

Homekey+ Program Appraisal Guidelines

The Homekey+ Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Section 300 (xiii) requires that Homekey+ applications include an appraisal.

The Homekey+ NOFA Section 300 (xiii) reads:

“Applicants shall provide an appraisal prepared no earlier than 12 months prior to application submission date for all Projects seeking acquisition funds from Homekey+ or if property value will be used as local match. The appraisal must comply with the Homekey+ requirements outlined in the Homekey+ Appraisal Guidance document, ...”

Please use this document as guidance to prepare and submit an Appraisal Report that fulfills the threshold requirement with the Homekey+ application.

1. Appraisal reports shall be prepared and signed by an appropriately California-licensed Certified General Real Estate Appraiser in good standing (pursuant to Part 3, commencing with Section 11300 of Division 4 of the Business and Professions Code, and the California Code of Regulations, Title 10, Section 3701) who possesses the appropriate background, education, training, knowledge and experience necessary to accept the assignment and provide credible assignment results. The subject property must be physically inspected (exterior and interior inspections) by at least one of the licensed appraisers signing the report.
2. The appraisal report must be USPAP compliant (current edition as of the date of appraisal report), and must include the report date, client, intended use, intended user, definition of fair market value, signed and dated appraiser certification. Intended users must include the State of California.
3. Appraisal report must provide the fair market value of the fee simple interest, leased fee interest, or going concern (as appropriate) of the subject property based on its current physical condition and recorded or unrecorded title encumbrances under the appraiser’s concluded highest and best use. Lease conveyances or conveyances through trusts on tribal lands may also provide a need for leasehold valuations.
4. An appraiser’s concluded highest and best use of the property may or may not be its existing use. However, the appraiser must, within the body of the appraisal report and in the letter of transmittal, report the fair market value of its existing use as of the date of inspection, without consideration to Homekey+ funding, other related affordable housing funding, the affordable housing regulatory environment, and funding application status.

5. If an appraiser's concluded highest and best use of the property is not its existing use, an appraisal must clearly and sufficiently demonstrate this conclusion by fully developing valuations under the existing use AND alternate use, accounting for the time and cost of procuring any entitlement approvals, renovation costs, lease up costs, profit, demolition, etc. Moreover, the valuation of the alternate use must utilize comparable data (e.g. sales, rents, expenses, capitalization rates) consistent with the concluded alternate use.
6. If prior to the close of escrow, owner (seller), at their sole cost and expense, will obtain all necessary entitlements and/or complete all physical improvements consistent with the concluded highest and best use, the appraiser should provide a proposed use fair market value that reflects any seller obligations (e.g. entitlements, improvements, etc.), in addition to the existing use value.
7. If value scenarios are anticipated to be different for any reason, e.g. unique contractual requirements, the appraiser must contact HCD for guidance in advance of completion of appraisal for instructions, approval of hypotheticals, etc. on how to proceed.
8. All value scenarios need to be market supported with credible market evidence.
9. Appraisal shall utilize the following definition of value:
 - a. Fair Market Value: The fair market value of the property taken is the highest price on the date of valuation that would be agreed to by a seller, being willing to sell but under no particular or urgent necessity for so doing, nor obliged to sell, and a buyer, being ready, willing and able to buy but under no particular necessity for so doing, each dealing with each other with full knowledge of all the uses and purposes for which the property is reasonably adaptable and available.
10. Appraisal shall utilize the following definition of value:
 - a. Fair Market Value: The fair market value of the property taken is the highest price on the date of valuation that would be agreed to by a seller, being willing to sell but under no particular or urgent necessity for so doing, nor obliged to sell, and a buyer, being ready, willing and able to buy but under no particular necessity for so doing, each dealing with each other with full knowledge of all the uses and purposes for which the property is reasonably adaptable and available.
 - b. Full and complete compliance with USPAP Standards Rules 1-5(a) and (b) and 2-2(a) x (3) as it pertains for documenting the sale history. See Advisory Opinion 1 of USPAP from The Appraisal Foundation. If the subject is under contract or under negotiation for sale, compliance includes describing how the contract/negotiations came to occur (e.g. whether the property was listed for sale or if the buyer made an unsolicited offer) and reconciling the fair market value with the contract/negotiation price by explaining any differences between price and value and stating whether the contract/negotiation price is below, consistent with, or above fair market value.

11. All appraisals are subject to review by the State of California. State reserves the right to request an independent outside review.

The appraisal report should include the following:

1. Title page with sufficient identification of appraisal project.
2. Letter of transmittal summarizing important assumptions and conclusions, value estimate, date of value, date of report, etc.
3. Table of contents.
4. Assumptions and Limiting Conditions.
5. Description of the scope of work, including the extent of data collection and limitations, if any, in obtaining and analyzing relevant data.
6. Photographs of subject property and comparable data, including significant physical features and the interior of structural improvements if applicable. (Interior photos of subject property improvements are required.)
7. Copies of Assessor's plat maps with the subject parcels marked.
8. A legal description of the subject property if available.
9. Three-year subject property history, including sales, listings, leases, options, zoning, applications for permits, or other documents or facts that might indicate or affect use or value.
10. Detailed discussion of any current Agreement of Sale, option, or listing of subject property.
11. Regional, area, and neighborhood analyses.
12. Market conditions and trends including identification of the relevant market area, a discussion of supply and demand within the relevant market area (or other areas of competition), and a discussion of the relevant market factors impacting demand for site acquisition or leasing within the relevant market area.
13. Discussion of subject land/site characteristics (size, topography, current use, zoning and land use issues, development entitlements, General Plan designations, utilities, offsite improvements, access, easements and restrictions, flood and earthquake information, toxic hazards, taxes, and assessments, etc.).

14. Description of subject improvements, including all structures, square footage, physical age, type of construction, quality of construction, condition, site improvements, etc.
15. Subject leasing and operating cost history.
16. Opinion of highest and best use for the subject property, based on an in-depth analysis supporting the concluded use. Such support typically requires a discussion of the four criteria or tests utilized to determine the highest and best use of a property. If alternative feasible uses exist, explain and support market, development, cash flow, and risk factors leading to an ultimate highest and best use decision.
17. All approaches to market value applicable to the property type and in the subject market. Explain and support the exclusion of any usual approaches to value.
18. Map(s) showing all comparable properties in relation to subject property.
19. Photographs and plat maps of comparable properties.
20. In depth discussion of comparable properties, similarities and differences, and comparisons and adjustments to the comparable data, and discussion of the reliability and credibility of the data as it relates to the indicated subject property value.
21. Comparable data sheets: 1) For sales, include information on grantor/grantee, sale/recordation dates, listed or asking price as of date of sale, financing, conditions of sale, buyer motivation, sufficient location information (street address, post mile, and/or distance from local landmarks such as bridges, road intersections, structures, etc.), land/site characteristics, improvements, source of any allocation of sale price between land and improvement, and confirming source. 2). For listings, also include marketing time from list date to effective date of the appraisal, original list price, changes in list price, broker feedback, if available. 3). For leases, include significant information such as lessor/lessee, lease date and term, type of lease, rent and escalation, expenses, size of space leased, tenant improvement allowance, concessions, use restrictions, options, and confirming source.
22. Discussion of construction cost methodology, data source used, costs included and excluded.
23. Discussion relating to remaining economic life. Depreciation methodology, a discussion of accrued depreciation from all causes, and remaining economic life.
24. Copies of construction cost data including, section and pages of cost manual (date of estimate or date of publication of cost manual must be provided if not indicated on page), copies of cost estimate if provided from another source, and supporting calculations including worksheets or spreadsheets.
25. Include a copy of a recent preliminary title report (within the past year) as an appraisal exhibit and discuss the effect of title exceptions on fair market value. If unavailable, the appraisal should be made contingent upon review of the preliminary title report and the assumption that there is no effect on value.
26. Reconciliation and final value estimate. Explain and support conclusions reached.

27. Signed Certification consistent with language found in USPAP.
28. A discussion of market conditions and trends including identification of the relevant market, a discussion of supply and demand within the relevant market area and a discussion of the relevant market factors impacting demand for site acquisition and leasing within the relevant market area.
29. These appraisal guidelines must be included in the Addenda of appraisal report.