

# WHO WE ARE

- CohnReznick LLP is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest public accounting firm in the U.S. with one of the largest and most experienced tax credit practices in the country.
- Tax Credit Investment Services ("TCIS") is a dedicated business unit within CohnReznick that provides strategic advisory and due diligence services to help clients make informed decisions on acquiring and managing tax-advantaged investments.
- TCIS is well-regarded in the industry for:
  - Having authored 2,500+ investment due diligence reports for tax credit investors; experienced with multi-investor, proprietary and secondary market transactions;
  - Having authored numerous affordable housing industry studies and spoken frequently at industry conferences and events;
  - Being sought after by the bank regulators and GAO to provide industry data and insights;
  - Publishing housing tax credit equity market trends on a bi-monthly basis in the Tax Credit Advisor magazine.









# **HOUSING TAX CREDIT BASICS**

35+ Year History

Most Successful AH Production Program

**P3** 

10-15 Year Hold

Complimentary Programs

- The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit is one of the few major federal investment tax credit programs; was authorized in 1986 and made permanent in 1993.
- Having been the most important program for creating and rehabilitating affordable housing in the US, the housing tax credit program finances the construction or rehabilitation of more than 75,000 affordable housing units every year.
- The IRS sets rules through IRC Section 42, while administration of the program resides with the state credit allocating agencies. Many states also have their own state housing credit programs.
- Credits are delivered over ten years to the equity owner of housing tax credit projects, with a 15-year holding period for compliance reasons; early exits are possible.
- In addition to housing tax credits, there are many federal and state rental assistance, and subsidized loan programs available to support the production of affordable housing.



A **Developer** applies to state housing agency for LIHTC for their development



Multiple applications are reviewed by the **State Housing Agency** in competition for each LIHTC allocation



The State Housing Agency award credit allocations to **Developers** with the highest scoring projects according to the Qualified Allocation Plan



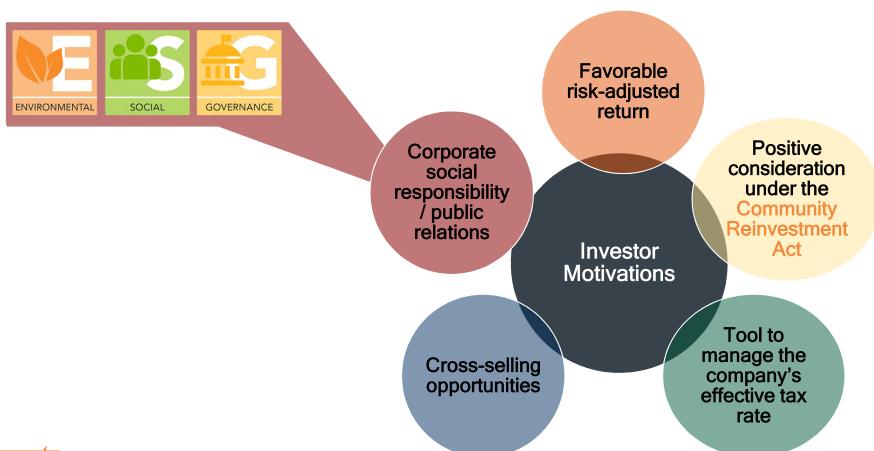
Reduced debt burden allows for lower rents to low-income tenants



Investors provide equity, **Developers** can build with less debt and Syndicators receive fees for setting up the transaction, and ongoing asset management.

Syndicators bid to acquire Developer's LIHTC projects – developers weigh the price offered, speed of execution and existing syndicator relationships through the bidding process. Capital from Investors is also raised to finance the projects' development

# **INVESTOR MOTIVATIONS**



# **INVESTMENT DECISIONS**

- Overall Corporate Strategy and Social Impact Objectives
- Tax Appetite
  - Federal
  - State
- Risk-adjusted Return Hurdle Rate
- Method of Execution
  - Syndicated multi-investor funds?
  - Syndicator screening criteria
  - Investment guidelines

# HOW DO INVESTORS CHOOSE INVESTMENT VEHICLES?

**Direct investment** - Investor owns a 99% LP interest in an operating partnership with the developer as GP and no third-party intermediary. A few large investors have full time staff to underwrite & asset manage such investments. This option would be difficult to execute otherwise.

**Fund investment** - Investors acquire LP interests in an investment fund organized by a syndicator/Fund GP. The syndicator finds and underwrites investments in a series of operating partnerships

- Multi-investor Funds typically 5-10 corporate LP's, investors can typically review about 70% of the fund's property investments before committing
- Single Investor (Proprietary) Funds same idea with an experienced investor keeping more control
  e.g. veto rights on property selection



# **HOUSING TAX CREDIT TIME MACH**

- \$1B equity market
- **\$0.40**/\$1 credit
- Equity sourced from individuals

**Late 1980s** 

#### 1993

- Corporate market developed
- Equity sourced from "C" corps
- \$4B equity market
- **\$0.60**/\$1 credit
- 10% IRR

2000

#### 2006

• \$9B equity market

2019

• **\$18.3B** equity

• \$0.92/\$1 credit

- \$1.00/\$1 credit
- 4.5% IRR

2022

- •\$22.4B equity
- Strong market despite COVID
- •4% fixed rate

#### Market meltdown

 HERA saved the day with TCAP and Exchange programs

2008-2009

#### 2010

Market rebound

- 16.4B equity market
- **\$0.92**/\$1 credit
- Equity sourced ~80% from commercial banks; GSEs' return

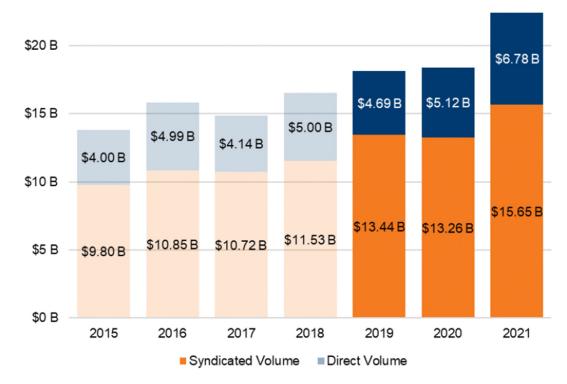
2018



CohnReznick's survey of federal housing tax credit market participants, including 39 syndicators and direct investors, concluded that approximately \$22.4 billion of investor equity was closed into housing tax credit investments in 2021.

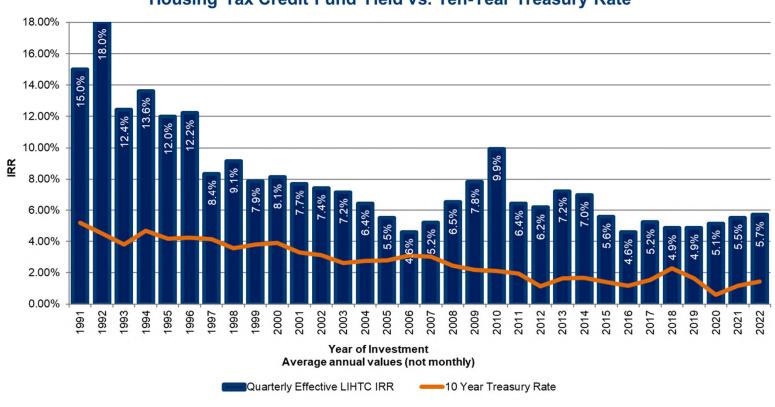
The increase in credit supply was largely attributable to three factors: the fixed 4% credit rate for tax-exempt bond-financed transactions that was passed into law at the end of 2020; the 12.5% increase in the 9% credit supply (which expired at the end of 2021); and various disaster credit allocations.

#### Annual Equity Volume: Syndicated vs. Direct



# FUND YIELD VS. TREASURY RATE

#### Housing Tax Credit Fund Yield vs. Ten-Year Treasury Rate





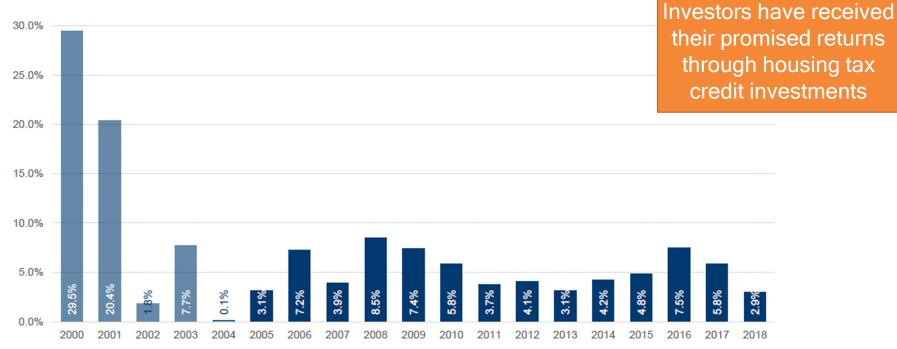


# TRACK RECORD OF HOUSING TAX CREDIT INVESTMENTS



# **FUND YIELD DELIVERY PERFORMANCE**

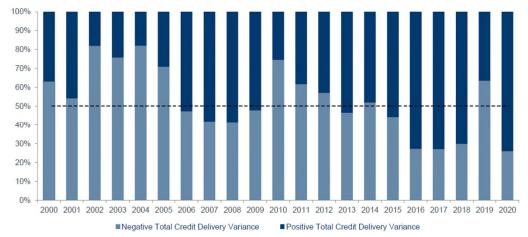
#### Weighted Average Multi-investor Fund Yield Variance (%)





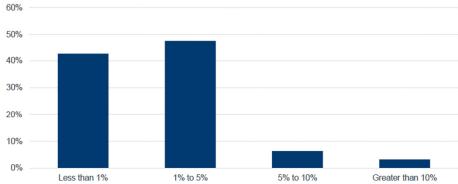
# **TOTAL CREDIT DELIVERY**

#### Incidence of Positive vs. Negative Total Credit Delivery Variance



Surveyed funds have delivered 99.5% of the originally projected total housing tax credits

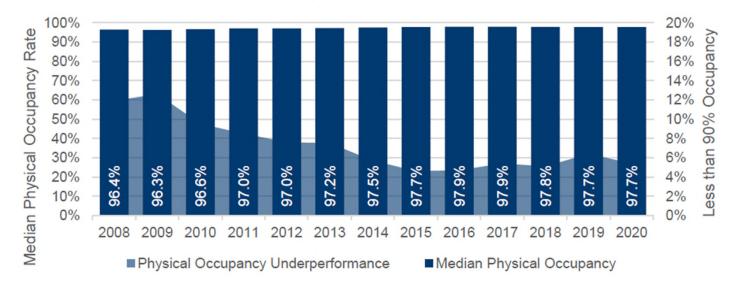
#### **Magnitude of Negative Total Credit Delivery Variances**





# PHYSICAL OCCUPANCY

#### **National Physical Occupancy Trend**



Housing tax credit properties reported a 98% median physical occupancy rate in 2020



# **DEBT COVERAGE RATIO**

Strong financial performance trend sustained as evidenced by a 1.52 national median DCR in 2020

Less than 15% of the national portfolio operated below breakeven in 2020, significantly declined from 32% in 2008

#### **National Debt Coverage Ratio Trend**

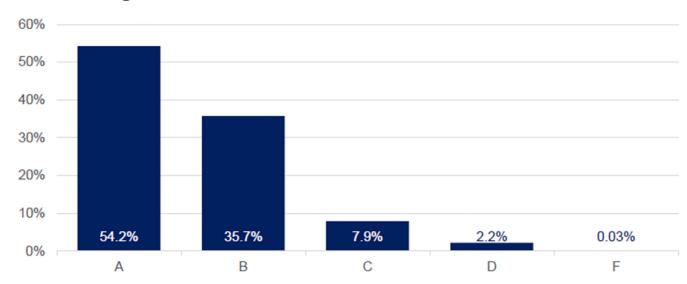




# **RISK RATING**

Watch list reached a historical low of under 10.5%

#### **Risk Rating Distribution 2020**

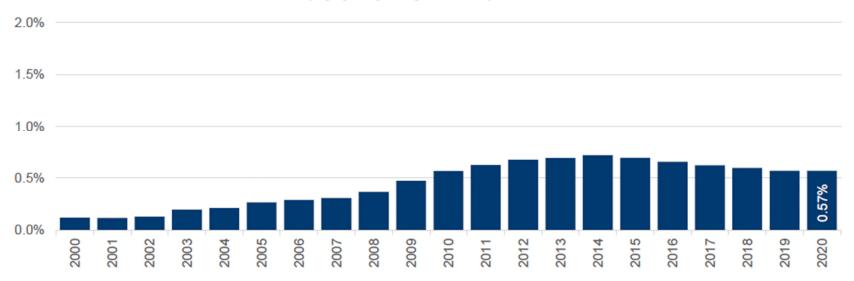




# **FORECLOSURE RATE**

The cumulative foreclosure rate of 0.57% ranks tax credit properties amongst the safest real estate asset classes

#### Cumulative Foreclosure Rate (by property count)





# CONTACT



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#### Portfolio Management & Credit: *Our 2020 – 2021 Journey*





#### March 2020: COVID-19 Becomes a Reality

## Credit Responds

- Implemented changes to closing and underwriting process in anticipation of likely construction and leasing delays due to work stoppages, labor/supply issues and stay-at-home orders
- Worked closely with Portfolio Management to incorporate issues/trends in the portfolio into our front-end modeling and decision-making

# Portfolio Management Responds

- Collected and reviewed COVID preparedness plans from sponsors/managers
- Commenced monthly reporting/monitoring with LPs
- Ran stress scenarios on portfolio, benchmarked status of pre-stable properties and enhanced operating reserve approval process



#### April – June 2020: We Got This



# Process & Underwriting Enhancements

- Added a three (3) months to construction schedules as base case underwriting, or ran separate stress analysis with the same assumption
- Enhanced counterparty due diligence checklist to include updated financial statements and liquidity verifications prior to lower-tier closing
- Expanded the level of information required for all pre-stabilized properties on the guarantor REO

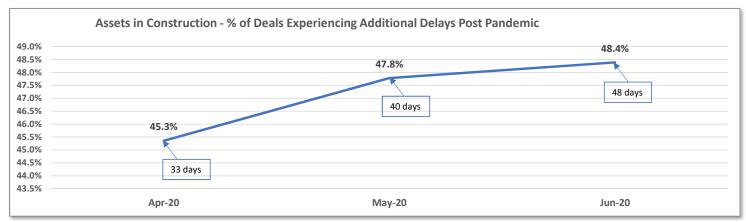
# Portfolio Management Monitoring

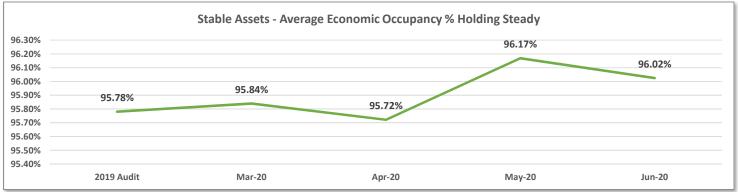
- Initial Pre-stable trends
  - Site shut-downs, labor shortages, social distancing inefficiencies
- Initial Stable trends
  - Strong participation from sponsors/managers; average collections remained strong/steady
- CARES Act implemented



#### April – June 2020: *Initial Trends*

➤ 13 out of 94 (14%) assets experienced construction halt which lasted, on average, 27 days







#### July – December 2020: *The New Norm*



# Credit Keeps the Pace

- Maintained protocols implemented in March 2020
- Continued to closely monitor impact of pandemic and applied thoughtful risk-based solutions to our modeling
- Deal write-ups were required to include COVID-19 as a risk with mitigation and stress scenarios incorporated

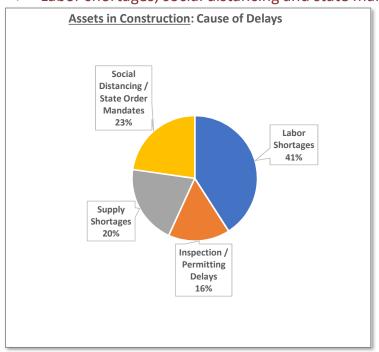
# Portfolio Management-Marching On

- Construction: labor shortages primary challenge throughout 2020; supply issues emerging; construction halts lifted
- Stable: Occupancy and collections hold strong (rental assistance, grants helped)
- Perm loan closings occurred, albeit at a slower pace
- Interim Site Inspection P&P implemented

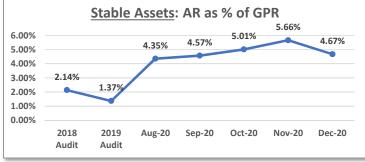


#### July – December 2020: Trends Emerged

- Nearly half of assets under construction experienced additional delays, with average of 61 days as of December 2020
- ➤ Labor shortages, social distancing and state mandates primary challenges throughout 2020









#### January – June 2021: New Issues, But We Still Got This



#### **Credit Adapts**

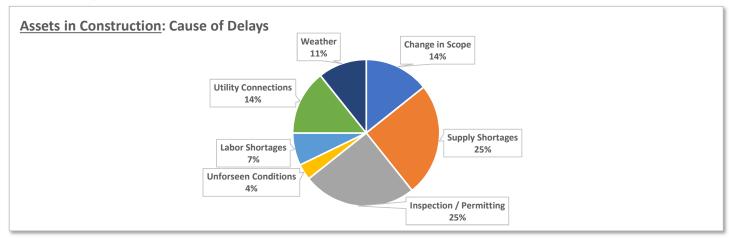
- Excuse me, lumber costs how much?
- Started asking for the percentage of the SOV that was hard bid prior to closing
- Established target of having 70% of subcontracts executed within 120 days from the start of construction

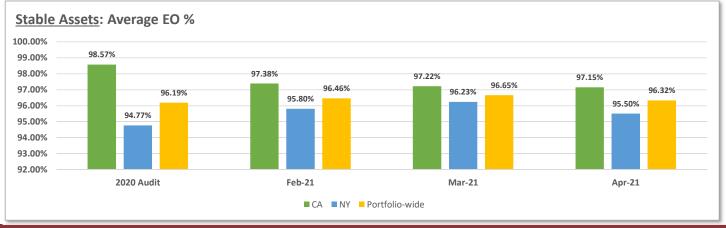
# Portfolio Management Adapts

- Suspended monthly reporting
- Supply chain weakened
- Rising materials costs
- American Rescue Plan provided for further rental assistance
- IRS Notice 2021-12 aided with delayed PIS dates and credit delivery



### January – June 2021: Trends We Saw One Year In







#### July – December 2021: Proceed With Caution

# Credit Feeling Better

- Reduced required construction buffer from three (3) months to one (1) month
- No further changes or erosion to protocols; continued to balance enhancements and changes
- We saw stale numbers on some projects that had pushed from earlier in the year. Red Stone required updated hard bid budgets to account for continued cost escalation of materials and equipment

# Portfolio Management Sees Some Light

- Usage of contingency due to rising costs
- Increase in additional soft funding requests
- Watch list percentage maintained at decreased level
- RSE-Fund 78: Closed 7/20 and 16 of 17 assets rated A and one asset rated a B as of Q4
- Approved insurance requirement exceptions

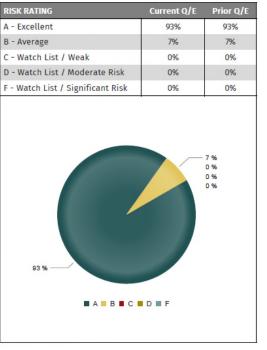


#### July – December 2021: Lower Watch List Levels Maintained

- Watch List has declined over the years and represented 11.8% of portfolio as of Q4 2021
- Red Stone Equity Fund 78 LP closed on 7/24/2020; 16 assets are risk rated an "A", 1 asset is risk rated a "B" and no assets have been or are currently on the Watch List

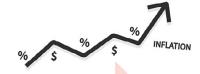


#### Red Stone Equity - Fund 78 LP (Q4 2021)





#### Where Are We Now and What to Watch



# Credit: What's Next

- Rising interest rates; labor/material scarcity and continued pricing volatility
- Monitoring inflation and evaluating UW assumptions (insurance expenses on rise)
- Evaluate risks associated with reduction of AMIs in 2023 and gross rent floor election
- Strong demand for affordable housing

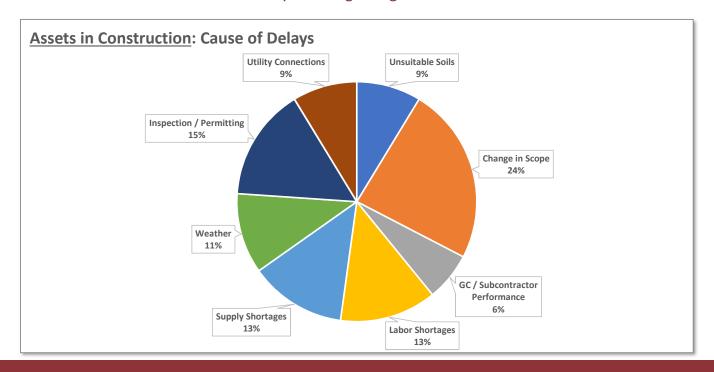
## Portfolio Management: What's Next

- Gradually reverting back to pre-COVID construction trends and have updated database to track trends
- Continuing to watch AR/bad debt as audits come in
- Watching utility expenses (seeing upward trend)
- IRS Notice 2022-05 further aided with delayed PIS dates and credit delivery
- Will be running inflation analysis on portfolio



#### Where Are We Now and What to Watch: Construction

- Labor and supply shortages continue to pose a challenge, though not as significant
- > Other, more normalized issues, such as change in scope/design revisions, are starting to surface whereas COVID-related delays are beginning to lessen





## **CONTACT**



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