Year 15**

### **Tax Credit Compliance Ends:**

- The last day of the 15th year since credits were first taken
- May be different for different buildings
- Plan disposition in Year 16 for the last building placed in service



# **Determining Year 15**

### **Example:**

- Tax Credits allocated in 2008
- Building Placed in Service (PIS) in 2009
- Elected to begin taking credits in 2010
- Tax Credit Compliance Period expires 12/31/24
- Year 15 is 2024; Year 16 is 2025

# **Exit Strategies: Possible Scenarios**



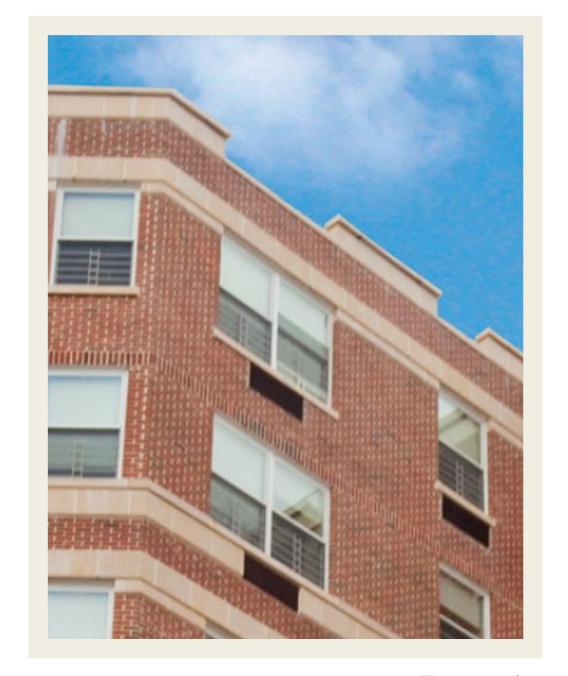
- Right of First Refusal to purchase property
- Buyout option to purchase investor interest
- Purchase within compliance period ("Early Exit")
- "Puts": Obligation for GP to Purchase Investor Interest
- Sale to 3rd party

# **Right of First Refusal**

#### Formula Price = Debt Plus Exit Taxes

Issues with Right of First Refusal:

- Is a bona-fide 3rd party offer required?
- Reserves not included
- Transaction costs
- Formula Price may exceed fair market value



# **Buyout Option of Investor Interest**

### Typically, Option Price is GREATER OF:

Fair Market Value of Investor Interest as determined by an appraisal of limited partnership interest

\$10 + all federal, state, and local taxes attributable to the investor interest sale, including investor exit taxes

\* Terms of buyout option may depend on investor and upon vintage of the agreement

# **Early Exit**



- Investor can dispose of its interest prior to Year 16, provided:
  - LIHTC compliance is maintained
- Early exits may not be feasible for multiple investor funds
- An indemnity agreement is required to protect the exiting investor and syndicator may retain rights to access property and files through Year 15

# CAPITAL ACCOUNTS & EXIT TAXES



# **Investor Capital Account**

### **Balance is comprised of:**

- Capital Contributions
- Less: Distributions
- Less: Taxable Losses
- Less: Historic Credits (If Applicable)
- Less: Syndication Cost

### Investor Capital Account cannot be negative unless Minimum Gain exists:

- Nonrecourse Debt
- Less Net Book Value of Assets

### Tax basis, not GAAP

YEAR 15 TRAINING

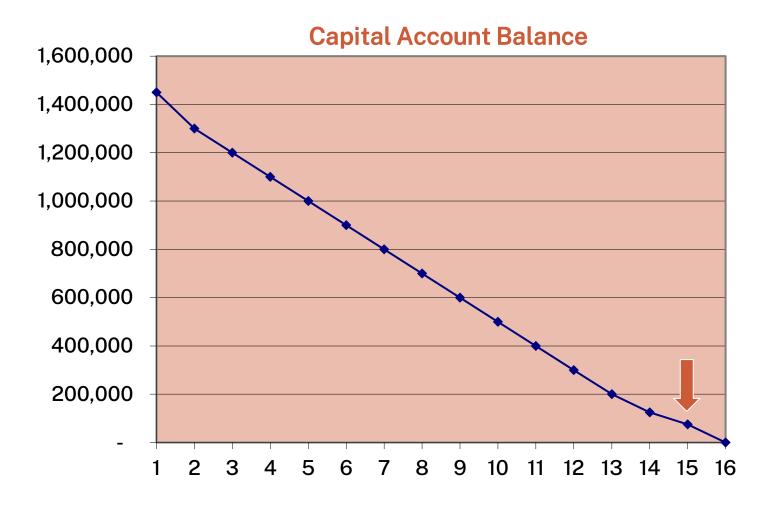
# **Investor Capital Account** (Cont'd)

- Must zero out upon investor exit
- If the ending balance is positive, a loss will be recorded as the investment is written off
- If the ending balance is negative, a gain will be recorded as the benefits exceeded the investment
  - Triggers "Exit Taxes"
  - Time Value of Money



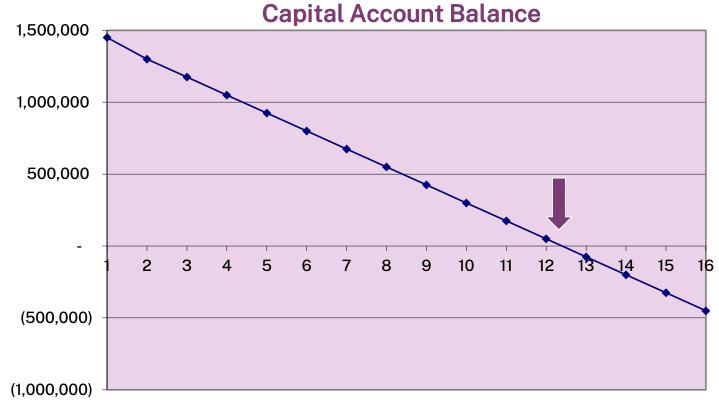
# **Capital Account: Example #1**

Remains Positive Through Compliance Period – An Expense/Deduction Will be Taken by the LP



# **Capital Account: Example #2**

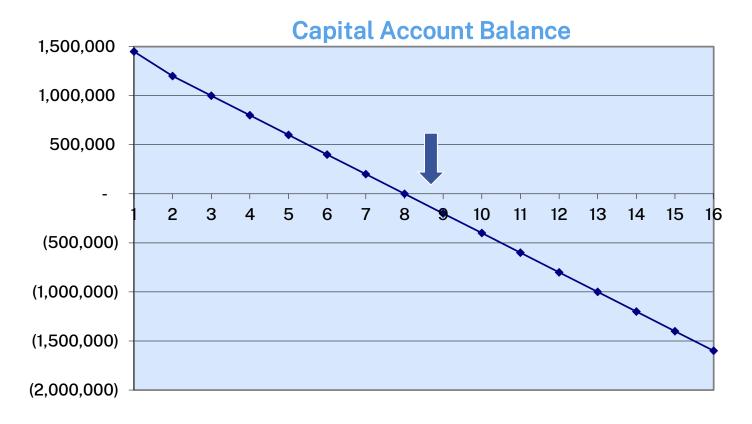
Goes Negative After The End of The Credit Period; Before The End of The Compliance Period



Losses may or may not be taken by the LP

# **Capital Account: Example #3**

#### Goes Negative Before The End of The Credit Period



Credits follow depreciation, if the LP cannot take the losses, they may lose the credits

# Exit Tax Calculation Example, with Gross Up

"Sales Price = Debt + Exit Taxes"...what are the exit taxes?

LP has a capital account balance of (\$500,000)

Exit tax =  $$500,000 \times 21\%$  (federal rate) = \$105,000

The payment of the exit taxes by the GP creates another taxable event

\$105,000 x 21% = \$22,050

Total exit taxes \$105,000 + \$22,050 = \$127,050

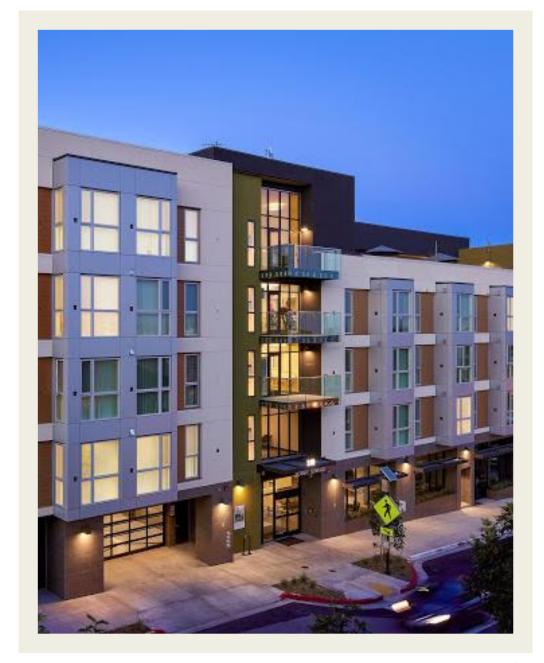
-or-

Apply "gross up" factor:  $1 + \tan r$  (\$105,000 X 1.21 = \$127,050)

# **Ways to Manage Exit Taxes**

#### From Years 11-15:

- Forgive debt
- Reduce LP interest
- Relate qualified non-recourse debt and/or add security to debt
- Capitalize rather than expense repairs
- Improve operations



# GP ACTION PLAN -WHAT TO DO STARTING IN YEAR 10?

### Action Plan For Purchasers: Year 10-13

#### **Develop strategic plan:**

- Through Year 15
- After Year 15

#### Determine when compliance period ends

#### The GP Perspective

 Does the GP have the desire and capacity to purchase the project?

#### **Investor Perspective**

- Is the Investor flexible with sale or transfer?
- Were Investor benefits realized?

#### Review current performance and develop projections

- Will cash flow be sufficient to sustain future operations?
- Are there any anticipated changes in the budget, such as loss of rental subsidies or tax abatements

#### **Market Conditions**

Is the project marketable? Is there competition from other projects?

#### Review capital needs

- Is there a Capital Needs Assessment (CNA)?
- Consider a Green CNA
- What are reserve balances and restrictions?

#### Review and project capital account and exit taxes

How will exit taxes be handled?

### Action Plan For Purchasers: Year 13-14

#### **Analyze Partnership Debt:**

- How does public purpose debt impact disposition? Additional extended use, reserve restrictions, policies for consent
- Are balloon loans or deferred interest payments due at or immediately after Year 15?
- Does existing debt exceed fair market value?
- Can loans be assumed, forgiven or restructured?
- Lender affordability restrictions
- Lender approval rights

#### **Determine Likely Purchase Price**

- Per Buyout Option or Right of First Refusal
- Does the price make sense?

#### **Explore Sources of Funds to Meet Purchase Price and Capital Needs:**

- Refinance: Conventional debt or soft loans
- Reserves
- Combinations
- Weatherization
- Grants

### **Action Plan For Purchasers: Year 14-15**

- Consult with Accountant and Attorney
- Meet with Syndicator
- Negotiate Purchase Price
- Sign Letter of Intent
- Obtain Lender Approvals
- Draft Legal Agreements

### **Action Plan For Purchasers: Year 16**

- Close on purchase in 1st quarter of year 16
- File amended Certificate of Limited Partnership (if applicable)
- File tax return and provide final K-1 to Limited Partner(s)
- Execute assignment agreement
- Execute an amendment to the Partnership Agreement, signed by withdrawing and new partners

#### YEAR 15 TRAINING

### **Year 1: Back to The Future**

#### Determine goals at the outset

- Financing can extend the restriction period
- How long will rent subsidies last?
- Ability to pay ballooning debt
- Extent and durability of improvements
- Clarify transfer provisions in pertinent documents
- Review impact of state agencies scoring criteria

#### Structure and review projections

#### Consider exit tax

- Slower depreciation elected or required
- Source of funds for exit tax



# Case Studies

1. Non Profit ROFR w/o Equity 2. Non Profit ROFR w/ Equity 3. For Profit w/ Equity

# **Study#1: Non-Profit ROFR** without Equity

### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

- 76 units (33 Non-LIHTC)
- Nebraska property
- Serving families
- 60% AMI
- PIS 09/30/2008
- LIHTC compliance period expired 2023
- Extended Use Restrictions expire 2038



### **Study #1: Non-Profit ROFR without Equity**



#### **STAKEHOLDERS**

- General Partner Municipality Affiliated
   Entity (Non-Profit)
- Limited Partner Multi-Investor Fund
- Syndicator Enterprise
- Lenders Conventional & Public Purpose
   Debt
- State Allocating Agency
- Residents

#### **NEGOTIATION POINTS**

- GP holds the Right of First Refusal to purchase property for debt + taxes
- Positive Capital Account No Exit Taxes Due
- GP also has Buyout Option to purchase LP interest
- Accrued debt exceeds estimated property value
- \$5.3MM in related party debt (2<sup>nd</sup> & soft loans)
- Significant capital needs

### **Study #1: Partnership Economics**



Cap Rate <u>6.05%</u>

\$3,321,900 Property Value (NOI/Cap Rate)



#### **Plus**

Property (Net) NOI

Operating Reserves	\$204,745
Replacement Reserves	\$356,352
T&I Escrows	\$59,528
Cash in Bank	<u>\$128,242</u>

\$748,867

#### Less

\$ 105,362 **AP/Current Accruals** 

Debt \$6,561,351

\$6,666,713

\$(2,595,946) = Net Partnership Assets

→ real estate valued at less than ROFR price of debt + taxes

# **Study #1: Non-Profit ROFR without Equity**



#### VIEW FROM THE FUND

- Business Purpose: includes long term preservation after fund exit
- Operating Partnership Investor benefits delivered
- Fund IRR exceeds target
- Partnership Agreement provides ROFR disposition in Y16
- Assign limited partner interest to GP (affiliate) for debt
- GP assumes all assets and liabilities

Due to the lack of any value in excess of debt, a sale of the investor interest in this partnership for no monetary consideration would be appropriate for a nonprofit or a for profit partner.

# **Study#2: Non-Profit ROFR with Equity**

### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

- 56 units
- Serving Seniors
- 50% and 60% AMI
- PIS 2007
- LIHTC compliance period expired 2022
- Extended Use Restrictions expire 2037



# **Study #2: Non-Profit ROFR with Equity**



#### **NEGOTIATION POINTS**

- Project has equity in the real estate.
- GP has a ROFR to purchase property for debt plus taxes, resulting in partnership dissolution and distribution of remaining balance sheet items.
- LPA allows for replacement reserves to be spent in preparation of a sale
- Project has significant annual cashflow





Property NOI (Less Reserves)	\$219,155
Cap Rate	6.05%
Property Value	\$3,622,397

→ real estate greater than ROFR price of debt + taxes

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Cash	\$ 161,633
Operating Reserves	\$ 63,002
Replacement Reserves	<u>\$ 77,475</u>
TOTAL =	\$302,110

#### Less

AP/Current Accruals	\$ 176,664
Debt	<u>\$2,776,947</u>

\$ 970,896 = Net Partnership Assets

# **Study #2: Non-Profit ROFR with Equity**



Property Sale	
Debt	\$2,776,947
Taxes	0
Less: Debt	<u>2,776,947</u>
= Sale Proceeds from Property	(0)

→ vs. property valued at \$3.6mm

Plus: Cash & Reserves available for distr. 224,635 Less: AP/Accruals/Fees 176,664 25,000 Less: Wind-up costs

Real estate equity of \$845,450 goes to nonprofit per IRC section 42 ROFR

= Net Assets Available for Distribution

\$22,971 \*

\* In this scenario, precise ROFR calculation resulted in distribution of \$22,971 to the investor.





### **Highlights of Transaction**

- Depending on investor expectations, sales price may be negotiated in the range of \$0 - \$22,971
- ROFR allows GP to retain equity in property
- LPA allows replacement reserves to stay with property
- Structured as transfer of LP interest to the benefit of all parties (reduced costs, example)
- Extended land use agreement restricts rent through the year 2036 partnership will need resources for capital needs.

# **Study #2: Non-Profit ROFR with Equity**



#### VIEW FROM THE FUND

- Fund Goal: includes long term preservation after investor exit. Nonprofit owner will retain at least \$970,896 in value in excess of debt.
- Projected lower tier benefits delivered
- Fund IRR exceeds target
- Partnership Agreement provides ROFR disposition in Y16
- Collect up to \$22,971 in proceeds.

# Study#3: For Profit Buy Out Option



#### HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO

- Assume prior Case Study #2 has a for profit developer with only a buyout option allowing acquisition of limited partner's 99.99% ownership interest for the greater of:
  - The fair market value of the limited partner's interest, or
  - Investor exit taxes
- "Fair Market Value" may be defined differently depending on the partnership agreement

# **Study#3:** For Profit Buy Out Option



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Property Sales Price + Taxes Less: Debt = Sale Proceeds from Property	\$2,776,947 0 2,776,947 (0)	\$ <b>3,622,397</b> 0 <u>2,776,947</u> \$ 845,450
Plus: Cash & Reserves available for distr. Less: AP/Accruals/Fees Less: Wind-up costs	224,635 176,664 25,000	302,110 176,664 25,000
= Net Assets Available for Distribution	\$22,971	\$945.896*

**Buyout price to** exiting LP is \$94,590 \*\*

<sup>\*</sup> Represents total, net partnership value. \*\* Assuming LP appraisal concludes to LP value equal to 10% of net total partnership assets.

# **Some Takeaways**

- Majority of transfers are to current GP and involve simple transfer of limited partner interest.
- Year 15 "mantra"
- Exits may be delayed by agency/lender consent process.
- Lender/agency restrictions on cash and reserves may impact value.
- Extended-use period drives need for properties to be well capitalized.

# QUESTIONS???

# Join us.

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