

**HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
SINGLE FAMILY MORTGAGE CREDIT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
LENDER SOLICITATION**

The Housing Finance Authority of Hillsborough County, Florida (the "Issuer") has established a mortgage credit certificate program which provides qualified first-time homebuyers and borrowers of qualified home mortgage loans and qualified rehabilitation loans to a federal income tax credit (the "Program"). Under the Program qualifying homebuyers can receive a mortgage credit certificate entitling homebuyers to reduce their taxes by ten percent (10%) to fifty percent (50%) (such percentage to be determined by the Issuer) of the amount of interest paid on their home loan (not to exceed \$2000 per year if the credit percentage exceeds 20%). The tax credit is available each year that the borrower continues to live in the home financed under the Program.

The Issuer is hereby soliciting lenders who are interested making loans to qualified homebuyers under the Program to participate in the Program. Any person or entity that is willing to provide financing for the acquisition, qualified rehabilitation (as discussed below) or qualified home improvement (as discussed below), completes training provided by the Program Administrator and enters into a Participation Agreement may participate in the Program. Lenders desiring to participate in the Program should contact the Program Administrator at the address provided below. A list of participating Lenders may be published or provided by the Program Administrator to qualified homebuyers who request it. Neither the Issuer nor the Program Administrator will recommend any particular lender to a qualified homebuyer, nor will the Issuer or the Program Administrator prohibit a qualified homebuyer from using a lender of his or her choice. The Program Administrator can be contacted at the following address:

eHousingPlus
3050 Universal Way
Suite 190
Weston, FL 33331 Phone: 954-217-0817
email: services@ehousingplus.com

The general requirements pertaining to qualified homebuyers under the Program are set forth below. These requirements are subject to change in accordance with federal and state law.

1. *Principal Residence.* The homebuyer must occupy the home financed under the Program as his/her principal residence within a reasonable period, not to exceed 60 days, after the financing is provided. A principal residence is a home occupied primarily for residential purposes. A principal residence does not include a home used as an investment property, as a recreation home or a home 15 percent or more of the total area of which is used in a trade or business.

2. *First-Time Homebuyer.* Each homebuyer must be a first-time homebuyer. Any person who has not owned his/her principal residence at any time during the three years prior to closing a loan financed in connection with the Program is considered a first-time homebuyer. This requirement does not apply to loans in certain areas designated as targeted areas (collectively, the "Targeted Area") or to qualified home improvement loans and qualified rehabilitation loans or to loans to veterans if such veteran has not previously qualified for and received financing under either a mortgage credit certificate program or a qualified mortgage revenue bond program.

3. *Purchase Price.* Under the Program, the purchase price for residences may not exceed 90 percent (110 percent with respect to residences located in Targeted Areas) of the average area purchase price applicable to the residence. For this purpose, the "average area

purchase price" is based upon the average purchase price of single family residences determined pursuant to applicable federal law with respect to both new and existing one, two, three and four unit residences. The current maximum purchase prices for homes under the Program are as follows:

<u>Non-Targeted Area</u>	<u>Targeted Area</u>
\$225,000	\$225,000

These limitations are subject to adjustment periodically.

4. *New Mortgage.* The mortgage loan financed in connection with the Program is required to be a new mortgage loan and may not replace a prior mortgage loan on the home (whether or not previously repaid). The mortgage credit certificates are available in connection with any not to exceed 30 year, fixed rate mortgage loan which is (i) a government loan eligible for purchase by GNMA, (ii) a conventional loan eligible for purchase by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, or (iii) a special loan offered by lending institutions and approved by the Issuer. Any lending institution is eligible to provide mortgage loans in connection with the Program as long as they are willing to follow Program requirements. A list of lenders that have agreed to follow Program requirements can be found at www.ehousingplus.com.

5. *Income.* Under the Program, the maximum family income for households of 3 or more persons may not exceed 115 percent (140 percent with respect to residences located in Targeted Areas) of the applicable median family income, subject to adjustment for high housing cost areas. For a family of 2 or fewer persons, the maximum family income may not exceed 100 percent (120 percent with respect to residences located in Targeted Areas) of the applicable median family income, subject to adjustment for high housing cost areas. The current limits on annual gross income for households under the Program (after adjustment for high housing cost areas) are as follows:

<u>Non-Targeted & Targeted Areas</u>	
Families of 1 or 2 persons	\$59,000
Families of 3 or more persons	\$67,850

These limitations are subject to adjustment periodically. Gross income includes salary and wages, including overtime, as well as dividends, alimony, public assistance, social security, unemployment compensation and investment income.

6. *One- to Four-Family Home.* The residence financed in connection with the Program must be a one- to four-family residence. A one-family residence includes a detached home, one unit of a duplex, a townhouse or a condominium unit. If the residence is a two- to four-family residence, one unit of the residence must be the principal residence of the owner of the units and (with limited exceptions) the residence must have been first occupied for residential purposes at least five years prior to closing the loan financed in connection with the Program. Land adjoining the home is considered part of the home only if it maintains the home's livability and is not, other than incidentally, a source of income to the owner.

7. *Program Area.* In order to be eligible for a certificate, the home financed in connection with the Program must be located in the County.

8. *Homebuyer Education Class.* Each homebuyer may be required to participate in a Homebuyer Education Class approved by the Issuer prior to being eligible to receive a mortgage credit certificate.

9. *Home Improvement Loans.* Home Improvement loans of up to \$15,000 are also eligible for a mortgage credit certificate. To qualify, the home improvements must substantially improve or protect the livability or energy efficiency of the home; such as new or renovated plumbing or wiring, renovation of the kitchen, or a new or improved heating or cooling system. Installation of a swimming pool, tennis court, hot tub or other recreational and entertainment facilities will not qualify.

9. *Qualified Rehabilitation Loans.* Qualified rehabilitation loans are also eligible for a mortgage credit certificate. Qualified rehabilitation loans are owner-financing provided in connection with a qualified rehabilitation or the acquisition of a residence with respect to which there has been a qualified rehabilitation, but only if the mortgagor to whom such financing is provided is the first resident of the residence after the completion of the rehabilitation. A "qualified rehabilitation" is a rehabilitation of a building that meets certain specific requirements as to the building's age, the amount of the structure retained in place and the expenditures for the rehabilitation as a percentage of the mortgagor's basis in the residence.

Under the Program, mortgage credit certificates will be issued to eligible borrowers on a first-come, first-served basis. The certificates are available in connection with only those types of new mortgages as discussed in paragraph 4 above. Any lending institution that signs a Participation Agreement is eligible to provide mortgage loans in connection with the Program.

This solicitation contains a summary of the requirements for qualified homebuyers under the Program. All potential lenders are encouraged to contact the Program Administrator at the address above to state an interest in lending to qualified homebuyers under the Program.