Model Community Land Trust Add-On Language for Down Payment Assistance Strategies

Purchase Assistance

a. Summary: Funds will be awarded for down payment and closing costs for new and existing homes, including homes purchased from a community land trust (CLT). Home rehabilitation is also an eligible use, as needed when purchasing existing homes. To be eligible, existing homes must be in need of and receive at least $2,500 in rehabilitation paid within 12 months by SHIP, CDBG, HOME, the seller, the buyer or another source.


c. Income Categories to be served: Very low, low and moderate

d. Maximum award $55,000

e. Terms (see “Additional Information” for special terms for CLT home purchases)
   1. Repayment loan/deferred loan/grant: Funds will be awarded as a deferred subordinate loan secured by a recorded subordinate mortgage and note
   2. Interest Rate: 0%
   3. Years in loan term: 10 years (very-low and low), 30 years (moderate)
   4. Forgiveness: For very-low and low-income categories, the funds will be forgiven on a prorated basis so that 10% of the principal is forgiven annually. Funds for moderate-income recipients will be forgiven on a prorated basis so that 1/30th is forgiven annually.
   5. Repayment: For those who comply with SHIP rules, assistance will be forgiven by the end of the loan term and no repayment will be required.
   6. Default: The loan will be determined to be in default if any of the following occurs: sale, transfer, or conveyance of property; conversion to a rental property; loss of homestead exemption status; or failure to occupy the home as primary residence. If any of these occur, the outstanding balance will be due and payable.

In cases where the qualifying homeowner(s) die(s) during the loan term, the loan may be assumed by a SHIP eligible heir who will occupy the home as a primary residence. If the legal heir is not SHIP eligible or chooses not to occupy the home, the outstanding balance of the loan will be due and payable.

1 This document is an example of a SHIP Purchase Assistance Strategy and is provided as a guide. Review the model strategy and revise, as necessary, to ensure that it is consistent with local program guidelines before incorporating into the Local Housing Assistance Plan.
f. Recipient Selection Criteria: Applicants will be ranked for assistance based on a first-qualified, first-served basis. Homebuyers must complete an approved homebuyer education class from a HUD certified agency and obtain a certificate of completion. CLT homebuyers must attend a homebuyer education class that contains a community land trust component and/or session with the CLT in addition to a homebuyer education class that requires CLT buyers to demonstrate and attest to a clear understanding of the terms of community land trust homeownership.

g. Sponsor Selection Criteria: N/A

h. Additional Information: Loan will be awarded in the amount required for the homebuyer to purchase the property up to the maximum award permitted.

Terms for CLT home purchases: This SHIP assistance is assumable to an income-eligible purchaser. The terms of the Note and Mortgage shall allow subsequent purchasers to assume the loan with approval by the CLT. Otherwise, no repayment required during the term of the loan, provided the loan remains in good standing. Please see Exhibit ____ for additional instructions and information for CLT purchases.
EXHIBIT ___: Additional Instructions and Information for Down Payment Assistance for Community Land Trust Purchases

To qualify, homes must be purchased from a city/county-approved community land trust (CLT). The CLT will execute a 99-year ground lease with the homebuyer. A memorandum of that ground lease is recorded in the public records immediately following the deed. The terms of the ground lease restrict the resale of the property to an income eligible household and provide a right of repurchase to the CLT in the event of default. The CLT must approve the subsequent homebuyer. In the event of a default, the CLT must notify the City/County whether it intends to exercise its right of repurchase. In the event the CLT is not willing or able to exercise its right of repurchase, it shall transfer its right of repurchase to City/County, giving City/County the right, but not the obligation to purchase the property.

The assistance shall be treated as a development cost pay-down to further reduce the sales price to the homebuyer. The assistance amount shall be excluded from the Base Price and Formula Price as defined in the ground lease. The balance of the assistance must be included in the Purchase Option Price as defined in the ground lease to repay the funds to the City/County in the event of default. If the maximum subsidy was not provided to the first homebuyer, the City/County may provide additional assistance to the subsequent buyer to ensure that the property remains affordable, up to the amount of the maximum subsidy allowable at the time of subsequent purchase minus the original subsidy amount provided to the first homebuyer. Any additional SHIP investment will extend the original loan term. At the end of the loan term, the loan will be forgiven, and the lien released. However, the CLT ground lease will remain in effect and the requirements for residency, resale price, and subsequent buyer’s income eligibility will continue. The CLT may request satisfaction of a loan and release of the lien during the term of the loan on behalf of a homeowner or seller, and under certain defined circumstances, with approval granted by the City/County on a case-by-case basis.

When selling a CLT home, the seller must notify the CLT. The CLT will then enter into a purchase and sale agreement with the seller, that will get assigned to the subsequent homebuyer. The Purchase Option Price for the CLT will be calculated as follows:

Purchase Option Price = Formula Price + Payoff Amount of Deferred Payment Loans

The Formula Price is calculated using a Base Price calculated by subtracting the amount of down payment assistance from the purchase price. For example:

Purchase Price: $185,000
MINUS Assistance Provided (maximum): $55,000
EQUALS Base Price (sales price) for first buyer: $130,000

Base price is the amount the buyer would need to finance (plus transaction costs) and is used to calculate the Formula Price in the ground lease.

Suppose the Formula (re-sale) Price in the ground lease is calculated by a 1% annual increase to the Base Price, compounded. Suppose the home is sold after 5 years. To calculate the Purchase Option Price (price that will go in the purchase and sale agreement between the CLT and the seller), first calculate the Formula Price:

Formula Price = Base Price x Compound Rate
Calculated as follows:

Year 1 = $130,100 x 1.01 = $131,300
Year 2 = $131,300 x 1.01 = $132,613
Year 3 = $131,613 x 1.01 = $133,939
Year 4 = $133,939 x 1.01 = $135,379
Year 5 = $135,379 x 1.01 = $136,631

Formula Price = $136,631

Purchase Option Price = $136,631 + $55,000 = $191,631

The price to the subsequent buyer equals the Purchase Option price minus the assumed down payment assistance:

Purchase Option Price: $191,631
DPA assumed: - $55,000
Sales price for subsequent buyer: $136,631 (New Base Price for Formula Price)

The new price should be affordable to the subsequent buyer without additional subsidy.

At the end of the loan term, the value of the Purchase Option Price will be equal to the Formula Price.