

THE BASICS OF HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDITS AND SYNDICATION

IPED Conference | June 2023



FEDERAL HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT

- / 20% Credit against Federal Income Tax liability
- / Calculated on Qualified Rehabilitation expenditures
- / Incentive to preserve and rehabilitate – NOT acquire
- / Credits are utilized easily by large corporate investors
- / Sophisticated market of investors for the credits
- / Real Estate developers / owners partner with corporate investors to monetize
- / Preservation aspects jointly administered by NPS and State Historic Pres. Offices (SHPOs)
- / Tax aspects administered by the IRS
- / Tax Credits = dollar-for-dollar reduction in tax liability (contrast to deduction)
- / RTC is the most important (in dollar volume) federal preservation program
- / Available in all 50 states, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico

**“I have an Old Building and
someone told me I can get a tax
credit, please call me back...”**

QUALIFYING BUILDINGS

- / National Register Properties – individual or in district
- / Generally, at least 50 Years Old
- / Architecturally or historically significant
- / Role of the National Park Service
- / Three Part Process
- / Since 1977, more than 48,000 projects with over \$122.90B in investments*
- / In 2022, 858 proposed projects were approved by NPS; estimated rehab costs \$6.56B
- / In FY 2022, top 4 states were New York (116), Virginia (80), Pennsylvania (66), and Ohio (64)
- / Over half used state historic tax credits*

*Source: Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022: Federal Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings National Park Service



QUALIFYING FOR THE REHAB CREDIT

Option #1

/ Building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Option #2

/ Building is located in a registered historic district and certified as being of historic significance contributing to the district

- Must be a “building”
- Building is defined as a structure or edifice enclosing a space within its wall and usually covered by a roof
- Building must be depreciable

QUALIFYING FOR THE REHAB CREDIT

Substantial Rehabilitation Test

- / 24 Month Test
- / 60 Month Test—Phased

Standard Rehabilitation Test

- / Look back from placed in service date to basis in building 24 months prior or beginning of project, whichever is later
- / QREs must exceed prior basis or \$5,000, whichever is greater
- / Rolling 24-month window

Phased Rehabilitation Test

- / Must have plans and specifications showing two or more phases prior to beginning construction
- / 60-month window
- / Otherwise similar rules

“The first thing we are going to do is update the windows...”

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RULES

Part 1

Evaluation of Significance

Part 2

Description of Rehabilitation

Part 3

Request for Certification of Completed Work



DEVELOPER PERSPECTIVE

NPS Part 1/Part 2 Timing

Part 1: Historic Preservation Certification application

Part 2: Approval/Conditional Approval/Denial

Rehabilitation is consistent with the historic character of the property and, where applicable, with the district in which it is located

- / Rehabilitation will meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation if conditions are met
- / Rehabilitation is not consistent with the historic character of the property or district and the project does not meet the Secretary's standards for rehabilitation

**“Someone told me that the
IRS will pay for the cost of
construction...”**

CREDITS VS. DEDUCTIONS

| | Deduction | Credit |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| Income | \$1000 | \$1000 |
| Less: Deductions | -200 | 0 |
| Taxable Income | 800 | 1000 |
| Tax @ 20% | 160 | 200 |
| Less: Credits | 0 | -200 |
| Net Tax Due | \$160 | \$0 |

CALCULATING THE CREDIT

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures | \$4,900,000 |
| Credit Rate: | <u>20%</u> |
| Credits: | \$ 980,000 |

Calculate the equity amount:

\$0.80 per credit multiplied by \$980,000 credits = **\$784,000**

COMBINING HTC WITH OTHER CREDITS AND FINANCING SOURCES

| Financing Source | Amount |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Construction Loan | \$19,000,000 |
| LIHTC Equity | \$9,000,000 |
| HTC Equity | \$4,500,000 |
| State LIHTC | \$3,000,000 |
| State HTC Loan | \$2,000,000 |
| Subordinate Debt | \$4,500,000 |

With regard to multifamily residential developments, no affordability restrictions are required for rehabilitation credits, although it is common for rehabilitation credits to be combined with LIHTC and loan programs imposing affordability restrictions



**“A friend of mine sold his
credits to an investor...”**

HTC INVESTOR

- / Investor makes capital contribution in ownership entity in exchange for 99% ownership interest
- / Capital contribution equal to set amount per each \$1.00 of HTC
- / **Old Rule:** Full amount of the rehabilitation tax credit is claimed in the year in which the QREs are placed in service
- / **New Rule:** Rehabilitation credit claimed during a 5-year period beginning in the taxable year in which the QREs are placed in service
- / Important to reconcile equity installments with projected costs/schedules

“I added up my construction costs and multiplied by 20% to calculate my credits...”

QUALIFIED REHABILITATION EXPENDITURES

Includes costs related to:

- / Walls, partitions, floors ceilings
- / Permanent coverings such as paneling or tiling
- / Windows and doors
- / Air conditioning or heating systems, plumbing and plumbing fixtures
- / Chimneys, stairs, elevators, sprinkling systems, fire escapes
- / Construction period interest and taxes
- / Architect fees, engineering fees, constructions management costs
- / Reasonable developer fees

Does NOT Include costs related to:

- / Land and interest carry on land
- / Building acquisition and interest carry on acquisition
- / Acquisition-related costs
- / Site improvements and landscaping
- / Enlargements and demolition
- / Personal property
- / Tax-exempt use property

**“We just finished
construction and we are
ready to sell our credits...”**

WHO CAN CLAIM THE CREDIT?

Historic credits are shared among owners based on the PROFITS allocation:

- / 'Profits' are considered to include the owner's share of:
 - Taxable Income
 - Operating Cash Flow
- / These allocations must remain the same throughout the recapture period
- / Unused credits can carryback 1 year or carryforward 20 years

WHO CAN CLAIM THE CREDIT?

Timing of Ownership is Absolutely Critical:

- / If you own the project throughout the rehab but sell it prior to it being placed in service, you CANNOT claim the credit
- / If you bought into ownership just *prior* to, and owned it the day it was placed in service, you CAN claim the credit
- / If you bought into ownership *after* it was placed in service, you CANNOT claim the credit

“ Our partner wants to sell the building within two years of completing the rehab...”

COMPLIANCE PERIOD

- / HTC's are subject to a 60-month compliance period, known as the Recapture Period
- / Dispositions during Recapture Period trigger claw back of HTC's, subject to vesting rules
- / Disposition includes any sale, transfer, gift or casualty
- / New work that does not comply with the secretary's standards can trigger recapture

**“I heard that some of the
rules for the credits have
changed...”**

TAX CUTS AND JOB ACT UPDATES TO THE HTC

Old Rules

- / 20% federal historic tax credit available for the taxable year in which the qualified rehabilitations expenditure are placed in service
- / 10% tax credit available for pre-1936 buildings

New Rules

- / 20% federal historic tax credit is taken into account for any taxable year during a 5-year period beginning in the taxable year in which the qualified building is placed in service. The credit is an amount equal to the ratable share, 20% of QRE, for each year.
- / Qualified Building
 - Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
 - Located in a registered historic district and certified by the Sec of the Interior as being of historic significance to the district
- / 10% tax credit is eliminated

NEW RULE: RECOGNITION OF HISTORIC TAX CREDIT

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Old Rule Historic Tax Credit</u> | <u>New Rule: Tax Cuts & Jobs Act Historic Tax Credit</u> |
|-------------|---|--|
| 2018 | \$ 1,000,000 | \$ 200,000 |
| 2019 | | 200,000 |
| 2020 | | 200,000 |
| 2021 | | 200,000 |
| 2022 | | 200,000 |
| Total | <u>\$ 1,000,000</u> | <u>\$ 1,000,000</u> |

TRANSITION RULES

- / Old rules apply to cost paid or incurred on or before December 31, 2017
- / New rules apply to cost amounts paid or incurred AFTER December 31, 2017
 - (2) TRANSITION RULE—In the case of qualified rehabilitation expenditures with respect to any building— (A) owned or leased by the taxpayer during the entirety of the period after December 31, 2017, and (B) with respect to which the 24-month period selected by the taxpayer under clause (i) of section 47(c)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code (as amended by subsection (b)), or the 60-month period applicable under clause (ii) of such section, begins not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the amendments made by this section shall apply to such expenditures paid or incurred after the end of the taxable year in which the 24-month period, or the 60-month period, referred to in subparagraph (B) ends

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT: CAP ON BUSINESS INTEREST

- / Caps business interest at 30% of its adjusted taxable income
- / Applies to tax years after 2017
- / There are 3 exceptions to avoid the cap
 - Gross receipts for a 3 year tax period ending with the previous tax period do not exceed \$25 Million **DOES NOT APPLY TO TAX SHELTERS**
 - Real property trades or businesses
 - Specific electrical energy, water, sewage, gas, and steam transactions
- / Historic tax credit transactions can elect the real property trades or business in order to avoid the 30% business interest limitation

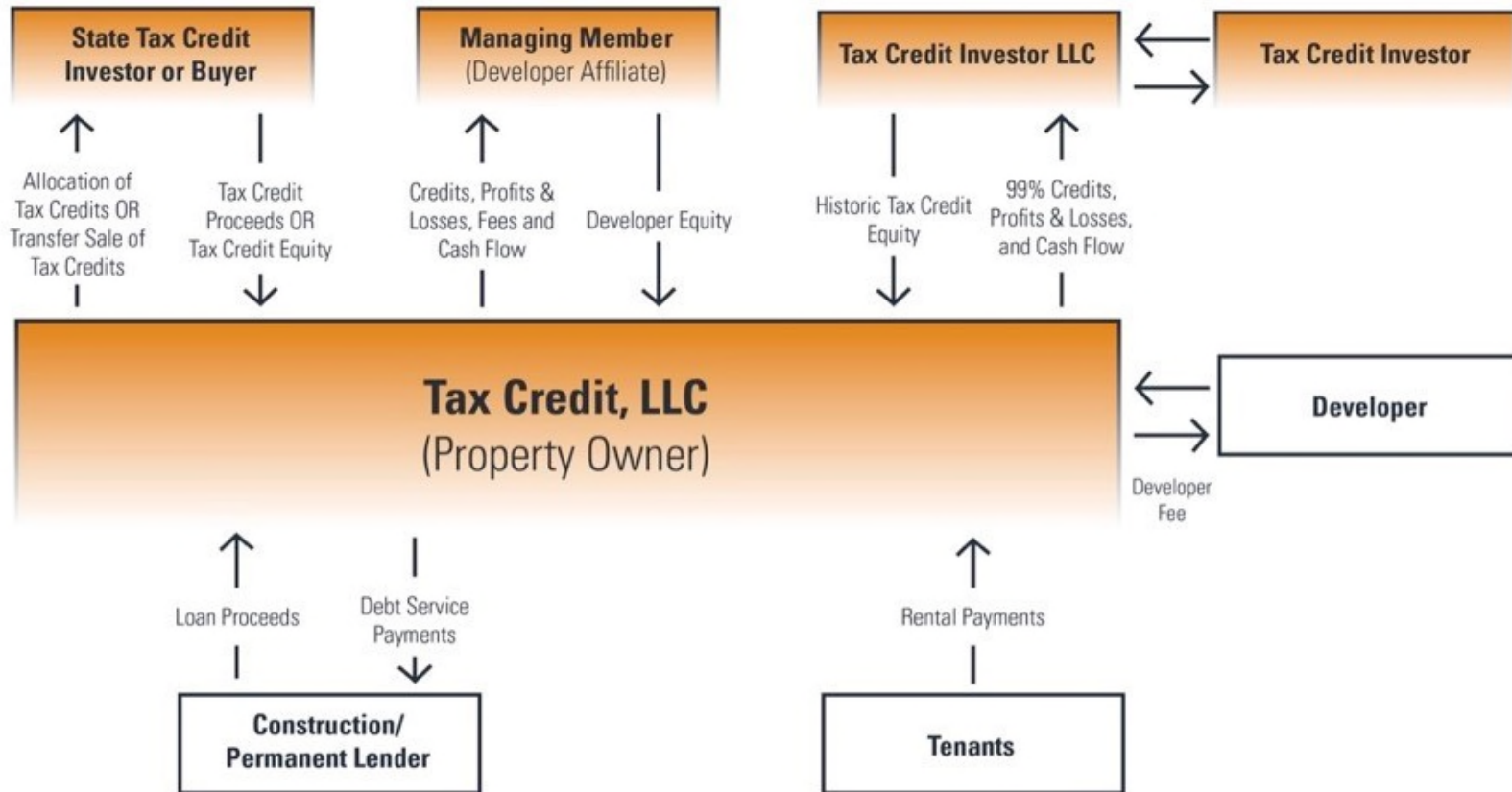
TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT: CAP ON BUSINESS INTEREST (CONT'D)

/ If the real property trades or business election under Section 162(j)(7)(B) the following occurs

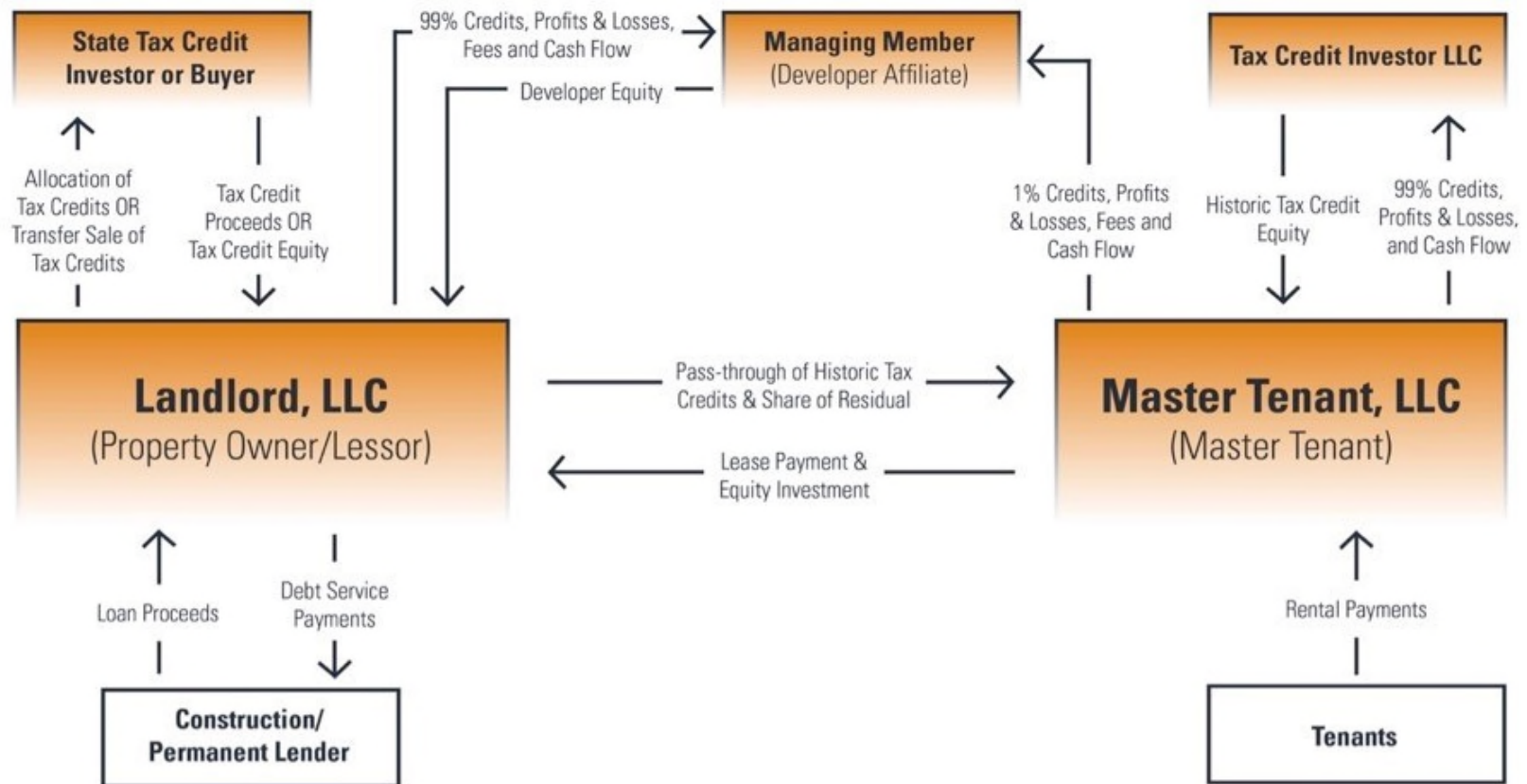
- Alternative Depreciation System:
 - Residential rental property = 30 years (NEW)
 - Nonresidential real property = 40 years
 - **Qualified improvement property = 40 years**
 - **Personal property and site improvements may still utilize MACRS and bonus depreciation**

**“I just want to sell my credits
to an investor, that’s all...”**

SINGLE TIER STRUCTURE



LEASE PASS THROUGH STRUCTURE (MASTER LEASE)



IMPLICATIONS OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

- / Lower Pricing
- / ADS Depreciation
- / But stay tuned: if the corporate tax rate increases, investor appetite for credits may increase as well
- / Transition rule deal activity is now tapering off due to timing

THE PROJECTIONS

Purpose of a good set of projections:

- / Analyze Cash flow
- / Depreciation allocation (Lease Pass-Through)
- / Estimate QRE and Credits
- / Used for underwriting by investors
- / Used by working group to refine transaction structure
- / Blueprint for the preparation of the legal documents
- / Attached to the Partnership/Operating Agreement as an Exhibit

SOURCE AND USE OF FUNDS

| Description | Total | Acquisition Basis | Qualified Rehabilitation Expenditures (QREs) | Site Improvements | Personal Property | Funded Expense | Other |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| SOURCES | | | | | | | |
| Federal Investor Member Equity | 2,042,146 | 12% | | | | | |
| State Investor Member Equity | 1,831,153 | 11% | | | | | |
| Permanent Loan | 9,312,000 | 54% | | | | | |
| Managing Member Equity | 2,544,500 | 15% | | | | | |
| Deferred Developer Fee | 1,417,730 | 8% | | | | | |
| Total Sources: | 17,147,528 | 100% | | | | | |
| USES | | | | | | | |
| Acquisition | 1,240,000 | 1,052,500 | - | - | - | - | 187,500 |
| Construction Hard Costs | 12,528,995 | 325,555 | 11,637,260 | 466,180 | 100,000 | - | - |
| Total Hard Costs | 13,768,995 | 1,378,055 | 11,637,260 | 466,180 | 100,000 | - | 187,500 |
| Soft Costs | | | | | | | |
| Design Fees | 339,000 | - | 339,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Legal & Accounting | 200,000 | - | 66,667 | - | - | 66,667 | 66,667 |
| Permits | 27,432 | - | 27,432 | - | - | - | - |
| Property Taxes | 5,000 | - | 5,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Environmental, Market Studies, & Appraisals | 47,828 | - | 47,828 | - | - | - | - |
| HTC Fees including Heritage Consulting Group | 40,000 | - | 40,000 | - | - | - | - |
| Marketing | 25,000 | - | - | - | - | 25,000 | - |
| Construction Loan Closing Fee | 93,120 | - | 12,844 | - | - | 80,276 | - |
| Construction Loan Interest | 256,164 | - | 96,853 | - | - | 159,310 | - |
| Bridge Loan Closing Fee | 59,792 | - | 59,792 | - | - | - | - |
| Bridge Loan Interest | 127,685 | - | 96,305 | - | - | 31,380 | - |
| Predevelopment Mezz Debt Interest | 174,000 | - | - | - | - | 174,000 | - |
| Operating Reserve | 257,000 | - | - | - | - | - | 257,000 |
| Insurance | 52,702 | - | 52,702 | - | - | - | - |
| Soft Cost Contingency | 98,555 | - | 49,277 | - | - | 49,277 | - |
| Total Soft Costs | 1,803,277 | | 893,700 | - | - | 585,910 | 323,667 |
| Development Fee | 1,575,255 | - | 1,575,255 | - | - | - | - |
| Total Uses: | 17,147,528 | 1,378,055 | 14,106,215 | 466,180 | 100,000 | 585,910 | 511,167 |



**“What other subsidies can
I access...”**

STATE HISTORIC TAX CREDITS

State credit laws vary in many respects from state-to-state



OTHER ISSUES

Development Fee

- / Amount must be reasonable
- / Payment Timing

Fees paid to a related party

- / Example—property management fee subject to reasonableness

Tax Exempt-Use Property

- / Check the tenants!!!

Investor requirements:

- / Cost Certification
- / Annual audited financials required? Tax or GAAP basis?

Refinance

- / During the Compliance Period
- / Cash Waterfall Planning

Reserve requirements

Contingency requirements

Tax priority payments

- / Is 50(d) income and losses from the partnership considered when calculating these payments?

THANK YOU!



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