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August 19, 2019

To: Clients and Friends

From: David F. Dulock

Subject: Mortgage Credit Certificate Program Notice by TDHCA

In the August 16, 2019, issue of the *Texas Register* (44 TexReg 4371, [click here](#)), the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) published the following Public Notice regarding its latest Mortgage Credit Certificate Program to assist eligible very low, low, and moderate income first-time homebuyers with the purchase of a residence located within the State of Texas.

Notice to Public and to All Interested Mortgage Lenders

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) intends to implement a Mortgage Credit Certificate Program (the Program) to assist eligible very low, low, and moderate income first-time homebuyers with the purchase of a residence located within the State of Texas.

Under the Program, a first-time homebuyer who satisfies the eligibility requirements described herein may receive a federal income tax credit in an amount equal to the product of the certificate credit rate established under the Program and the interest paid or accrued by the homeowner during the taxable year on the remaining principal of the certified indebtedness amount incurred by the homeowner to acquire the principal residence of the homeowner; provided that, if the certificate credit rate established under the Program exceeds 20%, the amount of such credit allowed in any taxable year may not exceed \$2,000. In order to qualify to receive a mortgage credit certificate, the homebuyer must qualify for a conventional, FHA, VA, USDA or other home mortgage loan from a lending institution and must meet the other requirements of the Program.

The mortgage credit certificates will be issued to qualified mortgagors on a first-come, first-served basis by the Department, which will review applications from lending institutions and prospective mortgagors to determine compliance with the requirements of the Program and determine that mortgage credit certificates remain available under the Program. No mortgage credit certificates will be issued prior to ninety (90) days from the date of publication of this notice or after the date that all of the credit certificate amount has been allocated to homebuyers, and in no event will mortgage credit certificates be issued later than the date permitted by federal tax law.

In order to satisfy the eligibility requirements for a mortgage credit certificate under the Program: (a) the prospective residence must be a single-family residence located within the State of Texas that can be reasonably expected to become the principal residence of the mortgagor within a reasonable period of time after the financing is provided; (b) the prospective homebuyer's current income must not exceed, (1) for families of three or more persons, 115% (140% in certain targeted areas or in certain cases permitted under applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as

amended (the Code)) of the area median income; and (2) for individuals and families of two persons, 100% (120% in certain targeted areas or in certain cases permitted under applicable provisions of the Code) of the area median income; (c) the prospective homebuyer must not have owned a home as a principal residence during the past three years (except in the case of certain targeted area residences or in certain cases permitted under applicable provisions of the Code); (d) the acquisition cost of the residence must not exceed 90% (110%, in the case of certain targeted area residences or in certain cases permitted under applicable provisions of the Code) of the average area purchase price applicable to the residence; and (e) no part of the proceeds of the qualified indebtedness may be used to acquire or replace an existing mortgage (except in certain cases permitted under applicable provisions of the Code). To obtain additional information on the Program, including the boundaries of current targeted areas, as well as the current income and purchase price limits (which are subject to revision and adjustment from time to time by the Department pursuant to changes in applicable federal law and Department policy), please contact Cathy Gutierrez at the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, 221 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2410; (512) 475-0277.

The Department intends to maintain a list of single family mortgage lenders that will participate in the Program by making loans to qualified holders of these mortgage credit certificates. Any lender interested in appearing on this list or in obtaining additional information regarding the Program should contact Cathy Gutierrez at the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, 221 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2410; (512) 475-0277. The Department may schedule a meeting with lenders to discuss in greater detail the requirements of the Program.

This notice is published in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 25 of the Code and Treasury Regulation Sections 1.25-3T(j)(4) and 1.25-4T promulgated thereunder regarding the public notices prerequisite to the issuance of mortgage credit certificates and to maintaining a list of participating lenders.

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