

## **2009 Downpayment Plus®**

### **Changes/Clarifications/Reminders**

**Presented below are changes, clarifications and reminders relating to the 2009 Downpayment Plus Program.**

#### **CHANGES**

##### **Grant Amount**

The maximum grant amount that may be awarded to homebuyers who access the DPP® and DPP Advantage® programs is **\$4,000**.

##### **Program Limit per Institution**

A participating Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago member financial institution (member) may access up to **\$80,000** of the 2009 allocation, subject to the availability of funds. The funds will be made available on a first-come/first-served basis. Member use of DPP Advantage funds will not count towards the \$80,000 annual DPP limit for the general pool of funds.

##### **Homebuyer Counseling Fees**

The amount of DPP and DPP Advantage funds that can be used to reimburse counseling costs cannot exceed **\$600** per household. If a DPP participating institution provides the homebuyer counseling to the grant recipient(s) a fee cannot be charged for this service. If an institution charges a fee, the DPP reimbursement will be reduced accordingly. (This provision also was in effect last year). If counseling is provided by an outside organization, then the cost of the counseling may be paid with DPP funds, provided that the cost does not exceed \$600 per household.

##### **DPP Advantage® Allocation**

The Illinois DPP Advantage program allocation is \$180,000.

##### **First Mortgage Financing**

Home purchases financed with interest-only first mortgages are not eligible for DPP assistance.

##### **HUD-1 Identification of Grant**

The Downpayment Plus grant should be identified on the HUD-1 as Downpayment Plus Grant or DPP Grant, rather than AHP Direct Subsidy. The Downpayment Plus Advantage grant should be identified on the HUD-1 as Downpayment Plus Advantage grant or DPP Advantage Grant.

##### **Buy Down Interest Rate**

Downpayment Plus **may not** be used to buy down the interest rate on a mortgage.

## **CLARIFICATIONS and REMINDERS**

### **Homebuyer's Contribution**

A homebuyer accessing DPP funds must contribute a minimum of \$750 towards the purchase of the home. This contribution must occur prior to or at closing. Members risk not receiving reimbursement if the \$750 contribution is not met or is met after closing.

### **Cash Back to Homebuyer**

Cash back to the homebuyer of up to \$250 is allowed at closing. However, any cash back will be deducted from the homebuyer's contribution to determine if the \$750 equity contribution requirement has been met.

### **Principal Reductions to avoid Cash Back in Excess of \$250**

Principal reductions are allowed to avoid cash back in excess of \$250 at closing. Documentation confirming the principal reduction will be required.

### **Homebuyer Education**

Homebuyer education programs must include a financial literacy component, and must provide information alerting borrowers to practices characteristic of predatory and sub-prime lending. The borrower(s) and the loan officer and/or counselor must certify that the borrower(s) has/have received the required counseling and the DPP Homebuyer Counseling Checklist and Homebuyer Counseling Certification forms must be sent to ILFI following the loan closing with the other required DPP closing documents. The topics to be covered during the counseling are listed on the Homebuyer Counseling Checklist. The topics to be covered during counseling vary, depending upon the home buyer's credit score (see the checklists for details). The Checklist & Certification forms are on ILFI's website at <[http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment\\_plus/index.htm](http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment_plus/index.htm)> (DPP Documents & Forms Listing).

**The FHLBC will not accept an on-line counseling program or a homebuyer workbook as the sole source of counseling, regardless of the borrower's credit score.** One-on-One or group counseling with a counseling agency or a representative of the lender also is required.  
All borrowers and co-borrowers must receive counseling.

**If the homebuyer has completed an online counseling program or a homebuyer workbook, the lender's representative should meet with the homebuyer and review each item on the counseling checklist with the homebuyer to ascertain if the topic was covered in the online program or workbook and if the homebuyer understands the topic.** If the topic was not covered or the homebuyer does not appear to fully understand the topic, the lender's representative should provide additional counseling and answer any questions the homebuyer may have.

Following completion of the counseling, the lender's representative should complete and sign the Counseling Checklist and the Certificate of Homebuyer Education & Counseling certifying that the homebuyer has successfully completed the required counseling.

The FHLBC has authored a brochure on predatory lending. The brochure may be downloaded and printed from the ILFI's website by visiting [http://ci.fhlbc.com/ci/docs/Predatory\\_Lending\\_Brochure.pdf](http://ci.fhlbc.com/ci/docs/Predatory_Lending_Brochure.pdf).

## **Calculation of Income**

Participating institutions are required to use the income calculation methodology prescribed by the FHLB of Chicago to calculate a household's annual income. Visit [http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment\\_plus/index.htm](http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment_plus/index.htm) (DPP Documents and Forms listing) to view the Income Calculation Guidelines and methodology to be used when calculating annual household income.

Participating institutions must send the following income-related documents and forms when submitting the signed Reservation Form to ILFI:

- \*Verifications of income from all sources for all household members age 18 or older
- \*Beneficiary Questionnaire(s) for each household member 18 and older
- \*Income Calculation Worksheet
- \*Beneficiary Data Sheet(s)
- \*Copy of Loan Application

## **Income Documentation**

Participating institutions must provide income documentation for each source of income identified on the Beneficiary Questionnaire(s). The preferred income document to confirm employment income is Fannie Mae's Request for Verification of Employment form (VOE). However, if a VOE is not available the **three most recent and consecutive paystubs** can be used. The paystubs **must be consecutively dated**. If the homebuyer holds more than one job, verification documents must be obtained for all other jobs as well. For other sources of income, the homebuyer will need to provide documentation confirming the amount and frequency of the periodic payments received. For additional details regarding income documentation requirements please visit the DPP Income Calculation Guidelines posted on the DPP web site [http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment\\_plus/index.htm](http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment_plus/index.htm) (see the Documents and Forms Listing).

## **Income-Related Documents and Forms**

The following is a description of the income-related forms noted above that must be faxed to ILFI with the income verifications and signed Reservation Form. Go to [http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment\\_plus/index.htm](http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment_plus/index.htm) (DPP Documents and Forms Listing) to view these forms.

### **Beneficiary Questionnaire**

A Beneficiary Questionnaire needs to be completed for each household member age 18 or older. The form must be signed by the household member.

### **Income Calculation Worksheet**

This is a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet to be used to calculate the household income. Please note that this spreadsheet contains several worksheets. Start with the Beneficiary Data Sheet 1 worksheet and continue through the remaining worksheets until the "Income Calculation Summary" worksheet is reached. Please enter the information in the BLUE cells of the Beneficiary Data Sheets only.

Please print the Beneficiary Data Sheets and Income Calculation Summary Worksheet and fax them with the completed and signed Beneficiary Questionnaires, Income Verifications and Reservation Form to ILFI when making a reservation.

## **Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs)**

The IRS issues ITINs to nonresident or resident aliens who do not have or are not eligible to get a social security number. ITIN holders who have filed Federal Income Tax returns for at least the preceding two years, whose incomes do not exceed 80% of the area median income, and who are able to document consistent earnings are eligible to receive assistance from the DPP program. Providing DPP to ITIN holders is at each member's discretion. ITIN holders whose income is used to qualify the household for the first mortgage financing must meet the above ITIN requirements.

## **FHA Loans**

HUD allows the use of FHA insured products with the DPP grants. The FHLBC will be the lien holder of the DPP junior mortgage; however, members wanting to use FHA mortgages must agree to service the related DPP junior mortgage on behalf of FHLBC. An Amendment to the DPP Program Agreement must be executed prior to members beginning the use of FHA mortgages with DPP grants. The Amendment must be sent to the ILFI.

To secure DPP grants associated with FHA loans, lenders must use a DPP Mortgage, Retention and Subordination Agreement (MRSA) rather than the Note, Rider and Mortgage that are used to secure grants associated with conventional loans.

The Mortgage, Retention and Subordination Agreement and the Amendment to the DPP Program Agreement may be downloaded and printed by visiting the DPP Documents and Forms listing on the ILFI's website on DPP page <[http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment\\_plus/index.htm](http://www.ilfi.org/downpayment_plus/index.htm)> (see the Documents and Forms Listing). Lenders which do not make FHA loans should not use the MRSA and should not sign and return the Amendment to the DPP Program Agreement.

## **DPP Advantage Non-Profit Organization Limit**

Subject to funds availability, there is no limit on the total amount of DPP Advantage funds that may be reserved on behalf of a single non-profit organization.

## **Additional Requirements**

The following is a list of additional requirements pertaining to the 2009 program.

The term of the first mortgage must be at least five years. If an ARM, the interest rate lock period (that is, the length of time that the ARM's initial interest rate will remain unchanged) must be a minimum of five years.

The \$150 DPP closing fee cannot be passed along to the homebuyer.

All funds must be drawn by March 31, 2010.

One DPP program agreement and one annual enrollment fee will allow FHLBC members to participate in both the DPP and DPP Advantage programs.