

Financing Veterans Permanent Supportive Housing



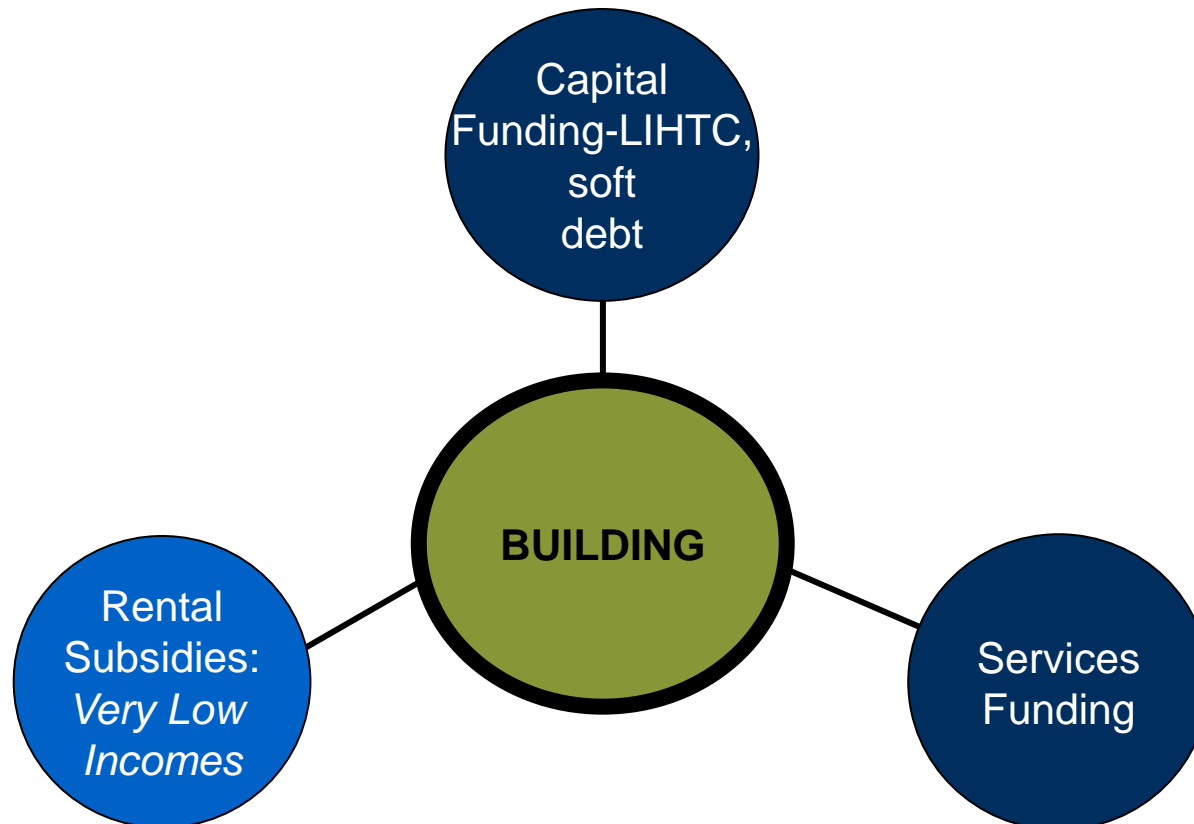
Debbie Burkart
National Vice President, Supportive Housing

May 2016

**National
Equity Fund** INC

an affiliate of LISC

Supportive housing has three interrelated funding hurdles



Extraordinary things happen when you have great partners

www.nefinc.org

Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)

- Largest Federal rental housing development program
- Pays for more than 50% of Total Development Costs
- Developers compete for allocations of Housing Credits, which are awarded by State Agencies
- Developers sell LIHTC to Investors who provide upfront capital to a project and receive LIHTC as long as property operates as pledged
- LIHTC is part of the IRS Tax Code

Extraordinary things happen when you have great partners

www.nefinc.org

A TAX CREDIT IS....



- A dollar for dollar deduction against the tax liability of corporation
- Not a federal subsidy
- Has value only to entities that pay taxes
- Investors receive LIHTC 10 years, but must stay in the ownership structure for 15 years.

Extraordinary things happen when you have great partners

www.nefinc.org



Ownership Structure – The Limited Partnership

- Sponsor/Developer acts as General Partner (GP)
 - GP oversees development team and construction, obtains funding, applies for LIHTCs, coordinates supportive services, maintains LIHTC compliance
- Syndicator acts as Limited Partner (LP)
 - LP forms a partnership with the GP and provides equity from investors in exchange for a 99.99% interest in the LIHTCs and the operational losses that flow from a given project

Who gets what out of a LIHTC deal?

▪ **General Partner**

- Developer fees
- Management fees
- Partnership Management fees
- Percentage of cash flow
- Future 100% ownership following termination of the 15-year compliance period

▪ **Limited Partner**

- Tax Credits
- Passive losses
- Percentage of cash flow
- Return on investment (IRR)

Financing Trends in PSH

Overall homelessness: 564,708 nationally (2015)

- **Bad News: Federal Programs --**
 - **HOME** cut 45% FY2010 - FY 2014 (from \$1.82B to \$1B);
 - **National Housing Trust Fund** – slow to start (\$173MM)
 - **HEARTH**: virtually no new rent subsidy funding
 - **PBS8/VASH**: S8 FY2015 2% below FY 2014 (\$9.7B)- short funding savings; VASH winding down
 - **Tenant-based Section 8**: homeless vouchers go unused in High Rent markets

Financing Trends in PSH

+ Good News:

+ **LIHTC Pricing High**, especially CRA markets

+ **RAD expansion** 60K to 185K units and
2015 Revision includes McKinney Mod Rehab SRO
contracts. Convert year to year contracts to 20 yr PBRA

+ **Local Rent Subsidies emerging**- e.g., **LA County Dept of Health Services**: funds *Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool* for DHS patients who are homeless. 15-year commitment. (1200 rental subsidies in 2016; goal of 10,000)



To Continue to Build PSH – Need to be Efficient with Resources & Creative

Extraordinary things happen when you have great partners

www.nefinc.org

Business Issues of Blending Rent Subsidies & LIHTC \$\$ & Hard Debt

- **Challenges of Section 8 and VASH**
 - 15-year contracts subject to “annual appropriations”
- ***Time mismatches*** between capital funding requirements, rental assistance and service funding
 - 15-year tax credit partnership life, yet some operating/rent subsidies shorter contracts; annual service funding

Underwriting Challenges in PSH

- **“Subsidies Subject to annual appropriations”**
Projects need Transition reserves to cover rent subsidy allocation risk, not just contract term risk.
- **Is service provision required** by a loan or LIHTC?
Under what conditions? Who provides services?
- Investors more focus on QAP and Lender(s) required **income, rent, & targeting restrictions**, and “what if” scenarios

Underwriting Challenges

Various capital funding sources have different rent, income & targeting restrictions.

- Always look at what is most restrictive on allowable income and rent; what if subsidy not renewed?
- Always look at what the target population's income realistically will be to establish post-Section 8 rents affordable to that population
 - A typical dual diagnosed mentally-ill, chemically dependent, homeless, HIV/AIDS person or a TANF family is not typically going to be at 50% of AMI

How Funders Assist SH Underwriting & Minimize Transition Reserves

- Give relief by waiving deep targeting if rent subsidies are cancelled or not renewed due to no fault of the developer
- Allow Delayed Equity Pay-ins to boost equity raise to fund reserves
- If soft loans amortizing, have documents allow extension of amortization period or suspended payments if subsidies cancelled by HUD for budget reasons

HEARTH Waiver Clause

Provides an Exception to Repayment & Homeless targeting if:

- PB-rental subsidies from any Fed, State, Local program is no longer made available

AND

- the project is meeting performance standards

AND

- the portion of project that benefited still meets LIHTC income/rent restrictions.

ND Sepulveda II

Building 5- VA Enhanced Use Lease



- 75 furnished studio apartments
- 1 one-bedroom manager's unit
- office space for case managers & services staff
- multi-purpose community space
- large courtyard
- Will serve homeless, disabled veterans earning below 18,000/yr

Challenges

Services funding: Very few funding sources for basic case management in PSH

- Much funding restricted to units serving chronically homeless only
- Need to Supplement VA Case Mgmt in VASH units

. Women Veterans & Fair Housing

- Women veterans groups are pushing for designated units/area for women but this conflicts with fair housing

Debbie Burkart
National VP, Supportive Housing
National Equity Fund, Inc.
500 South Grand Ave., Suite 2300
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 240-3133
dburkart@nefinc.org

Extraordinary things happen when you have great partners

www.nefinc.org

National
Equity
Fund  INC
an affiliate of LISC