

Tax-Exempt Bonds Finance Affordable Housing *Maine Fact Sheet*

The “Tax Cuts and Job Act” proposes to eliminate the tax exemption for multifamily and single-family mortgage revenue private activity bonds. Multifamily and single-family mortgage revenue private activity bonds play a critical role in ensuring that there is an adequate supply of affordable housing. State and local governments offer these bonds for private activities that are deemed to benefit the public, like affordable housing. In 2015, bonds supported over 1,509 multifamily and single-family homes, with the following breakdown:

	Multifamily mortgage revenue bonds		Single-family mortgage revenue bonds	
	<i>Apartments</i>	<i>Dollar amount</i>	<i>Loans</i>	<i>Dollar amount</i>
2013			610	\$173,370,000
2014			482	\$122,530,000
2015	759	\$91,750,000	750	\$200,130,000
Total	759	\$91,750,000	1842	\$496,030,000

The single-family mortgage revenue bonds provide below-market-interest-rate mortgages for qualifying first-time homebuyers. In order to qualify, first-time homebuyers must have an income below 115 percent of the area median income.

Similarly, the multifamily mortgage revenue bonds provide below-market-interest-rate mortgages for developers who set aside a percentage of their apartments for low-income families making below 60 percent of the area median income. Often, bond financing works with other resources to target even deeper.

Multifamily developments financed through private activity bonds are eligible for the 4 percent Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). From 1987 through 2015, the 4 percent LIHTC has financed 5,160 affordable apartments in Maine.

NHC and our members believe that the tax bill should retain the exemption for multifamily and single-family mortgage revenue private activity bonds and retain the LIHTC while improving it through the Tiberi-Neal Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (H.R. 1661) and the Cantwell-Hatch Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act (S. 548).

About NHC

Everyone in America should have equal opportunity to live in a quality, affordable home in a thriving community. The National Housing Conference educates decision makers and the public about housing policies and practices to move housing forward together. NHC convenes and collaborates with our diverse membership and the broader housing and community development sectors to advance our policy, research and communications initiatives to effect positive change at the federal, state and local levels. Founded in 1931, we are a nonpartisan, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. NHC’s research team operated as the Center for Housing Policy until the organizations merged in 2013.