

RIHousing

Low Income
Housing Tax Credit
Program Training

October 10, 2018

Agenda

- Introductions
- Agency Updates
- Housing Stabilization Program
- Subsidy layering LIHTC with HOME units
- Physical Inspection Information
- WTC and HUD Data Collection
- Coming attractions Highlights from the New LIHTC Compliance Manual
- Questions

RIHousing

Agency Updates

RIHousing



Income Averaging

- The Consolidated Appropriations Act created a new income election known as "income averaging"
- Enacted on March 23, 2018
- Many issues and questions to consider

Income Averaging (cont.)

- "The Act" permanently establishes income averaging as a third minimum set-aside election for new Housing Credit developments which owners could choose in lieu of the two previously existing minimum set-aside elections (the 40 at 60 and 20 at 50 standards).*
- Income averaging allows credit-qualified units to serve households earning as much as 80 percent of Area Median Income (AMI), as long as the average income/rent limit in the property is 60 percent or less of AMI.

^{*} Excerpt from NCSHA Q & A 4.6.18

Income Averaging (cont.)

	(Rev. May 2018) and Certification				OMB No. 1545-096				
epartm nternal	Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service								
Part	Part I Allocation of Credit								
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L Add	dress of building (do not use P.O. box) (see instruc	itions)	B Name and address of housing credit agency						
Nar	me, address, and TIN of building owner receiving	"							
2 Peter	ne, address, and TIN of building owner receiving	allocation	D Employer identification number of agency						
			E Building identification number (BIN)						
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	Date of anocaron	,	outing of our	1					
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За	Marie and America			3a					
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_			42(d)(5)(B). Enter the percentage to which the eligible						
	basis was increased (see instructions))		3b	1				
4	Percentage of the aggregate basis financed by tax-exempt bonds. (If zero, enter -0)								
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Income Averaging Tips for Owner/Agent

Owner/Agent Action Items:

- Discuss specific plans for managing IA set-aside. At a minimum, concrete plans for handling compliance issues should be established before an owner entity/GP implements the new IA set-aside.
- Discuss how set-asides will be managed, and compliance ensured.
- Designate person(s) responsible for establishing and monitoring compliance; should be exceptionally qualified for cutting-edge compliance work.

^{*} Costello Compliance Minimum Set-Aside & The Income Average Test 2018

Income Averaging Tips for Owner/Agent (cont.)

A General Partner will need to ensure that investors are amenable to choosing the new set-aside. Technically, the set-aside is a GP option, but eliciting investor opinion is crucial in maintaining a good relationship with them. They will likely want assurances that the GP and Agents have a plan to handle the new compliance details and minimize risk of unknown factors presented by the new option.*

- Discuss plan with investors to establish a comfort level with them.
- Investor will need to amend partnership agreements, as necessary.

^{*} Costello Compliance Minimum Set-Aside & The Income Average Test 2018

Income Averaging Tips for Owner/Agent (cont.)

RIHousing Action Items:

- Discuss plan with owner/agent to establish a comfort level.
- Discuss investor buy-in and management plan to manage and monitor compliance with the setaside.
- LURA will be amended to reflect the new setaside.

Questions?

Housing Stabilization Program (HSP)

Homelessness Prevention & Diversion

- Launched in 2016
 - HSP was created to fill a gap in services for households who have been able to access mainstream housing but may experience challenges in maintaining their housing.
 - HSP provides short-term case management to help tenants address issues that may be compromising their voucher or tenancy, with the goal of remaining housed and avoiding eviction when possible.
- Unique to RIHousing
 - Only housing finance agency in Rhode Island to offer Housing Stabilization services.

Housing Stabilization Program

Who can access HSP services?

- HSP services are limited to to RIHousing-involved tenants in the following programs:
 - Leased Housing & Rental Services
 - Housing Choice Voucher Program
 - Continuum of Care
 - Project Based Contract Administration
 - LIHTC/Tax Credits
 - Homeownership
 - Help Center (foreclosures)
 - Madeline Walker Tax Lien Assistance program

Housing Stabilization Program (cont.)

Who can access HSP services?

- HSP services can also be accessed by private owners, landlords, and property management companies that house RIHousing tenants.*
 - Provide information & resources
 - Mitigation of case-specific tenant issues to avoid legal interventions
 - Landlord/tenant or tenant/tenant mediation

^{*}HSP services are especially beneficial for properties that do not employ a Resident Service Coordinator

Housing Stabilization Program (cont.)

Mutually beneficial outcomes

- For Tenants:
 - Increased likelihood of long-term success maintaining tenancy in a safe and sustainable home that meets the household's needs (RIHousing mission)
- For Owners/Management:
 - Minimizes financial burden
 - Administrative, staff time
 - Legal fees, constables
 - Unit turnover, forced move-out and storage, vacancy periods
 - Provides management with support when addressing tenant challenges

Increased positivity within the living & work environment

Housing Stabilization Program (cont.)

Referral Process: Accessing HSP services

- Complete Housing Stabilization Program referral form
 - Include a written description of the problem and action steps taken to address or rectify by management or RSC.
- Scan/email or fax referral form to:

Erin Gorman, HSP Coordinator

Phone: 401-457-1197

Email: egorman@rihousing.com

Fax: 401-450-1365

Questions?

Subsidy Layering, LIHTC with HOME

Be knowledgeable of rules for:

- Students
- Income eligibility determinations
- Income and rent limits
- Allowable verification methods
- Section 8 TBRA
- Section 8 PBRA
- Recertification

The Student Rule

A full-time **or** part-time student under age 24 is ineligible to occupy a HOME-assisted unit **unless**:

- Independently eligible
- Member of an eligible household
- Veteran
- Married
- Has a dependent child

The Student Rule

For HOME units in LIHTC projects:

- If student is <u>under</u> the age of 24, follow HOME (Section 8) rules
- If student is <u>24 or older</u>, follow LIHTC rules

Income Eligibility Determinations

- Income limits are published by HUD
 - Program Bulletin from RIHousing
- 2 months of source documentation
 - Required at MI
- Third Party Verification
 - Required at AR

Income and Rent Limits

- Income limits are published by HUD
 - Program Bulletin from RIHousing
 - Establishes timeline for enforcement of new limits
- HOME ≠ LIHTC
- HOME ≠ Section 8
- HOME = HTF (Housing Trust Fund)

Allowable Verification Methods

- Source documents
 - 2 months of pay history
 - May be 2nd or 3rd party documents
- Pay Stubs
 - Not required every year
- Full Recertification
 - Every 6th year of Affordability Period
 - Contact your compliance specialist to verify

Section 8 TBRA

- Also known as Tenant Based Voucher
- Cannot exceed HOME limits
 - Tenant Rent
 - Utility Allowance
 - Subsidy

Section 8 PBRA

- Also known as Project Based Voucher
- = Low HOME
- ≠ High HOME
- Over Income Households
 - Must be charged the <u>lesser of</u>
 - 30% of household income
 - LIHTC rent

MANAGING RENTAL UNIT MIX UNDER HOME

ED		FLO	DATING		
ow HOME Unit		Low HOME Unit			
Change in Tenant Income at Recertification	Owner Action		Change in Tenant Income at Recertification	Owner Action	
Existing tenant income remains < 50%	Update rent to currently published Low HOME rent - utilities (net rent)		Existing tenant income remains < 50%	Update rent to currently published Low HOME rent - utilities (net rent)	
Existing tenant income rises above 50% but ≤ 80%	Unit remains Low HOME (no change in rent) until there is a vacancy in High HOME unit. When High HOME unit is vacant, change that unit to Low HOME & rent to VLI household at net Low HOME rent. Now can designate original unit as High HOME & raise rent for original tenant to net High HOME rent. May also wish to check to see if swap possible with existing High HOME unit whose tenant income is ≤ 50% AMI. If yes, can swap unit designation.		Existing tenant income rises above 50% but < 80%	Unit remains Low HOME (no change in rent) until there is a vacancy in High HOME-assisted unit. When High HOME unit is vacant, change that unit to Low HOME & rent to VLI household at net Low HOME rent. Now can designate original unit as High HOME & raise rent for original tenant to net High HOME rent. May also wish to check to see if swap possible with existing High HOMI unit whose tenant income is ≤50% AMI. If yes, can swap unit designation.	
Existing tenant income rises above 80%	Increase rent to 30% adjusted income. When HOME-assisted unit available, rent to VLI household at net Low HOME rent. Project remains "temporarily out of compliance" until existing OI tenant chooses to move out.		Existing tenant income rises above 80%	Increase rent to lesser of 30% adjusted income or market rent. When market unit available, rent to VLI household at net Low HOME rent OR check to see if tenant in a market rate unit happen to be VLI. If yes, can swap unit designation. At this point, original unit becomes market unit not subject to any HOME restrictions. Instead, if high HOME unit becomes available, rent at Low HOME to VLI household. To maintain total required HOME assisted units next available market rate unit becomes High HOME unit rented to LI household & OI unit becomes market rate no longer subject to HOME rules.	
igh HOME Unit		High HOME Unit			
Change in Tenant Income at Recertification	Owner Action		Change in Tenant Income at Recertification	Owner Action	
Existing tenant income falls ≤ 50%	Check to see if swap possible with existing Low HOME unit whose tenant income is between 50 - 80% AMI. If yes, can swap unit designation. If no, existing unit can remain as High HOME at currently published High HOME rent - utilities (net rent).		Existing tenant income falls ≤ 50%	Check to see if swap possible with existing Low HOME unit whose tenant income is between 50 - 80% AMI. If yes, can swap unit designation. If no, existing unit can remain as High HOME at currently published High HOME rent - utilities (net rent).	
Existing tenant income remains above 50% but < 80%	Update rent to currently published High HOME rent - utilities (net rent)		Existing tenant income remains above 50% but < 80%	Update rent to currently published High HOME rent - utilities (net rent)	
Existing tenant income rises above 80%	Increase rent to 30% adjusted income. When High HOME-assisted unit available, rent to LI household at High HOME rent. Project remains "temporarily out of compliance" until the existing OI tenant chooses to move out.		Existing tenant income rises above 80%	Increase rent to lesser of 30% adjusted income or market rent. When market rate unit available, rent to L1 household at High HOME rent OR check to see if tenant in a market rate unit happen to be L1. If yes, can swap unit designation. At this point, original unit becomes market unit not subject to any HOME restrictions.	

HUD, Office of Affordable Housing Programs, Community Development Technical Assistance Developed by ICF International, www.icfi.com

Questions?

Physical Inspection Information

Treas. Reg. §1.42-5(c)(2)(ii)(B): once every 3 years state agencies conduct on-site inspections of all buildings, common areas, grounds and percentage of units in the project.

RIHousing: stricter policy, not all properties eligible for minimum inspection schedule.

- Lender, financial backing
- Vested interest
- Preservation of the units/building
- Curb appeal
- Decent, safe and sanitary
- Turnover time

Four Types of Inspections:

1. REAC:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/newpasscb.pdf

2. REAC under the Pilot/Initiative program:

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/phy-inspection/home.html

3. UPCS:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC 26481.PDF

4. Mortgagee Inspection:

- A relatively quick visual inspection of the current condition of the property.
- Concentration on Health & Safety items.
- A representative sample of interior common areas, building exterior / grounds and <u>vacant units</u>.
- Includes boiler and mechanical rooms.
- All health and safety items will be immediately brought to the attention of management, who will be given 24 hours to correct.
- If found to be in below average physical condition, a UPCS will be scheduled, including occupied units.

IRS Revenue Procedure 2016-15, Industry Standard Repairs:

- Standards are applicable to <u>all</u> properties subject to UPCS physical inspections.
- Non Industry Standard (NIS) repairs not acceptable
- All repairs <u>must</u> be made in good and workmanlike manner with materials suitable for the purpose and defect free.
- Findings logged will cite NIS repair and the original deficiency

Example: A wall had a hole in it. Hole was patched with a piece of plywood and painted over. The finding would be NIS repair of hole in sheetrock; size of original hole will be an educated guess by the inspector and will effect severity of the finding.

https://www.us-hc.com/images/pdfs/IndustryStandardNotice2016.pdf

Minimum Inspection Requirements Full LIHTC Inspection

- The lesser of Minimum Unit Sample Size of units (see Chart) or 20%, whichever is less.
 - If all BIN's are separate projects, 20% of <u>each BIN</u> will be inspected
 - Decoupling: Units inspected≠ Files reviewed
 - https://www.irs.gov/pub/irsdrop/rp-16-15.pdf

Number of Low-Income Units	Number of Low-Income Units
in the Low-Income Housing	Selected for Inspection or Low-
Project	Income Certification Review
	(Minimum Unit Sample Size)
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5-6	5
7	6
8-9	7
10-11	8
12-13	9
14-16	10
17-18	11
19-21	12
22-25	13
26-29	14
30-34	15
35-40	16
41-47	17
48-56	18
57-67	19
68- <mark>81</mark>	20
82-101	21
102-130	22
131-175	23
176-257	24
258-449	25
450-1,461	26
1,462-9,999	27

Interagency Physical Inspection Alignment Initiative (f.k.a. the Pilot Program)

- RIHousing currently has 5 HUD-certified REAC inspectors
 - Brittany Toomey
 - Craig Scorpio
 - Glen Turner
 - Jamie Wolcott
 - Lenore Coughlin
- Inspectors cannot answer property-specific UPCS/REAC questions

Interagency Physical Inspection Alignment Initiative (f.k.a. the Pilot Program) (cont.)

- You may not have noticed yet:
 - If a development has a REAC inspection scheduled during the calendar year, it is likely to be subject to a file review only
 - If your property has LIHTC and HOME, we do our best to visit the site only once (rather than once per program) and address all non-compliance at that time.
 - All specialists have had the same training; there is more consistency in conducting inspections.



Available Resources

IRS 8823 Guide:

https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-utl/lihc-form8823guide.pdf

HUD REAC Compilation Bulletin:

https://www.us-hc.com/images/pdfs/HUD_REAC_Comp_Bulletin_4.V3.pdf

HUD REAC Inspection Brief:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/INSPECTION BRIEF.PDF

UPCS Protocol:

https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program offices/public indian housing/reac/products/pass/pass insp rpv23

Questions?

WTC and HUD Data Collection

- Mandatory see PB # 2016-01
- Authorized users only
- Semi annual authorization
- LIHTC tenant data collection for HUD
- Not reporting = Non compliance = potential 8823

WTC and HUD Data Collection (cont.)



PROGRAM BULLETIN

To: Owners and Managing Agents of Low-Income Housing

Tax Credit (LIHTC) Properties

From: Leslie McKnight, Director of Loan Servicing

Date: February 8, 2016

Subject: Quarterly Occupancy Reporting for LIHTC Program (one attachment)

Bulletin # 2016 - 01

This Program Bulletin amends Program Bulletin # 2009-03 regarding Rhode Island Housing's occupancy reporting requirements.

In an effort to further automate processes and reduce the administrative burden on owners and agents, the following will be effective March 1, 2016:

Owners of LIHTC properties will no longer be required to submit move-in move-out reports and occupancy reports. Waitlists are required and must be submitted at the end of each quarter or by the tenth of April, July, October and January of each year. Rhode Island Housing will now monitor occupancy and move-in move-out activity in the Web Tenant Compliance system (WTC.) In order for this practice to be successful, it is imperative that owners ensure that WTC is accurate, current and updated on a monthly basis. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the issuance of an 8823 finding of non-compliance for failure to report to the state agency.

Additionally, effective March 1, 2016, Rhode Island Housing will be utilizing WTC to monitor the HOME units in each applicable property. To do this, owners will be required to complete the HOME unit tracking spread sheet (attached) and submit it to their assigned multifamily compliance specialist on a monthly basis. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the issuance of an 8823 finding of non-compliance for failure to report to the state agency.

If you have any questions about this Program Bulletin, please contact Kathleen Millerick, Multifamily Compliance Supervisor, by telephone at (401) 457-1241 or by email at kmillerick@rhodeislandhousing.org.

Attachment: HOME unit tracking spreadsheet

44 Washington Street, Providence, RI 02903-1721 = Phone: 401 457-1234 = www.rhodeislandhousing.org

WTC and HUD Data Collection (cont.)

- WTC Demonstration
- Password reset
- Technical support
- Generating an occupancy report

- New Policies
- Alignment with IRS and industry best practices
- Reduce paperwork burden
- Adopting recommended Section 8 practices
- Changes effective immediately: assets less than \$5000

IRS Rev. Proc. 94-65 allows for self-affidavit for assets under \$5000

- Other programs may not allow
- Applicants/tenants can self-certify Assets less than \$5000
- All projects
- RIHousing Asset Certification form obsolete

				Unit #	t: Addre	ess:		
1. My/our assets includ	de:							
Asset Type	(A) Cash Value*	(B) Int. Rate%	(AxB) Annual Income	Asset Type		(A) Cash Value*	(B) Int. Rate%	(AxB) Annual Income
Savings Account				Real	Estate			
Checking Account				Mobile Home				
Cash on Hand				Lump Sum Receipts				
Direct Debit Express/EBT Card***				Safety Deposit Box				
Rep Payee Account				Stocks/Bonds				
IRA*				Keogh Account				
Money Market Funds					Capital investments			
Trust Funds*				e Ba	nking Accounts			
401K Accounts*				Bitco	ins/Cryptocurrency			
Certificate of Deposit				GoF	ındMe/CrowdSourc	ing		
Arrest Time		Source			and when		- 1	
Asset Type Whole Life Insurance		Source	source		Cash Value	Interest Ra	e /	Annual Income
Other Retirement/Pension	n Funds*	\top						
Personal property he	ld as an							
Investment ** Other (Attach list if neces								
Include only those am Cash value is defined as outstanding loans, early with Personal property held NOT include necessary per sessets of an active business	market vali ithdrawal pe as an invest rsonal prope is, or special ial Security o	ue minus enalties, e ment ma erty such a equipment er Welfare	etc. y include, but is as, but not nece: nt for use of the e Accounts. [Do n	not limi ssarily li disabled not coun	ted to, gems or coir mited to, household f. t food stamp accour	n collections, d furniture, da nts or checkin	art, anti illy use i	ique cars, etc. DO of autos, clothing, nts already listed].
							ual Inco	ome from the Net
The Net Household Assets Household Asset is \$								
The Net Household Assets Household Asset is \$ 2. Disposed Assets [YES] (NO) I/W incl	Ve have dis lude such it	tems as o	charitable dona		air market value i r giving/selling ass			
The Net Household Assets is \$ 2. Disposed Assets [(YES)	Ve have dis flude such it ve any asset /we certify ti gned further	ems as o	time. formation prese ands that provide	nted in t	r giving/selling ass this certification is to e information here	rue and accur	ate to ti	tate) to family. he best of my/our of fraud. False,
The Net Household Assets Household Asset is \$ 2. Disposed Assets(YES)(NO) I/W	Ve have dis flude such it ve any asset /we certify ti gned further	ems as o	time. formation prese ands that provide	nted in t	r giving/selling ass this certification is to e information here	rue and accur	ate to ti	tate) to family. he best of my/o of fraud. Fals

The annual social security benefit/award letters are acceptable throughout the current benefit year.

our New Benefit Amount

BENEFICIARY'S NAME:

Your Social Security benefits will increase by 0.3% percent in 2017 because of a rise in the cost of living. You can use this letter as proof of your benefit amount if you need to apply for food, rent, or energy assistance. You can also use it to apply for bank loans or for other business. Keep this letter with your important financial records.

How Much Will I Get And When?

- Your monthly amount (before deductions) is
 The amount we deduct for Medicare medical insurance is
 (If you did not have Medicare as of November 17, 2016,
 or if someone else pays your premium, we show \$0.00.)
- The amount we deduct for your Medicare prescription drug plan is
 (We will notify you if the amount changes in 2017. If you did not elect
 withholding as of November 1, 2016, we show \$0.00.)
- The amount we deduct for voluntary Federal tax withholding is

 (If you did not elect voluntary tax withholding as of
 November 17, 2016, we show \$0.00.)
- After we take any other deductions, you will receive \$1.341.00 on or about Jan. 3, 2017.

If you disagree with any of these amounts, you must write to us within 60 days from the date you receive this letter. We would be happy to review the amounts.

If you receive a paper check and want to switch to an electronic payment, please visit the Department of the Treasury's Go Direct website at www.godirect.org online.

What If I Have Questions?

- Visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov for more information about Social Security.
- Call us toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) if you have questions. If you speak Spanish, press 7. For other languages, wait until we answer, and then ask for an interpreter.
- Contact your local Social Security office, or contact any United States embassy or consulate office when outside the United States.

Social Security Administration

Date: August 10, 2017 Claim Number: XXX-XX-

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You asked us for information from your record. The information that you requested is shown below. If you want anyone else to have this information, you may send them this letter.

Information About Current Social Security Benefits

Beginning December 2016, the full monthly ocial Security benefit before any deductions is \$ 604.00.

We deduct \$0.00 for medical insurance premiums each month.

The regular monthly Social Security payment is \$ 604.00. (We must round down to the whole dollar.)

Social Security benefits for a given month are paid the following month. (For example, Social Security benefits for March are paid in April.)

Your Social Security benefits are paid on or about the third of each month.

Information About Past Social Security Benefits

From December 2014 to November 2016, the full monthly Social Security benefit before any deductions was \$602.30.



We deducted \$0.00 for medical insurance premiums each month.

The regular monthly Social Security payment was \$ 602.00. (We must round down to the whole dollar.)

Information About Supplemental Security Income Payments

Beginning January 2015, the current Supplemental Security Income payment is \$ 151.00.

Coming in 2019

Forms to have readily available:

- IRS 8609 form(s)
- LURA
- Management Plan
- Tenant Selection Plan

What you need to know:

- Total # of <u>Projects</u> in Development
- Total # of BINs
- Total # of units
- Total # of LIHTC units per LURA
- Funding sources in project

IF Project is 100% LIHTC:

- Abbreviated Annual Certification(AAC) for all years after IC/MI.
- Tenant self-certify <u>income and assets</u>
- NOT Student Status
- Owner must request (AAC)
- RI Housing approval

Fresh look at how we view your income calculations:

- Allow a reasonable method
- Must be consistent
- Determined by the owner
- 2 months of paystubs required

- Treas. Reg. §1.42-5(b)(1)(vii) states that "tenant income is calculated in a manner consistent with the determination of annual income under Section 8."
- Averages for variables like hours worked is allowed.
- For instance, if a verification states the tenant works 34-40 hours a week, HUD would calculate this at an average of 37 hours: 34

$$74/2 = 37$$

Hot Topics - Feedback

Compliance Topics of Concern to Managers of LIHTC Properties

Address in your TSP:

- CBIs
- Eviction procedures
- Over housed and under housed
- Reasonable accommodations
- Drugs
- VAWA

VAWA should be addressed in your Management and TSP: If no HOME or HUD...

- Adopt the HUD Victim Cert and Transfer Request forms.
- Adapt the model HUD *Notice of Rights* and *Emergency Transfer Plan* to the property and tax credit rules.
- Provide all current residents Notice of Rights with Victim
 Cert. These will be provided to all new move-ins and
 whenever a notice of denial or termination of occupancy or
 federal rental assistance is served.
- Modify tenant selection criteria for VAWA policies.
- Provide staff that interact with applicants and tenants training in VAWA.

Address in the Lease and Addendum(s):

- Responding to notice of certification
- Failure to recertify
- Not reporting income
- Not reporting changes in household composition
- Fraud

Address in your Management Plan:

- Finding qualified staff/training
- Maintaining tenant files
- Tracking
- Using current forms

Consult with your Section 8 Program Administrator:

- VAWA emergency transfer requests
- Medical deductions
- MOR questions

How RIHousing can help:

- Announcement and outreach when LIHTC manual is completed and ready for distribution
- Trainings on demand, custom made, your shop or at RIHousing, trainings/workshops that fit your needs
- Call or email your questions

Questions? Thank you!

Contacts

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