



Multifamily Selling and Servicing Guide

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part III Section 1602 Preferred Equity	3
1602.01 Description	3
1602.01A Definitions	3
1602.01B Exclusions	3
1602.01C Eligible Mortgage Loans	4
1602.01D Structures	4
1602.01E Limitations	4
1602.01F Lender's Loan Application	5
1602.02 Underwriting	6
1602.03 Hard Preferred Equity	7
1602.03A Submission	7
1602.03B Outside Counsel and Due Diligence Fees	8
GLOSSARY	9



Section 1602 Preferred Equity

1602.01 Description

1602.01A Definitions

Requirements

Preferred Equity is an equity investment in an entity where the holder is entitled to preferred dividends, distributions, payments, or returns relative to the other equity owners.

Fannie Mae defines 2 types of Preferred Equity.

Type	Definition
Soft Preferred Equity	Preferred Equity that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• only requires preferred payments or returns to the holder if cash flow from the Property is sufficient to make the payments or returns after satisfying the payment, reserve, escrow, and funding obligations of the Mortgage Loan and all Property operating expenses;• has organizational documents that explicitly state that the preferred return may accrue if cash flow from operations is insufficient to pay the return; and• does not have a maturity date, redemption date, trigger date, or require repayment during the term of the Mortgage Loan.
Hard Preferred Equity	Preferred Equity that requires preferred payments or returns to the holder, regardless of whether cash flow from the Property is sufficient to make the payments or returns.

1602.01B Exclusions

Guidance

This Section does not apply to:

- Soft Preferred Equity that does not benefit from any remedial rights related to the failure to make or pay any preferred payment of return; or



- any Borrower organizational or capital structures relating solely to the allocation of LIHTC.

For example, [Part III, Chapter 16: Mezzanine Financing and Preferred Equity, Section 1602: Preferred Equity](#) does not apply to:

- Soft Preferred Equity that is Preferred Equity only because of “promoted interest” or priority “waterfall” distributions in the organizational structure of the Borrower, but does not otherwise benefit from remedial rights when distributions are not paid or made.
- Instances where a provision in the Borrower’s organizational documents allows or requires a forced sale of the Property to a third party in an arm’s length transaction
 - if preferred payments or returns are not made, or
 - for standard non-recourse guaranties.

1602.01C Eligible Mortgage Loans

Requirements

Mortgage Loans with Preferred Equity structures must:

- be newly originated;
- be fixed rate; and
- for Hard Preferred Equity,
 - have an original principal balance of at least \$10 million, and
 - be flagged for MBS additional disclosure per [Form 4098](#).

1602.01D Structures

Guidance

Preferred Equity may be structured in a variety of ways, and appear similar to a traditional equity investment, while having rights or remedies similar to debt, such as Mezzanine Financing.

To determine if the Preferred Equity is Soft or Hard, you should analyze the:

- Borrower’s organizational and capital structure;
- Borrower’s applicable joint venture or operating agreement with the Preferred Equity provider; and
- rights and remedies of the direct and indirect equity owners against the Borrower.



1602.01E Limitations

Requirements

Preferred Equity must:

- not have a maturity date, redemption date, trigger date, or require repayment during the term of the Mortgage Loan;
- have a fixed rate of return without escalations during the term of the Mortgage Loan;
- not include cash flow sweeps above the stated return;
- not be cross-collateralized with multiple assets;
- for a deal that has both a Hard Preferred Equity return and Soft Preferred Equity return, be underwritten using the total combined preferred return to calculate the DSCR per Form 4660;
- not have intercreditor or recognition agreements between you and the Preferred Equity holder; all rights of the Preferred Equity holder that you recognize must be contained in the Loan Documents;
- not have side letters; all information, terms, and conditions relating to the Preferred Equity must be contained in the organizational documents; and
- for Hard Preferred Equity, not be less than \$1 million.

You must underwrite the Preferred Equity as Hard Preferred Equity, if any of the following apply:

- the organizational documents do not explicitly state that the preferred return may accrue if cash flow from operations is insufficient to pay the preferred return;
- there are remedies associated with operating benchmarks such as NCF, NOI, or other operating thresholds;
- there are reserves to ensure the payment of the preferred return; or
- the holder of Preferred Equity benefits from a
 - pledge of the general partner's or managing member's interest in the Borrower, or any direct or indirect owner of the Borrower, or
 - guaranty or indemnity from the general partner, managing member, or manager of the Borrower (or any parent or other Person Controlling any of them) with respect to the preferred payment or returns. If a guaranty or indemnity is executed by the Key Principal executing a Guaranty for the Mortgage Loan, the guaranty or indemnity of the preferred payment or returns must be expressly subordinate to the Guaranty for the Mortgage Loan.



1602.01F Lender's Loan Application

Requirements

Your loan application form must:

- require the Borrower to indicate whether it has or intends to obtain Preferred Equity as part of its organizational or capital structure; and
- inform the Borrower that you may delay approval or revoke any prior approval if the Borrower changes its intention to obtain Mezzanine Financing.

1602.02 Underwriting

Requirements

For any Mortgage Loan with Preferred Equity, you must comply with the following table.

Topic	Requirements
Guaranty	<p>If the holder of the Preferred Equity benefits from a guaranty or similar indemnity that contains recourse events or similar obligations not otherwise contained in the Loan Documents, you must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• submit the modifications to Fannie Mae for review and approval, and• if approved by Fannie Mae, add the events or obligations to the appropriate Loan Document.



Topic	Requirements
Refinance Analysis	<p>Prepare a refinance analysis that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporates the terms of both the Mortgage Loan and the Preferred Equity; • demonstrates that the Borrower will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - maintain a positive equity position in the Property throughout the term of the Mortgage Loan, or - have some other incentive (e.g., continuing cash flow) to remain committed to the Property and its successful operation; and • concludes that there will be sufficient cash flow, NCF growth, and residual value to pay off the Mortgage Loan and the Preferred Equity (if applicable) at maturity.
Replacement Guarantor	<p>Identify an acceptable replacement guarantor that complies with the Guide for Key Principals for any Mortgage Loan with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard Preferred Equity, and • Soft Preferred Equity if modifications to the transfer provisions of the Loan Documents are requested for the benefit of the Soft Preferred Equity holder.
Loan Documents	<p>Use the Loan Documents for Preferred Equity per the Loan Documentation Requirements (Form 6000) for any Mortgage Loan with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard Preferred Equity, and • Soft Preferred Equity if modifications to the transfer provisions of the Loan Documents are requested for the benefit of the Soft Preferred Equity holder.

1602.03 Hard Preferred Equity

1602.03A Submission





You must submit the following in DUS Gateway:

- a sources and uses of funds reflecting the investment of the Hard Preferred Equity holder;
- Exhibit B to the Multifamily Underwriting Certificate (Borrower) ([Form 6460.Borrower](#));
- a complete organizational chart of the Borrower, including upper tier entities or other owners, that shows the respective ownership percentages of Persons holding any
 - direct or indirect control of the management and operations of the Borrower,
 - ownership of a direct or indirect interest of 25% or more in the Borrower, and
 - ownership of any other direct or indirect interest in the Borrower that constitutes Hard Preferred Equity; and
- copies of the organizational and other documents that govern the
 - Hard Preferred Equity, and
 - Hard Preferred Equity holder, including any
 - term sheets,
 - private placement memoranda,
 - operating agreements,
 - pledge agreements,
 - guaranties, or
 - similar arrangements.

1602.03B Outside Counsel and Due Diligence Fees

Operating Procedures

The Borrower must pay the legal fees if Fannie Mae engages outside counsel.

These fees are non-refundable, and you must pay the counsel retainer when you submit the underwriting.

Guidance

You may charge the Borrower your own legal and due diligence fees.



Glossary

B

Borrower Person who is the obligor under the Note.

Synonyms

- Borrowers
- Borrower's

D

DUS Gateway Multifamily pre-acquisition system including deal registration, Pre-Review and/or waiver tracking, decision records, or any successor systems.

F

Form 4660 Multifamily Underwriting Standards identifying Pre-Review Mortgage Loans and containing the minimum underwriting requirements (e.g., debt service coverage ratio, loan to value ratio, interest only, underwriting floors, etc.) for all Mortgage Loans.

Synonyms

- Multifamily Underwriting Standards

G

Guarantor Key Principal or other Person who executes a Payment Guaranty, a Non-Recourse Guaranty, or any other guaranty in connection with the Mortgage Loan.

Synonyms

- Guarantors

Guaranty Payment Guaranty, Non-Recourse Guaranty, or other guaranty by a Guarantor for the Mortgage Loan.

K



Key Principal Person(s) who control and/or manage the Borrower or the Property, are critical to the successful operation and management of the Borrower and the Property, and who may be required to provide a Guaranty.

Synonyms

- Key Principals

L

Loan Documentation Requirements Loan Documents listed in [Form 6000](#) applicable to the particular Mortgage Loan execution and/or product and features.

Loan Documents All documents evidencing, securing, or guaranteeing the debt obligation executed for a Mortgage Loan and approved by Fannie Mae.

Synonyms

- Loan Document
- Mortgage Loan Document
- Mortgage Loan Documents

M

MBS Mortgage-Backed Security

Mezzanine Financing Subordinate debt financing provided to a direct or indirect owner of a Borrower that is secured by a pledge of the direct or indirect equity interest in the Borrower held by the owner, and not by a Lien on the Property.

Mortgage Loan Mortgage debt obligation evidenced, or when made will be evidenced, by the Loan Documents or a mortgage debt obligation with a Fannie Mae credit enhancement.

Synonyms

- Mortgage Loans



Multifamily Underwriting Certificate

Multifamily Underwriting Certificate (Form 6460), and/or other agreement approved by Fannie Mae that provides underwriting information for a Mortgage Loan.

P

Person

Legal person, including an individual, estate, trust, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, financial institution, joint venture, association, or other organization or entity (whether governmental or private).

Synonyms

- Persons

Property

Multifamily residential property securing the Mortgage Loan and including the land (or Leasehold interest in land), Improvements, and personal property (as defined in the Uniform Commercial Code).

Synonyms

- Properties
- Property's