

(b) Each lease-purchase agreement with an eligible buyer shall contain the following terms and conditions, in addition to such other terms and conditions that the Agency may from time to time deem appropriate for a particular agreement:

1. The eligible buyer shall agree to rent at a fair market rental a housing unit in an eligible development for a fixed period as determined by the Agency, not to exceed 36 calendar months, and to pay the monthly rental promptly and fully. Failure to make such rental payments promptly and fully, or physical abuse of the unit, shall result in prompt eviction and the termination of the option described in (b)3 below;

2. The eligible buyer shall agree that such housing unit be used solely as a principal residence, and shall further agree that the unit shall not be used for seasonal use, as an investment property, or for business purposes;

3. The eligible buyer shall pay upon the execution of the lease-purchase agreement, a nonrefundable option fee of \$1,000 for an option to purchase for cash the housing unit which is the subject of the lease-purchase agreement, on the expiration date of the lease period set forth therein. If the eligible buyer does not exercise the option, the lease will terminate at the expiration of the lease period, the eligible buyer will immediately vacate the unit, and the Agency will retain the option fee;

4. In return for the option fee, the Agency shall grant the eligible buyer an option to purchase the subject housing unit at a fixed price; each price being the unit's estimated fair market value at the end of the lease period, such estimate being set pursuant to an appraisal prior to the execution of the lease-purchase agreement;

5. The Agency shall accumulate in a segregated fund a percentage (calculated at the time of execution of the lease-purchase agreement) of the fair market monthly rent it will receive during the lease period set forth in the lease-purchase agreement at a rate calculated by the Agency to be sufficient, together with the option fee, and its projected profit on the sale of the unit, if the option is exercised, to enable it to make the grant. The grant will be applied towards closing costs and the downpayment on the sales price for such housing unit for which the eligible buyer has otherwise obtained or is expected to obtain his or her own financing. The amount of the grant to be made will be calculated by the Agency (at the time the lease-purchase agreement is executed) as the amount, given anticipated market conditions, to be necessary, taking into account the assets of the eligible buyer, to induce a mortgage lender to finance the balance of the sales price for the housing unit. Such calculation by the Agency shall not constitute a representation or warranty to the eligible buyer of the availability of mortgage financing and the eligible buyer shall have no recourse against the Agency in the event such eligible buyer fails to obtain mortgage financing or is otherwise unable to exercise the option to purchase the housing unit which is subject to

the lease-purchase agreement. If, for any reason, the eligible buyer is unable to or chooses not to exercise the option to purchase, all monies so set aside shall be retained by the Agency.

i. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in these rules, the percentage rent to be set aside by the Agency to fund a portion of the grant shall not reduce the unrestricted portion of the rent to an amount less than the amount sufficient to maintain and operate the rental housing and to meet debt service on the portion of the securities issued by the Agency to finance the purchase of such housing, and all monies set aside with respect to such downpayment and/or closing costs shall be subject to application to pay required debt service on such securities; and

6. The eligible buyer shall acknowledge that the Agency may give a mortgage and/or other security interests in the housing unit to secure repayment of the financing undertaken by the Agency to finance the purchase price for the eligible development.

SUBCHAPTER 25. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 26. HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CONTROLS

5:80-26.1 Purpose and applicability

This subchapter is designed to implement the New Jersey Fair Housing Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.) by assuring that low-and moderate-income units created under the Act are occupied by low-and moderate-income households for an appropriate period of time. This subchapter provides rules for the establishment and administration of affordability controls on restricted units that receive COAH credit under the Fair Housing Act; that receive funding from the Division under the Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing Program; that receive funding from the Agency under its UHORP and MONI programs; or with respect to which a municipality or developer contracts with the Agency, HAS or other experienced administrative agent approved by DCA, the Agency or COAH for the administration of affordability controls pursuant to the Fair Housing Act. Unless expressly stated otherwise herein, this subchapter shall apply to all restricted units described in the foregoing sentence, regardless of the date on which the units were created; provided, however, that the rules do not apply to units qualifying for the Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code, units that receive Balanced Housing funds under the Agency's Home Express program or to units receiving assistance under the Federal HOME program, 24 C.F.R. § 92.252(e),

§ 92.254(a)(4); HUD 202 program, 24 C.F.R. Part 891; HUD 811 program, 24 C.F.R. Part 890; HUD HOPE VI program; or Federal Home Loan Bank, Affordable Housing Program, 12 C.F.R. Part 60.

Amended by R.2004 d.475, effective December 20, 2004.
See: 36 N.J.R. 3655(a), 36 N.J.R. 5713(a).
Rewrote the section.

5:80-26.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, as used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Administrative agent" means the entity responsible for administering the affordability controls of this subchapter with respect to specific restricted units, as designated pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.14.

"Affordability average" means an average of the percentage of median income at which restricted units in an affordable development are affordable to low-and moderate-income households. For example, if the rents for the five restricted rental units in an affordable housing development were affordable at 46, 48, 50, 52 and 54 percent of median income, respectively, the average affordability for those units would be 50 percent of median income.

"Affordable" means, in the case of an ownership unit, that the sales price for the unit conforms to the standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.6 and, in the case of a rental unit, that the rent for the unit conforms to the standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.12.

"Affordable development" means a housing development all or a portion of which consists of restricted units.

"Agency" means the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency established by P.L. 1983, c.530 (N.J.S.A. 55:14K-1 et seq.) and in, but not of, the DCA.

"Age-restricted unit" means a housing unit designed to meet the needs of, and exclusively for, the residents of an age-restricted segment of the population where the head of the household is a minimum age of either 62 years, or 55 years and meets the provisions of the 42 U.S.C. §§ 3601 et seq., except that due to death, a remaining spouse of less than 55 years of age shall be permitted to continue to reside.

"Assisted living residence" means a facility licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services to provide apartment-style housing and congregate dining and to assure that assisted living services are available when needed for four or more adult persons unrelated to the proprietor. Apartment units offer, at a minimum, one unfurnished room, a private bathroom, a kitchenette and a lockable door on the unit entrance.

"Balanced Housing" means the Neighborhood Preservation Balanced Housing Program of the DCA as set forth at N.J.S.A. 52:27D-320 and N.J.A.C. 5:43.

"Certified household" means a household that has been certified by an administrative agent as a low-income household or moderate-income household.

"COAH" means the Council on Affordable Housing in, but not of, the DCA, established under the New Jersey Fair Housing Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq.).

"DCA" means the State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

"Division" means the Division of Housing in the DCA.

"HAS" means the Housing Affordability Service, formerly known as the "Affordable Housing Management Service," in the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Housing.

"High-poverty census tract" means a census tract with a census-determined average poverty rate equal to or greater than 25 percent, as determined by the United States Census Bureau.

"HUD" means the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Low-income household" means a household with a total gross annual household income equal to 50 percent or less of the median income.

"Low-income unit" means a restricted unit that is affordable to a low-income household.

"Median income" means the median income by household size for an applicable county, as adopted annually by COAH.

"Moderate-income household" means a household with a total gross annual household income in excess of 50 percent but less than 80 percent of the median income.

"Moderate-income unit" means a restricted unit that is affordable to a moderate-income household.

"MONI" means the Agency's Market Oriented Neighborhood Investment Program, as it may be authorized from time to time by the Agency.

"95/5 unit" means a restricted ownership unit that is part of a housing element that received substantive certification from COAH pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:93 before October 1, 2001.

"Non-exempt sale" means any sale or transfer of ownership other than the transfer of ownership between husband and wife; the transfer of ownership between former spouses ordered as a result of a judicial decree of divorce or judicial separation, but not including sales to third parties; the transfer of ownership between family members as a result of inheritance; the transfer of ownership through an executor's deed to a class A beneficiary; and the transfer of ownership by court order.

"Random selection process" means a process by which currently income-eligible households are selected for placement in affordable housing units such that no preference is given to one applicant over another except for purposes of matching household income and size with an appropriately priced and sized affordable unit (for example, by lottery).

"Rent" means the gross monthly cost of a rental unit to the tenant, including the rent paid to the landlord, as well as an allowance for tenant-paid utilities computed in accordance with allowances published by DCA for its Section 8 program. With respect to units in an assisted living residence, rent does not include charges for food and services.

"Restricted unit" means a dwelling unit, whether a rental unit or ownership unit, that is subject to the affordability controls of this subchapter, but does not include a market-rate unit financed under UHORP or MONI.

"UHORP" means the Agency's Urban Homeownership Recovery Program, as it may be authorized from time to time by the Agency Board.

Amended by R.2004 d.475, effective December 20, 2004.
See: 36 N.J.R. 3655(a), 36 N.J.R. 5713(a).
Rewrote the section.

5:80-26.3 Affordability average; bedroom distribution

(a) In each affordable development, at least 50 percent of the restricted units within each bedroom distribution shall be low-income units and the remainder may be moderate-income units.

(b) Affordable developments that are not age-restricted shall be structured in conjunction with realistic market demands such that:

1. The combined number of efficiency and one-bedroom units is no greater than 20 percent of the total low-and moderate-income units;
2. At least 30 percent of all low-and moderate-income units are two bedroom units;
3. At least 20 percent of all low-and moderate-income units are three bedroom units; and

4. The remainder, if any, may be allocated at the discretion of the developer.

(c) Age-restricted low-and moderate-income units may utilize a modified bedroom distribution. At a minimum, the number of bedrooms shall equal the number of age-restricted low-and moderate-income units within the affordable development. The standard may be met by creating all one-bedroom units or by creating a two-bedroom unit for each efficiency unit.

(d) Municipalities shall establish by ordinance that the maximum rent for affordable units within each affordable development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 60 percent of median income. The municipal ordinance shall require that the average rent for low-and moderate-income units be affordable to households earning no more than 52 percent of median income. The developers and/or municipal sponsors of restricted rental units shall establish at least one rent for each bedroom type for both low-income and moderate-income units, provided that at least 10 percent of all low-and moderate-income units shall be affordable to households earning no more than 35 percent of median income.

(e) The maximum sales price of restricted ownership units within each affordable development shall be affordable to households earning no more than 70 percent of median income. Each affordable development must achieve an affordability average of 55 percent for restricted ownership units. In achieving this affordability average, moderate-income ownership units must be available for at least three different prices for each bedroom type, and low-income ownership units must be available for at least two different prices for each bedroom type.

(f) Municipal ordinances regulating owner-occupied and rental units shall require that affordable units utilize the same type of heating source as market units within the affordable development.

(g) The provisions of this section shall not apply to affordable developments financed under UHORP or MONI or to assisted living residences, which shall comply with applicable Agency regulations.

Amended by R.2004 d.475, effective December 20, 2004.
See: 36 N.J.R. 3655(a), 36 N.J.R. 5713(a).
Rewrote the section.

5:80-26.4 Occupancy standards

(a) In determining the initial rents and initial sales prices for compliance with the affordability average requirements for restricted units other than assisted living facilities, the following standards shall be used:

1. A studio shall be affordable to a one person household;

2. A one bedroom unit shall be affordable to a one and one-half person household;

3. A two bedroom unit shall be affordable to a three person household;

4. A three bedroom unit shall be affordable to a four and one-half person household; and

5. A four bedroom unit shall be affordable to a six person household.

(b) For assisted living facilities, the following standards shall be used:

1. A studio shall be affordable to a one person household;

2. A one-bedroom unit shall be affordable to a one and one-half person household; and

3. A two-bedroom unit shall be affordable to a two person household or to two one-person households.

(c) In referring certified households to specific restricted units, to the extent feasible, and without causing an undue delay in occupying the unit, the administrative agent shall strive to:

1. Provide an occupant for each unit bedroom;

2. Provide children of different sex with separate bedrooms; and

3. Prevent more than two persons from occupying a single bedroom.

Amended by R.2004 d.475, effective December 20, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 3655(a), 36 N.J.R. 5713(a).

In (a), substituted "affordability average" for "range of affordability" preceding "requirements"; inserted a new (b); recodified former (b) as (c).

5:80-26.5 Control periods for ownership units

(a) Each restricted ownership unit shall remain subject to the requirements of this subchapter until the municipality in which the unit is located elects to release the unit from such requirements pursuant to action taken in compliance with (g) below. Prior to such a municipal election, a restricted ownership unit must remain subject to the requirements of this subchapter for a period of at least 30 years; provided, however, that:

1. Units located in high-poverty census tracts shall remain subject to these affordability requirements for a period of at least 10 years;

2. Any unit that, prior to December 20, 2004, received substantive certification from COAH, was part of a judgment of compliance from a court of competent jurisdiction or became subject to a grant agreement or other contract with either the State or a political subdivision thereof, shall have its control period governed by said grant of substantive certification, judgment or grant agreement or contract; and

3. 95/5 units are subject to the option and price restriction rules set forth at N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.20 through 26.26.

(b) The affordability control period for a restricted ownership unit shall commence on the date the initial certified household takes title to the unit and shall terminate only at such time as the municipality opts to release the unit from the requirements of this subchapter in accordance with (g) below, or at such other time as is applicable under (a) above.

(c) Prior to the issuance of the initial certificate of occupancy for a restricted ownership unit and upon each successive sale during the period of restricted ownership, the administrative agent shall determine the restricted price for the unit and shall also determine the non-restricted, fair market value of the unit based on either an appraisal or the unit's equalized assessed value. At the time of the sale of the unit, the purchaser shall execute and deliver to the administrative agent a recapture note obligating the purchaser (as well as the purchaser's heirs, successors and assigns) to repay, upon the first non-exempt sale after the unit's release from the requirements of this subchapter, an amount equal to the difference between the unit's non-restricted fair market value and its restricted price. The recapture note shall be secured by a recapture lien evidenced by a duly recorded mortgage on the unit. The recapture note and recapture mortgage lien shall be in favor of the Agency if the unit was financed under UHORP or MONI, in favor of the State if State funds other than UHORP or MONI contributed to the financing of the unit, and, in all other cases, in favor of the municipality in which the unit is located. The recapture note and recapture mortgage lien shall be in the form prescribed in subchapter Appendices L, M, N, O, P and Q, incorporated herein by reference, as applicable.

1. The recapture lien shall also provide that the recapture amount shall be reduced by the cumulative dollar value of capital expenditures by all owners during the control period for improvements and/or upgrades to the unit, as approved by the administrative agent.

2. Municipalities that exercise the option to purchase restricted ownership units pursuant to (f) below shall not be required to satisfy the recapture lien.

3. Upon termination of the affordability control period pursuant to (g) below, and satisfaction of the recapture of the lien, the unit may be sold at fair market value and the proceeds retained by the seller.

(d) All conveyances of restricted ownership units shall be made by deeds and restrictive covenants substantially in the form prescribed in subchapter Appendices A, B, C, D, L, M, N, O, P and Q, incorporated herein by reference, as applicable. Each purchaser of a 95/5 unit, in addition, shall execute a note and mortgage in the form of Appendices G and H, incorporated herein by reference.