



Federal Housing Finance Agency

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May 30, 2023

Cynthia K. Waldron
Vice President – Research and Analytics
Freddie Mac
1551 Park Run Drive
McLean, VA 22102-3110

Dear Ms. Waldron:

On December 28, 2021, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) published a final rule in the *Federal Register* establishing housing goals for 2022-2024 for Freddie Mac.

The final rule provides that the overall low-income areas benchmark goal shall include the sum of the 10 percent benchmark for the minority census tracts subgoal and the 4 percent benchmark for the low-income census tracts subgoal, plus an increment for families in disaster areas with incomes no greater than area median income (AMI). This disaster areas increment for 2023 is 6 percent, resulting in an overall benchmark of 20 percent for the low-income areas home purchase goal for 2023.

The disaster areas increment to the low-income areas home purchase subgoal was calculated by determining all counties that were designated by FEMA as adversely affected by a major disaster where housing assistance payments were authorized during the 2020-2022 period, but were not already included in the minority census tracts subgoal and the low-income census tracts subgoal.

Home purchase mortgages to families in these areas with incomes no greater than 100 percent of area median income, but which were not already included in the minority census tracts subgoal or the low-income census tracts subgoal, were calculated as a share of all home purchase mortgages, based on FHFA analysis of Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data for 2017-2021. This yielded the 6 percent disaster areas increment for 2023. The details underlying the calculation of the 2023 disaster areas increment are contained in the enclosed document, "Methodology for Establishing Designated Disaster Areas."

If you have any questions, please contact Padmasini Raman, Supervisory Policy Analyst, Office of Housing & Community Investment, at Padmasini.Raman@fhfa.gov or (202) 649-3633.

Sincerely,

Naa Awaa Tagoe

Naa Awaa Tagoe
Deputy Director, Division of Housing Mission and Goals

Enclosure