

MATCH AND LEVERAGE

MATCH

All Participating Jurisdictions (PJs) must contribute (match) 25 cents for each dollar of HOME funds spent on affordable housing. As IHFA draws funds from the HOME Investment Trust Fund, it incurs a Match “liability”, which must be satisfied by the end of each Federal fiscal year. The Match Contribution adds to the resources available for HOME-assisted and/or HOME-eligible projects. Match is defined at the federal level and must **be a permanent contribution to a project.**

The match obligation is created by the drawdown of HOME funds. Match liability is incurred every time HOME funds, subject to the match requirement, are drawn down. The matching contribution (match credit) does not have to be invested in the same project, or even the same activity.

Reduction of the match contribution requirement may be allowed under the following conditions:

- Fiscal distress
- Severe fiscal distress
- Presidentially declared major disasters covered under the Stafford Act.

No match requirement

- HOME Administrative and planning funds
- CHDO Operating Assistance Grant funds
- CHDO Predevelopment loan if the project does not go forward

Eligible Forms of Match

- Non-Federal Cash or Cash Equivalents
- Forbearance of Fees and Waived/Reduced Taxes
- Value of Donated Land or other Real Property
- Investments in On and Off-Site Infrastructure
- A percentage of the proceeds of State or Local Housing Bonds
- Value of Donated Materials, Equipment, Labor and Professional Services
- Sweat Equity
- Direct Costs of Supportive Services to residents of HOME projects
- Direct Cost of Homebuyer Counseling to families purchasing homes with HOME assistance.
- Match counted for other Federal programs cannot be counted as HOME match. HOME can be counted as match for McKinney Act Programs.

Non-Federal Cash or Cash Equivalents

There are many eligible forms of cash match. Cash assistance may be contributed from a public or private non-federal source as long as the contribution is permanent.

Forbearance of Fees and Waived/Reduced Taxes

Match for the value of foregone fees, taxes or charges apply only to HOME-assisted projects.

The waived fees that may be counted as match are:

- State and local taxes, charges, and fees
- Value of foregone real estate taxes must be based on post-improvement value
- Value of fees, taxes or charges foregone for future years is the present discounted cash value of the amount forgiven, based on the Treasury security rate closest in maturity to the number of years for which fees, taxes, or charges are foregone.
- Other Charges and Fess
- Title searches

- Title insurance premiums
- Utility hook-ups or surcharges

Waived taxes, charges, and fees are not match credit if the waived fees are associated only with the HOME Program (cannot create a fee and waive or reduce it for HOME unless the fee exists for other projects).

Value of Donated Land or Other Real Property

Land or real property permanently contributed to a HOME-assisted project is a source of match. Property may be donated or sold at below market rate. Owner Equity is not eligible as match.

If a property acquired with non-federal resources is donated to a HOME project, the match credit is equal to 100% of the appraised value minus any debt burden, liens, or other encumbrances.

- Properties may be donated by: the PJ, non-federal public entities, private entities, or individuals.
- Properties **may not** be donated by applicants for or recipients of HOME assistance or contracts, or investors who **own**, are working on, or are proposing to apply for HOME assistance.

The value **must be** determined by an appraisal:

- Appraisal must be performed by an independent, certified appraiser.
- Appraisal method must conform with, generally recognized practices and procedures.
- Opinions of value must be based upon the best available data.

Properties acquired with federal funds and donated, can prove match credit under certain circumstances:

- The properties must have been acquired specifically for HOME-assisted housing.
- Property must have been acquired at demonstrably below the appraised value and
- The seller must acknowledge the sale at below-market value as a donation to affordable housing at the time of acquisition

Investments in On and Off-Site Infrastructure

Infrastructure improvements must be directly related to HOME projects. The infrastructure improvements must directly facilitate the occupancy of HOME units. Examples include:

- Streets
- Sidewalks
- Gutters
- Street lights

Utility lines and connections

The improvements must be completed no earlier than 12 months before HOME funds are committed to the project. The improvements must be paid for from non-federal resources.

Infrastructure improvements are credited when the funds are expended or if the improvements were made prior to the commitment of HOME funds, when the HOME funds are committed.

Proceeds from State or Local Housing Bonds

The proceeds from affordable housing bonds, which are repayable from the housing project, may be used as match credit. However, HOME limits the amount of match, credit is valued as follows:

- 50% of the face value of each loan made to HOME multi-family projects
- 25% of the face value of each loan made to HOME single-family projects

- No more than 25% of the match liability can be met through loans to housing projects from the proceeds of bonds.

Example #1: HOMETOWN receives a \$10,000, 3%, 15 year loan from a local housing trust fund to support rehabilitation of a single family HOME project. All repayments of principal and interest are paid into the State HOME Trust Account. The full \$10,000 is counted as a match.

Example #2: HOMETOWN arranges a \$50,000, 5%, 10 year loan from the local housing trust fund to assist a HOME project. The principal and interest are repaid to the local housing trust fund and are not permanently available to the PJ's HOME program. Only the value of any interest foregone (the equivalent of a grant) can be counted as match since the full face value of the loan is not permanently available to the HOME Program.

Example #3: Multifamily project Sponsor borrows \$100,000 at 8% for 15 years from a bank. The market rate for a multifamily project is 9% at the time the loan closes. The discounted cash value of the difference between the payments received from the 8% loan and what the payments would have been on a 9% loan is the match.

Donated Materials, Equipment, Labor and Professional Services

The value of donated materials for site preparation and construction of HOME units may be counted as match.

- Materials must have been purchased with non-federal funds.
- IHFA must use its normal cost estimating procedures to determine the value of materials, and must document its value determination.

The reasonable value of the use of site preparation and construction equipment donated may be counted as match:

- The full value of the contribution may be counted (rental rate x number of hours/day for which it was donated)
- Documentation of the match must include a letter from the equipment owner stating the rental rate and number of hours/days donated.

The value of any donated or volunteer labor, including professional services, can be eligible for match:

- HUD has established hourly labor rates for donated unskilled labor at \$10.00 per hour.
- Skilled labor and professional services will be valued at the rate normally charged by the entity providing the service.
- The value of labor or professional services provided at a reduced rate to the project may be counted as match, provided the individual or entity agrees to accept the reduced rate.
- Donations of material, equipment use, labor, and professional services are credited at the time they are used or contributed to the project.

Sweat Equity

The value of sweat equity provided to a homeownership project may be counted as match.

- The contribution will be valued at the rate of unskilled labor. This rate is established by HUD
- The value of the labor can be contributed until the time of project completion
- Sweat equity must be contributed as part of an established program, such as Self-Help

Direct Costs of Certain Supportive Services

IHFA may count the direct cost of supportive services provided to residents of HOME units if the services are

- Paid for with non-federal funds,

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- Provided during the period of affordability,
- Necessary to facilitate independent living or,
- Required as a component of a self-sufficiency program that is provided to residents.

Examples of services include:

- Case management
- Mental health services
- Assistance with tasks of daily living
- Substance abuse treatment and counseling
- Daycare
- Job Training and counseling

Direct costs that may be counted as match are limited to salary costs and the cost of materials directly related to the provision of these services. Overhead costs, such as rent and utilities, are not considered direct costs.

Match is credited at the time the supportive services are provided.

Homebuyer Counseling

IHFA may count as match the direct cost of counseling provided to families that complete home purchases with HOME assistance.

- Counseling may include pre-purchase and/or ongoing counseling during the period of affordability
- The counseling may be provided as part of a program that is not HOME specific, for example, a lender offer homebuyer-counseling program for non-profit program. However, only the costs of services to families that complete purchases with HOME funds count toward the match.
- Direct costs that may be counted include salaries and the cost or materials directly related to the counseling.
- Credit is at the time the counseling services are provided

Cash Match

Only non-federal public or private sources count as match.

Acceptable Sources of Cash Match	Unacceptable Sources of Cash Match
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local or state general revenues• Housing Trust Funds• Foundations, donations• Program income from certain closed out federal grants• Interest rate subsidy achieved by the exemption of state or local taxes• Present value of loans made at rates below market rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDBG funds• Monies from federal grants• Funds raised through federal low income housing tax credits• Interest rate subsidies attributable to federal tax exempt financing• Owner equity in a project (with the exception of sweat equity)• Cash contribution from investors, applicants for or recipient of HOME assistance• Expenditures on program administration

Match Credit and Uses of Match Funds

IHFA must monitor and track all HOME match contributions. It is important to note that match obligations accrue as HOME funds are spent. Matching funds must be used in conjunction with housing that receives HOME funds or meets the affordability requirements of the HOME Program.

Matching requirements are monitored by HUD on a program basis, not a project basis. Excess match funds expended on one project may be used to match HOME funds for another project. Excess matching

funds may also be carried over from one federal fiscal year to the next.

Example A: \$400,000 is drawn down for HOME Project A, a new construction project, and a \$100,000 match obligation is incurred. \$100,000 is spent by another entity to provide down payment assistance for 20 first-time homebuyers following HOME regulations. The \$100,000 is credited as match to Project A.

Example B: Project B is the rehabilitation of a 200-unit apartment complex. All units are HOME eligible. \$400,000 of HOME funds is drawn down and \$200,000 in matching funds is used to finance the project. Since the match obligation is only \$100,000 (25% of \$400,000) for this project, \$100,000 of match can be "banked" and applied to another HOME project.

Example C: Project C is a rehabilitation project requiring \$100,000 in HOME funds and incurring a \$25,000 match obligation. Project D, across town, is a new construction project of 10 single-family homes requiring \$400,000 in HOME funds and incurring \$100,000 in match obligation. All of the units in Project D are HOME eligible. The City completes \$125,000 in infrastructure improvements associated with the 10 homes using non-federal funds. Both projects have met their match requirements.

Eligibility of Project Expenditures as Match Credit

As long as 51% or more of the units in a project (rental or owner occupied) qualify as HOME-eligible housing, matching funds invested in the entire project count as match. However, if less than 51% of the units qualify as HOME-eligible housing, only the matching funds contributed to the HOME eligible units count as match.

Example D: A rehabilitation project consists of 20 units. Five of the units are HOME assisted. The remainder is market rate. A private grant of \$50,000 is obtained to assist in completion of the improvements to the project. Only \$12,500 can be counted as match since only 25% of the units in the project are HOME assisted or affordable under the HOME definition.

Example E: If the above project had 11 affordable or HOME units, 100% of the grant would count as match.

Match Timing

Match obligation must be met on a federal fiscal year basis (federal fiscal year: October 1 to September 30). Funds drawn during one fiscal year must be matched that same year or with excess match from a previous year. When match is credited depends on the source of match. For example:

- A cash contribution is credited when the funds are expended;
- The grant equivalent of a below-market rate interest loan is credited at the time of the loan closing;
- Donated material is credited as match at the time it is used for affordable housing;
- Donated and/or discounted professional services or voluntary labor is credited at the time the work is performed;
- The present discounted value of foregone taxes, fees or other charges is credited at the time it is officially waived, foregone or deferred and the owner is notified;
- Donations of land or real property are credited at the time ownership of the property is transferred, and;
- Infrastructure improvements are credited when the funds are expended or, if the improvements were made prior to commitment of HOME funds, when the HOME funds are committed.

Excess Match

Contributions that exceed the PJ's match liability for the fiscal year in which they were made will be carried over and applied to future match liability.

Ineligible Sources of Match

- Contributions made with or derived from federal resources of funds, regardless of when the funds were received or expended.
- The interest rate subsidy attributable to the federal tax exemption on financing.
- Owner equity or investment in a project (except sweat equity).
- Cash or other forms of contributions from applicants or recipients of HOME funds.
- Contributions counted as match toward any other federally funded program.
- Federal Funds including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG), Urban Renewal, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and Homeownership Opportunities for People Everywhere (HOPE).
- Developer's own waived fees.

LEVERAGE

Because HOME funds are only one source of funding in a project, applicants are required to utilize other funds to complete the project. Leverage is all other sources of funding in a project or activity (excluding HOME funds). Leverage includes match. The application process requires a project to successfully utilize leverage; leverage is essential for a successful project.

Sources of leverage

- Bank loans or other loans not repayable to the HOME account
- CDBG funds
- Contributions to units that are not HOME assisted or HOME-eligible
- Federal funds, either grants or loans
- All forms of Owner equity

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