Threshold Criteria for Eligible Applicants

The following criteria must exist in any application to be considered for a commitment of HOME funds:

- Project must be perpetually affordable.

At least one of the following Consolidated Plan housing related goals must be included:

- Increase the supply and quality of affordable housing.
- Decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness.
- Strengthen communities and improve the quality of life for Vermonters.

Preference shall be given to:

- Projects located in the State’s designated downtowns, village centers, neighborhood development areas and other areas that are consistent with the state’s historic settlement pattern and “Smart Growth”.

Consolidated Plan Affordable Housing Strategies

On a comparative basis, applications that have met the threshold criteria described above will be initially evaluated and ranked according to how many of the following Consolidated Plan Affordable Housing strategies are addressed in each application:

This project employs _ of the following 13 strategies.

1. House lower income families and individuals, with special preference to projects housing extremely-low income families and individuals at or below 30% of area median income.
2. Increase the supply of affordable rental housing through the acquisition and/or rehabilitation of existing units especially in communities where there are tight housing markets, very low vacancy rates or there is a high incidence of distressed housing.
3. Increase the supply of affordable rental housing through the construction of new units especially in communities where there are tight housing markets, very low vacancy rates or there is a high incidence of distressed housing.
4. Promote mixed income developments to create integrated communities.
5. Promote the development of new rental housing designed and built to a level of energy efficiency that meets or exceeds the levels required to qualify for the Energy Star label.
6. Preserve existing affordable housing projects in a manner consistent with prudent investment criteria.
7. Redevelop existing properties with consideration given for projects that leverage other resources specific to the preservation of historic structures.
8. Redevelop foreclosed properties for affordable rental housing.
9. Provide accessible or adaptable housing for persons with disabilities.
10. Provide service enriched housing serving persons with disabilities.
11. Produce affordable senior rental units in regions where a market analysis identifies a shortage of elderly housing affordable to lower income seniors.
12. Provide service enriched housing that allows seniors the opportunity to age in place.
13. Locate affordable rental housing in close proximity to public transportation services with access to employment centers, services, recreational opportunities, and schools.