

APPENDIX K: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary contains key words and phrases frequently used in connection with the financing of housing by state and local housing and finance agencies. While most terms relate directly to bond financing, others are also used in mortgage financing and real estate development. If a definition varies between these disciplines, the given definition applies to bond financing.

A

Affordable Housing Program: This is a program offered through the Federal Home Loan Bank System which subsidizes the interest rate on loans and provides direct subsidies to Bank System member institutions that lend for long-term, very-low-, low-, and moderate-income, owner-occupied and affordable rental housing. The program is designed to encourage creative efforts in increasing affordable housing.*

Agency Buydown: An upfront agency payment, which reduces the monthly principal and interest payments on a loan by reducing the initial interest rate. By buying down a loan, an agency subsidizes the homeowner during the buydown period.

Agency Contribution: Upfront dollar transfer of agency unrestricted funds to a new bond issue to help pay the issuance costs. The agency thereby reduces the amount of non-asset bonds, making the potentially negative effect of partial non-origination of mortgages less of a credit problem.

Amortization: The reduction in the outstanding principal amount of a loan achieved as the result of repayment of principal.

Arbitrage (or Program's Gross Spread): The yield differential between the bond and, in the case of Mortgage Revenue Bonds, the mortgage contract rate. Costs which must be paid from this spread typically include: the underwriter's discount; bond counsel fees; other costs of issuance; and mortgage origination, servicing, and related fees. Arbitrage limitations on tax-exempt bonds are established by the Internal Revenue Service.

ARM (Adjustable-Rate Mortgage or Variable-Rate Mortgage): A mortgage on which the interest rate is adjusted on a periodic basis in reference to an accepted index of market interest rates, such as the 12-month U.S. Treasury borrowing rate. ARMs usually include limits, or caps, on the size of the interest rate adjustments, such as 1 percent a year and 5 percent overall.

B

Basis Point: Yields on municipal securities are usually quoted in increments of basis points. One basis point is equal to .01 or 1/100th of 1 percent.

Basis Price: The price of a security expressed in yield or percentage return on the investment.

Bearer Bond: A bond that has no identification as to owner and therefore is presumed to be owned by the person who holds it (the bearer). Bearer bonds are freely and easily

negotiable since ownership can be quickly transferred from seller to buyer. Bearer bonds are no longer permitted for new issues of tax-exempt bonds.

“Blue Sky” Laws: State laws enacted to protect the public against securities fraud.

Bond: An interest-bearing promise to pay a specified sum of money—the principal amount—which is due on a specific date and secured by specified sources of revenue.

Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs): Short-term securities issued by states and municipalities to obtain interim financing for projects, which will eventually be funded long-term through the sale of a bond issue.

Bond Counsel: Legal counsel responsible for determining that all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and procedures are met in the issuance of a bond.

Bond Insurance: Guarantee of timely principal and interest payments to bondholders in the event of issuer default.

Bond Rate: The interest rate which is stated on the bond and payable to the bondholders periodically.

Bond Traders: Investment bank and commercial bank employees who engage in the purchase and sale of bonds after they are first sold (a secondary market).

Bond Yield: The overall interest cost percentage for a series of bonds.

Broker: A securities firm or department of a commercial bank which engages in the underwriting, trading, and sales of municipal securities for the account of another.

C

Call Provisions: The terms under which bonds are redeemable by the issuer prior to the specified maturity date at a stated price (which often is above par).

Canadian Interest Cost (CIC): A method of calculating total cost for new issues of municipal securities that takes into consideration the time value of money.

Cash Flow: For bonds which finance mortgage loans, the sum of mortgage repayments and prepayments, plus other revenues available to make debt service payments on the bonds and to pay related fiduciary and servicing costs.

Capped Adjustable Mortgage: An adjustable-rate mortgage which has a limit on the size of the annual and/or total increase in the interest rate.

Capital Appreciation/Accumulator Bonds (CABs): Bonds which pay interest on an accumulated basis at maturity. Unlike zero coupon bonds, the par amount of CABs does not reflect future interest payments.

Capital (Debt Service) Reserve Fund: A security requirement established to provide a revenue bond program with reserves which would be available in the event of a shortfall in operating revenues. The requirement is normally set in terms of maximum annual debt

service but is sometimes calculated as a fixed percentage of the principal amount of outstanding debt.

CHAS (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy): An analysis of housing needs and strategies which is required of states and local governments to receive HUD program funds or assistance.

Coinsurance: Mortgage insurance in which the loan originator agrees to insure part of the mortgage in return for part of the premium. A stop-loss provision with respect to a pool of mortgage is usually involved. The term is often used in a less generic sense to refer to a now-terminated Federal Housing Administration (FHA) multifamily program.

Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMOs): A security backed by a pool of mortgages or mortgage pass-through certificates. CMOs are issued with varying classes (tranches), all of which receive interest payments semi-annually from monthly interest payments on the mortgages in the pool. Principal payments on the mortgages in the pool are applied to the CMOs of the shortest tranche until retirement, next to the CMOs of the next shortest tranche, and so forth until all of the CMOs backed by the pool have been paid off.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): Programs administered by HUD to aid community and economic development, mostly to benefit activities serving low and moderate income persons. Three types of CDBGs:

CDBGs (Entitlement): Grants to entitlement communities, for a wide range of community development programs for neighborhood revitalization, economic development and improved community facilities and services. These communities develop their own programs in consultation with local residents.

CDBGs (Non-Entitlement) For States And Small Cities: Grants to non-entitlement communities, for similar programs.

CDBGs (Section 108 Loan Guarantee): These are loan guarantees that offer eligible communities financing for housing rehabilitation, economic development and large-scale physical development projects.

Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs): Community-based nonprofit entities for which a portion of HOME funds must be set aside.

Community Investment Program: This is a program offered through the Federal Home Loan Bank System which provides funds for community-oriented mortgage lending. Under the program, each Bank also designates a community investment officer to implement the Banks' community lending and affordable housing advance programs.

Competitive Bids: A sale of municipal securities by an issuer in which underwriters or syndicates of underwriters submit sealed bids to purchase the securities. This contrasts with negotiated underwriting.

Compliance Monitoring: The process of determining whether program requirements continue to be met. For example, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program has specific compliance monitoring requirements.

CBO (Congressional Budget Office): The major budgetary analysis organization for Congress.

CRS (Congressional Research Service): The research arm of the Congress.

CDI (the Continuing Disclosure Information (Pilot)): This is the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board's (MSRB's) effort to collect continuing financial information regarding municipal bond issues.

Convertible Option Bonds (COBs): Bonds initially issued at a short-term interest rate which may be converted later at the option of the issuer to a long-term fixed-rate bond.

Costs of Issuance: All expenses related to the authorization, sale, and issuance of bonds.

Coupon: The stated interest rate on a bond, usually paid semi-annually. For bearer bonds, "coupons" specifying the date and amount of each interest payment are attached to the bond. To receive an interest payment, the bondholder detaches and presents the coupon for payment.

Credit Enhancement: Security devices such as letters of credit, moral obligation pledge, or bond insurance which are obtained for a bond issue to enhance the marketability of the bonds (to improve ratings/lower interest costs).

Current Yield: The ratio of the interest rate to the actual market price of a bond, stated as a percentage. For example, a bond selling for \$1,000 that pays \$80 per year in interest has a current yield of 8 percent.

D

Dealer: A securities firm or department of a commercial bank which engages in the underwriting, trading, and sales of municipal securities for its own account.

Debt Limit: The statutory or constitutional maximum debt which an issuer can legally incur.

Debt Service: The payments required for interest on and repayment of the principal amount of debt.

Default: Failure to pay principal or interest when due. Non-monetary default is a violation of the terms and conditions of a mortgage or a bond issue.

Delinquency Experience: The level of loans with overdue payments, expressed as a percentage of the total portfolio of loans.

Denomination: The face amount or par value of a security which the issuer promises to pay on the maturity date. Most municipal bonds are issued in minimum denominations of \$5,000, although a few are available in \$1,000 denominations. Notes are generally available in \$25,000 minimum denominations.

Discount: The amount by which the purchase price of a security is less than the principal amount or par value.

Disposition Demonstration Program: Also known as "dispo/demo," this is a demonstration program under which HUD enters into agreements with HFAs to dispose

of some of the properties that HUD owns as a result of foreclosures in HUD-insured mortgages.

Dollar Bond: A bond which is quoted and traded in dollar prices rather than in terms of yield.

Double Barreled Bond: A bond secured by the pledge of two or more sources of repayment, such as the unlimited taxing power of the issuer as well as the revenues generated by a particular user charge.

Double Exemption: Securities on which the interest is exempt from taxation imposed by two levels of government, such as exemption from state and federal income taxes.

E

Equity Sharing (or Shared Appreciation Mortgage): A mortgage in which the borrower makes payments at an interest rate below the prevailing market rate. In return for accepting the lower rate, the lender (or holder of the mortgage) receives the right to a predetermined share of any future appreciation in the value of the property.

F

Face Amount: The par value (e.g., principal or maturity value) of a security shown on the face of the instrument.

Fair market rents (FMRs): Established by HUD to determine how much rent HUD will subsidize when it assists low income renters under its rental assistance programs. HUD determines the FMR by calculating the 45th percentile rent for an area, i.e., the rent level below which 45 percent of the units should rent.

FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation): An instrumentality of the federal government which insures the deposits of member institutions.

FHA (Federal Housing Administration): A federal agency within HUD which insures mortgages on both single family and multifamily loans, usually with high loan-to-value ratios.

FHFB (Federal Housing Finance Board): The governing body of the Federal Home Loan Bank System.

FHLB (Federal Home Loan Bank): One of the 12 federally-chartered regional banks of the Federal Home Loan Bank System. A bank's primary function is to supply credit to members, principally savings and loan institutions.

FHLMC (Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, or "Freddie Mac"): A government-sponsored enterprise which is authorized to buy and to package for sale (usually in the form of mortgage-backed securities) conventional, FHA, and VA loans and participating interests in blocks of such loans.

Financial Advisor: A consultant to an issuer of municipal securities who provides the issuer with advice with respect to the structure, timing, terms, or related matters concerning a new issue of securities.

First-Time Homebuyer: For purposes of the MRB and MCC programs, a mortgagor who has not held an ownership interest in a principal residence at any time during the three-year period which ends on the date on which the qualified MRB loan or MCC-assisted loan is executed or assumed.

FNMA (Federal National Mortgage Association, or "Fannie Mae"): A government-sponsored enterprise which is authorized to buy and to package for sale (usually in the form of mortgage-backed securities) conventional, FHA, and VA loans and participating interests in blocks of such loans.

Foreclosure: A procedure in which property pledged as security for a debt is sold to repay the debt in the event of a default in payments or terms.

G

General Obligation Bond: A bond which is secured by the pledge of the issuer's full faith and credit and usually also its taxing power.

GNMA (Government National Mortgage Association, or "Ginnie Mae"): A government corporation within HUD which provides full-faith-and-credit-of-the-federal-government guarantees of timely payment on securities backed by FHA and VA loans.

Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs): Federally chartered, privately owned corporations which carry an implicit guarantee of the federal government. Examples are FNMA and FHLMC.

H

HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program: A "housing block grant" program authorized by the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 which provides federal funds which may be used for ownership or rental housing or tenant-based assistance.

HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development): The executive department which administers most federal housing programs.

I

Indenture (Bond Indenture): A written agreement under which debt securities are issued. It sets forth the maturity date, interest rate, call provisions, security, and other factors affecting the bonds.

Industrial Development Bond: A security issued by a state, certain agencies or authorities, a local government, or development corporation to finance the construction or purchase of industrial plants or equipment which will be leased to a private corporation and backed by the credit of the private corporation.

Interest: Compensation paid or to be paid for the use of money. Interest is generally expressed as an annual percentage rate.

Issuer: A state, political subdivision, agency, or authority which borrows money through the sale of bonds or notes.

L

Lead Underwriter: The bond underwriter which “runs the books of the account” for a group of underwriters (syndicate) created to buy and sell a bond issue.

Legal Opinion: An opinion concerning the validity of a securities issue with respect to statutory authority, constitutionality, procedural conformity, and usually the exemption of interest from federal income taxes. The legal opinion is usually rendered by a law firm recognized as specializing in public borrowings (often referred to as bond counsel).

Lendable Proceeds: Bond proceeds available for direct loans, mortgage purchases, or loans-to-lenders activities.

Letter of Credit (LOC): A direct guarantee provided by a bank which agrees to provide a trustee with the funds necessary to make payments to bondholders. A “standby” LOC provides funds only in the event of a shortfall in other available funds.

Level Payment (Self Amortizing) Mortgage: A level (or fixed) payment mortgage is a standard, fully amortizing mortgage with a fixed term and fixed equal payments to term.

Loans-to-Lenders: A mortgage financing method used by bond issuers in which loans are made to lenders under conditions which set the mortgage contract rate and the borrower eligibility standards under which the funds will be reloaned to the ultimate borrowers..

Loan-to-Value (LTV) Ratio: The ratio of the amount of funds borrowed when financing a property relative to the total sales price. The lower the ratio, the larger the share of owner equity and presumably the less risk involved in making the loan.

Local Authorities: Refers to local housing finance or other municipal agencies which issue tax-exempt bonds.

Low Income: In program eligibility determinations, defined as some percentage (usually 80 percent) of median income.

Low Income Housing Tax Credit (Tax Credit): A credit against ordinary income taxes which is permitted under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code for certain investments in low income rental housing.

“Lower Floaters”: Refers to adjustable-rate tender bonds (usually 30-year bonds) which are tied to short-term rates and allow the bondholder to “put” the bonds back to the issuer at the bondholder’s discretion.

M

Major Rehab: Major or substantial rehab refers to residential rehabilitation which involves substantial structural renovation (e.g., of a gutted building), usually to one or more of a building’s systems (e.g., roof, boiler, electrical, etc.). This type of rehab requires major costs to complete.

Marketability: A subjective measure of the ease with which a security can be sold in the secondary market.

Maturity: The date on which the principal amount of a security becomes due and payable.

“McKinney Act” Programs: A series of program enacted by Congress to address the needs of homeless persons and to prevent homelessness.

Median Family Income: The annual gross income above which and below which lie an equal number of family incomes. Income eligibility for subsidized housing programs are often set as a percentage (%) of the area median income.

Median Sales Price: The home price in a defined market area above which and below which lie an equal number of home sales by price for a period of time.

Moderate Income: In program eligibility determinations, often defined as families with gross incomes between 80 and 120 percent of median family income.

Moral Obligation Bond: A type of municipal security which is not backed by the full faith and credit of a state, but for which state law provides that the state will consider replenishing the issue’s debt reserve fund if necessary.

Mortgage Banker: A private company which originates and services mortgage loans which are sold to primary or secondary market institutions.

Mortgage Credit Certificate (MCC): Certificates issued by state and local HFAs to qualified first-time homebuyers which provide federal income Tax Credits equal to a specified percentage of the annual mortgage interest paid. These Tax Credits directly reduce the federal income tax liability of the recipients. The program is an alternative to the issuance of MRBs.

Mortgage Revenue Bond (MRB): A tax-exempt security issued by a state, certain agencies or authorities, or a local government to make or purchase loans (including mortgages or other owner financing) for single family residences.

Multifamily Housing: Usually refers to rental housing in buildings of five or more units.

MSIL (Municipal Securities Information Library): The central repository of information regarding bond issues and continuing disclosure of financial information related to them.*

Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB): An independent self-regulatory organization established by the Securities Acts Amendments of 1975 which is charged with primary rulemaking authority over dealers, dealer banks, and brokers in municipal securities.

N

NAHA (National Affordable Housing Act): Legislation that created the HOME Program.

Negative Amortization: In the case of mortgage loans, a payment plan in which the interest payments are insufficient and the shortfall is added to the outstanding loan balance as additional principal. As a result, the total principal amount of the mortgage can become larger than the initial principal amount. A mortgage which allows for negative amortization early in the life of the mortgage usually provides for increased

payments later to assure full payment of the principal and interest by the end of the loan term.

Negative Arbitrage: The result of paying a higher interest rate on bonds than is achieved from the investment of bond proceeds.

Negotiated Sales: Sales in which the issuer chooses one underwriter or group of underwriters to sell its bonds to investors. There is no competitive bid for the issue. Instead, the interest rate and terms of sale are negotiated.

Net Interest Cost (NIC): The traditional method of calculating total cost for new issues of municipal securities which does not consider the time value of money.

Non-Callable Bond: A bond which cannot be redeemed at the option of the issuer before its specified maturity date.

Notes: Short-term instruments which promise to pay specified amounts of money and are secured by specific sources of future revenues, such as taxes, federal and state aid payments, and bond proceeds.

Notice of Sale: An official document disseminated by an issuer of municipal securities which gives pertinent information regarding an upcoming bond issue and invites competitive bids from prospective underwriters.

O

Offering Price: The price at which the members of an underwriting syndicate for a new issue decide to offer the securities for sale to investors.

OTA (Office of Technology Assessment): The research organization of the Congress specializing in technology issues.

OTS (Office of Thrift Supervision): The federal regulatory agency responsible for examination and regulation of federally and state chartered savings institutions.

Official Statement: A document prepared by or for the issuer which provides detailed security and financial information on the bond issue.

Over-the-Counter Market (OTC): A securities market which is conducted among dealers throughout the country through negotiation rather than by using an auction system (as represented by the stock exchanges).

P

Par Value: The stated principal amount of a bond or note due at maturity.

Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI): Private mortgage insurance, usually providing coverage for loans with less than a 20 percent downpayment, up to a 97 percent loan-to-value ratio. PMI companies are regulated by states.

Pool Insurance: Additional security for a single family mortgage loan portfolio. This usually provides coverage equal to 10 percent of the original aggregate loan amount, frequently with a minimum dollar amount of coverage also specified.

Premium: The amount by which the price of a security exceeds its par amount.

Prepay: Used in conjunction with low-income rental units that will become eligible for their owners to pay off the underlying HUD mortgages and convert the units to market-rate housing.*

Prepayment Assumption: A calculated guess of the future performance of a portfolio of single family loans, relative to the incidence of recoveries of principal. The assumption is often expressed as a percentage of the long-term FHA loan performance experience with the rate of recoveries of principal in a particular state or region.

Primary Market (new issue market): Market for new issues of municipal bonds and notes.

Principal: The face amount of a bond, exclusive of accrued interest and payable at maturity.

Public Housing: Low income housing developed, owned, and operated by public housing authorities (PHAs) and financed through the sale of tax-exempt bonds. HUD provides debt service contributions, operation subsidies, modernization funds, and technical assistance to support PHA projects.

PIG: Public interest group.

Put Options: A contract which gives its owner the right to sell a security at a specific price within a defined time period.

Q

Qualified Allocation Plan: A required plan which a state allocating agency must use to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

R

Ratings: Designations provided by investors' ratings service to securities to indicate their relative credit quality (e.g., Standard and Poor's, Moody's, Fitch).

Recapture: Provision under MRB program by which an MRB borrower who sells his or her house within 10 years of initial purchase must count a certain portion of the profit as taxable income.*

Red Herring: A preliminary prospectus or official statement which does not include the price at which the securities will be offered to the public. It is issued to obtain an indication of the interest in an offering. It gets its name from the statement, printed in red ink on its front cover, which says the document is a preliminary prospectus or official statement.

REMICs (Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits): A REMIC is an entity which holds a pool of mortgage loans and issues securities representing interests in those mortgages. This entity enables a pool of mortgages to be split into different ownership interests offering a range of maturities, thereby giving greater choice as to the length of

investment. Income generated by the mortgage pools is taxed not at the entity level but at the investor level.

Refunding: A procedure by which a bond issue is redeemed with funds from a new bond issue under conditions generally more favorable to the issuer. This results in the proceeds of the new bonds (the refunding bonds) being substituted for the proceeds of the old bonds (the refunded bonds), which may or may not be redeemed.

Registered Bond: A bond whose owner is registered with the issuer or its agents, either as to both principal and interest, or as to principal only. Transfer of ownership can be accomplished only when the securities are properly endorsed by the registered owner.

Resolution (Bond Resolution): Formal board action authorizing the issuance of bonds. This is an alternative to indenture.

Revenue Anticipation Notes (also see Tax Anticipation Notes): Securities issued in anticipation of other sources of future revenue, typically a form of federal or state aid.

Revenue Bond: A bond payable solely from net or gross non-tax revenues derived from tolls, charges, or rents paid by the users of a facility constructed with the proceeds of a bond issue.

RFP: Request for Proposals.

RTC (Resolution Trust Corporation): A federal corporation created to sell or liquidate ("resolve") failed savings and loan associations.

Risk-sharing: A concept by which HFAs insure mortgages they issue in partnership with entities such as private insurers or FHA.

Rural Housing Service (formerly Farmers Home Administration): An agency of the federal government which makes, participates in, and insures loans for rural housing and other purposes. FmHA recently was renamed the Rural Housing and Community Development Department.

S

Safe Harbor: "Safe Harbor" refers to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) estimates issued for the MRB and MCC programs which are used to determine purchase price limits for homes eligible to be bought under the programs. The estimates are developed from federal data samples and may be appealed by individual agencies seeking to use their own limits (based on a more accurate, comprehensive, and timely data base than the official limits).

Savings and Loan Association (S&L): A financial institution which takes savings deposits and invests them mainly in mortgage loans. Always a corporation, an S&L may be either a mutual or a capital stock institution and may be either state or federally chartered.

Savings Bank: A financial institution which takes savings deposits and invests them in mortgages and other securities allowed under law.

Savings Institutions: Savings and loans and savings banks which have historically been primary investors in residential mortgage loans.

Secondary Financing: A loan secured by a second mortgage or deed of trust on real property.

Secondary Market: A market for issues previously offered or sold.

Section 8: A rental assistance program administered by HUD under which the federal government pays the difference between what a household can afford to pay for a housing unit and its fair market rent. Eligible tenants pay 30 percent of their income toward rent.

Section 8: Lower Income Rental Assistance Program under which HUD makes up the difference between what a low- and very-low income household can afford and approved rent. Among aspects of Section 8 Program:

Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program: A HUD program under which PHAs administering the program advertise fund availability and select participating landlords based on a competitive process. The landlords agree to rehabilitate the properties to certain standards, and the PHAs set rents based on a number of factors.

Section 8 Rental Certificate Program: HUD contracts with PHAs and IHAs, which issue rental certificates to very low income families. The families may find a suitable home, and assistance payments are made to the property owners. A certificate pays the difference between the recipient's unit's actual rent and 30 percent of the tenant's income. Generally, the rent for the units may not exceed the fair market rent (FMR), which is set at roughly the 45th percentile of local rents.

Section 8 Rental Voucher Program: HUD contracts with local public housing agencies (PHAs) and Indian Housing agencies (IHAs), which issue rental vouchers to very low income families. A voucher pays the difference between a payment standard (similar to the FMR) and 30 percent of the tenant's income. If the actual rent exceeds or is less than the payment standard, the tenant pays the excess or keeps the difference.

Section 10b: This section of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act allows organizations that are not members of the Federal Home Loan Bank ("non-members", such as HFAs) to collect advances from the Federal Home Loan Banks for affordable housing activities. Amendment was enacted in 1992 pursuant to NCSHA advocacy.

Section 203(k): Rehabilitation Mortgage Insurance. Mortgage insurance program for one-to-four-family properties under which HUD insures loans to finance: rehabilitation of an existing property; purchase and rehabilitation of a property; or rehabilitation and refinancing of the outstanding indebtedness of a property.

Section 221(d)(3) and (4): Multifamily Rental Housing for Moderate Income Families. Mortgage insurance programs administered by HUD to finance rental or cooperative multifamily housing for moderate-income households, including housing for the elderly and Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing. The primary distinction between the two programs is that HUD may insure full replacement cost under 221(d)(3) for public

nonprofit and cooperative mortgagors, but only up to 90 percent under Section 221(d)(4), regardless of the type of mortgagor.

Section 223(f): A federal mortgage insurance program administered by FHA for refinancing existing apartment buildings.

Section 515: Program administered by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) under which FmHA provides direct loans to private and public sponsors for the construction, acquisition, rehabilitation, and operation of multifamily rental projects for low and moderate income families in rural areas.*

Section 811: Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities. Program administered by HUD under which capital advances are made to eligible nonprofit sponsors to finance the development of rental housing with supportive services for disabled persons.

Section 142 of the Internal Revenue Code: Tax law establishing and defining exempt facility bond programs (multifamily housing bonds).

SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission): The agency that administers federal securities laws.

Serial Bonds: Bonds issued with serial maturity dates and commensurate interest rates.

Servicing: The collection of payments on a mortgage. Servicing also consists of operational procedures covering accounting, bookkeeping, insurance, tax records, loan payment follow-up, delinquent loan follow-up, and loan analysis.

Single Family: Usually refers to one-to-four unit owner-occupied family housing.

Sinking Fund: A fund accumulated by an issuer over a period of time which is designated for use to retire debt, either periodically or all at one time.

Special Tax Bond: A bond secured by a special tax, such as a gasoline tax.

Spread: In bond underwriting, the difference between the price received for a security by the issuer and the price paid by the investor.

Swap: A transaction in which an investor sells one security and simultaneously buys another with the proceeds, usually for about the same price. The term is also used to refer to an interest rate swap, in which an obligor on fixed-rate debt agrees to exchange repayment responsibilities with an obligor on a similar amount of variable-rate debt for a stated period.

Syndicate: A group of investment bankers and commercial banks which buy (underwrite) a new issue from the issuer and offer it for resale to the general public.

T

Take-Down: (Sometimes referred to as take-down concession). The discount from the list price allowed to a member of an underwriting account on any bonds it sells.

Targeted Area: An area of chronic economic distress or an area with a high percentage of low income families entitled to special treatment (e.g., higher purchase price limits) under the MRB and MCC programs.

Tax Anticipation Notes (TANs): Notes issued by states or municipalities to finance current operations in anticipation of future tax receipts.

Tender Bond: A bond which gives the investor the option to tender or "put" the bond to the issuer at par on a specified date. A premium is paid for a tender bond because the put option affords protection against the erosion of principal during periods of rising interest rates.

Term Bond: A bond that has a single stated maturity date.

TEFRA Hearing: A public hearing required prior to the issuance of certain kinds of tax-exempt bonds. The hearing allows persons to express their views on both the issuance of the bonds and the location of the proposed facility.

Total Bond Indebtedness: The amount of total general obligation debt issued by a municipality, regardless of the purposes of the debt.

Triple Exemption: Securities on which the interest is exempt from federal, state, and local income taxes.

True Interest Cost (TIC): A method of calculating bids for new issues of municipal securities which accounts for the time value of money.

Trustee: A bank designated by the issuer as the custodian of funds and the official representative of the bondholders. Trustees are appointed to ensure compliance with the contract and to represent bondholders to enforce their contract with the issuer.

U

Underwrite: To purchase a bond or note issue from the issuing body for the purpose of reselling the securities to the general public.

Unlimited Tax Bond: A bond secured by the pledge of taxes which is not limited by rate or amount.

V

VA (U.S. Department of Veterans Administration, formerly the Veterans Administration): A federal agency responsible for administering veterans benefits programs, including the provision of federal guarantees for home loans for veterans.

Y

Yield: The dividends or interest paid on a particular security, expressed as a percentage of the current price or cost price or as related to the maturity of a bond.

Yield-to-Call: The hypothetical return which is projected to be earned on a bond, assuming that the issuer calls it on the first date permitted.

Yield-to-Maturity: The hypothetical return which is projected to be earned on a bond, assuming that the bond is held to maturity.

Z

Zoning: The designation by a city or county authorities of the eligible uses of property or eligible kind of activities in a specific geographic area.

Zero Coupon Bonds: Bonds which sell for less than their face amount because no interest is paid until maturity. The face amount represents the full amount of principal and accumulated interest (with effects of compounding) at maturity (also see Capital Appreciation/Accumulator Bonds).