

CERTIFICATION PORTAL (CP)



Formally known as: Certification Online (COL)

A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR ANNUAL REPORTING

December 2020

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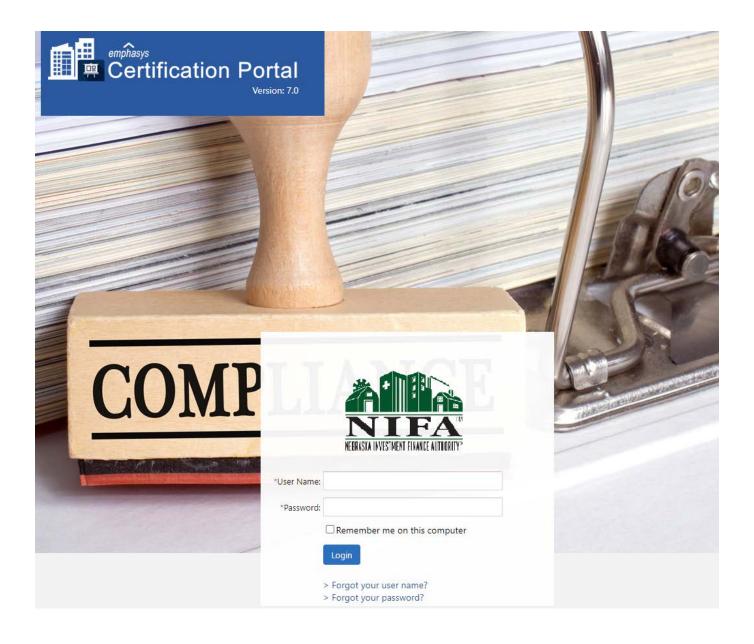
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LEGEND

	-
ñ	Return to the Landing Page (Snapshot)
7	Search or Sort
3	Undo, Clear search
Q	Review/Select
₽ Save	Save entry
Save & New	Save entry and create additional entries
Save & Close	Save entry and close screen
Edit	Make changes
Cancel	Delete entry and go back to previous screen
	Export to Excel
	Export to Word

SECTION 1

LOGGING IN



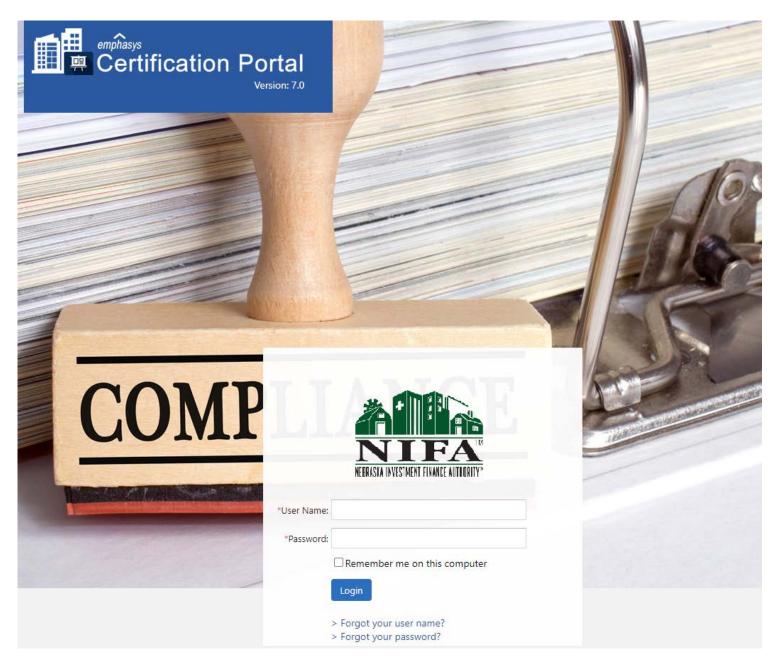
New (Super) User

If you are a new user who will have full control (Super User) of the Certification Portal (CP), contact NIFA for a User ID and Password.

New Non-Super User

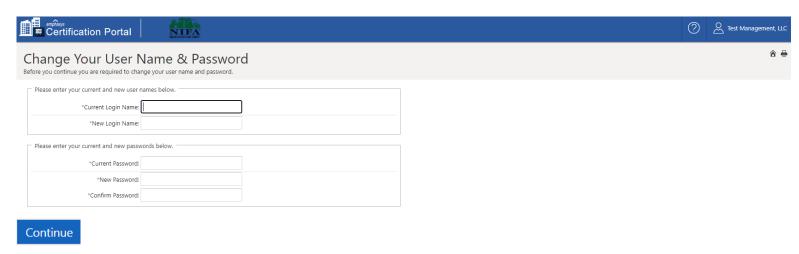
If you are a new user assigned by the Super User, the Super User will set up your User ID, Password and assign specific projects to you. Contact your Super User for log in credentials.

New super and non-super users will login using the NIFA temporary User ID and Password at the SYSTEM LOGIN page.

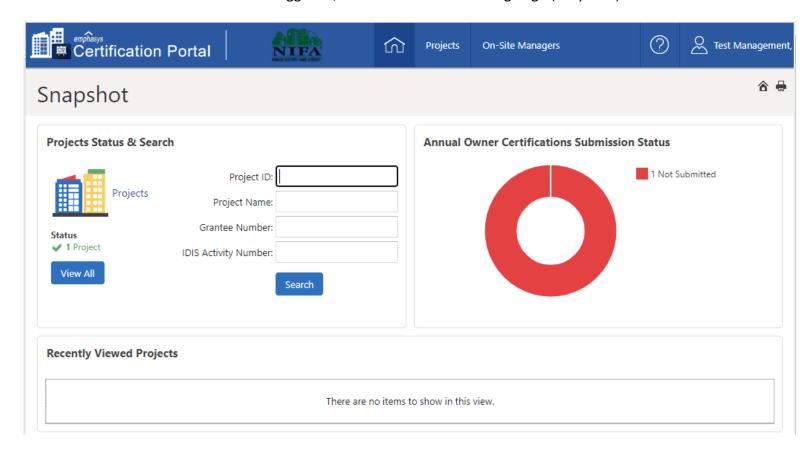


New users will be required to create a new User ID and Password.

NOTE: The username and password fields require at least 6 characters and are case sensitive.



Once new credentials are created and logged in, user will be at the Landing Page (Snapshot).

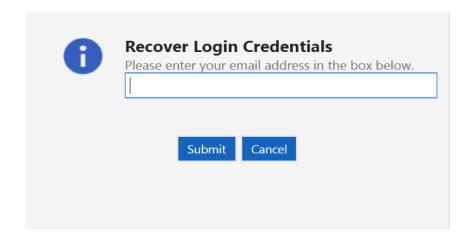


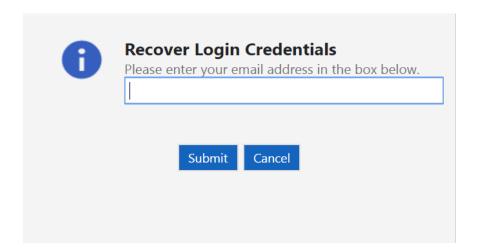
EXISTING (COL) User Login



Forgot User Name or Password





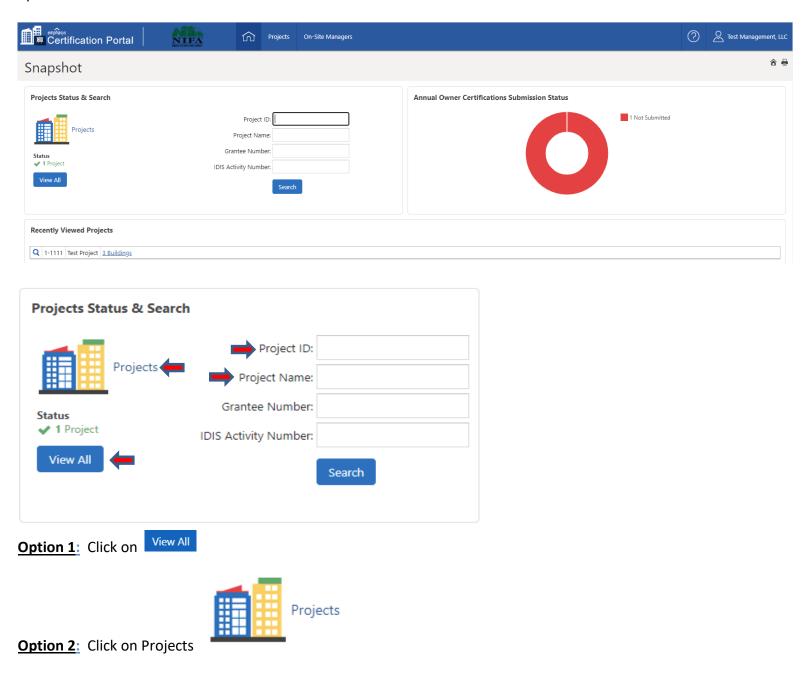


PLEASE NOTE: This feature is not currently active. At this time, please contact NIFA if you forget your username or password.

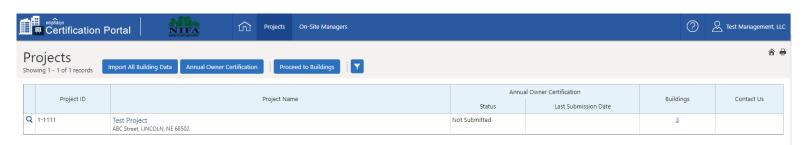
SECTION 2

ACCESSING PROJECTS

Once logged into CP, the user will be on the LANDING PAGE (Snapshot) and can access projects using five different options.



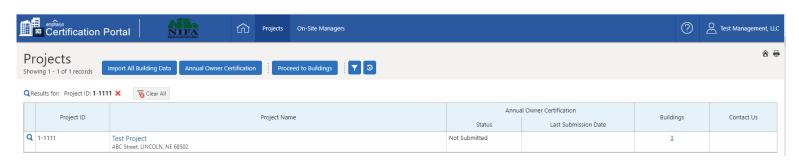
Options 1 & 2 will take the user to this screen:



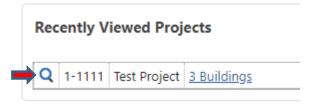
Option 3: Enter Project ID and/or Project Name. Using this method requires the entries to be exact, i.e. spelling, dashes, etc. Please note: Grantee Number and IDIS Activity Number are N/A for NIFA projects.

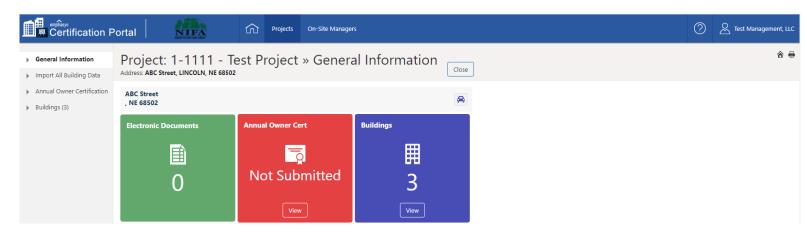


Click on Search This option will take the user to this screen:



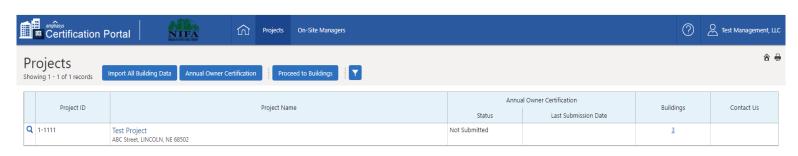
Option 4: If you have recently viewed projects, a list appears of those projects Click on next to desired project. This option will take the user to this screen:







This will take the user to a list of projects that have been assigned to the user.

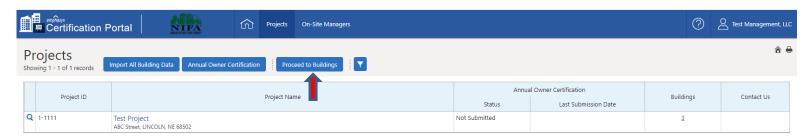


SECTION 3

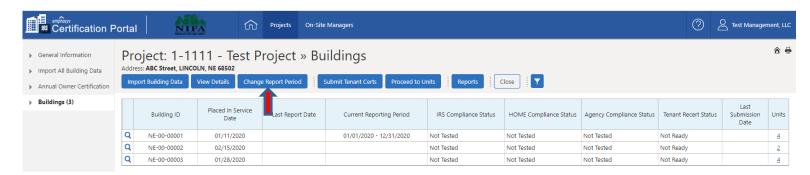
MANUAL ENTRY NEW MOVE IN

Select the project the user will be working in. Click

Proceed to Buildings

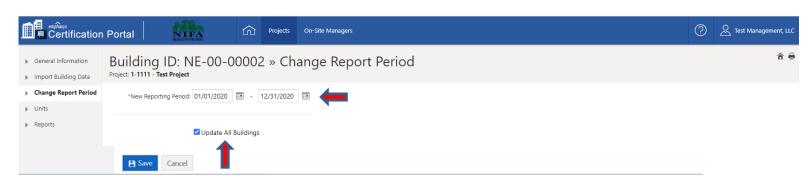


Select the building the user is working in. Click on Change Report Period



Enter the Reporting Calendar Year the user is entering unit data for.

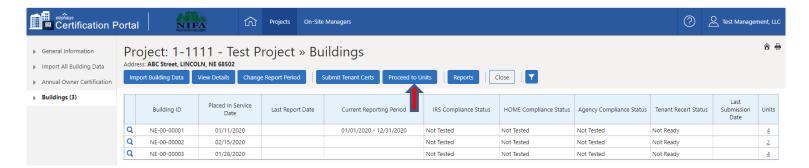
To update the reporting year for all buildings in the project, check the box ______ and click E Save



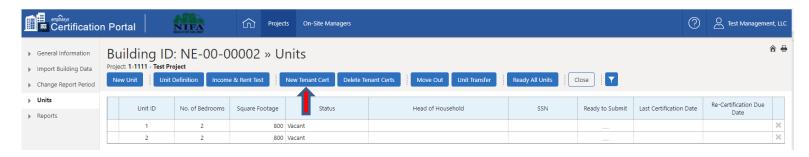
Click on Units in the menu on left side of screen.



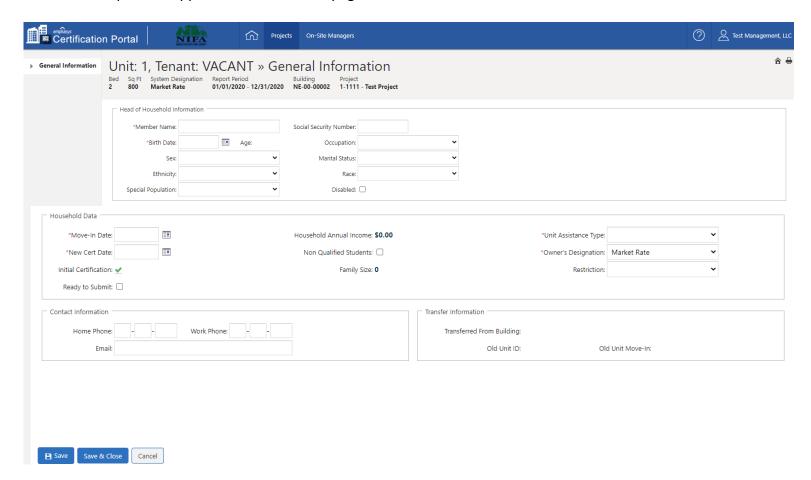
For future unit entries if you have updated the reporting period for all buildings, you can get to the units by selecting the building you want to work in and selecting



Select the unit the user will be working in and click New Tenant Cert



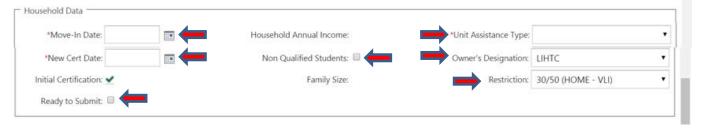
You must complete all applicable boxes on this page:



Enter Member (HOH) name, Birth Date, Sex, Social Security Number, Occupation and Marital Status. Ethnicity, Race, Specialy Population and Disabled are optional/non requried questions for the HOH to respond to. (The questions <u>are</u> required to be on the application and the household may choose not to answer).



Enter Move-in Date, New Cert Date, Unit Assistance Type, Owner's Designation and Restriction. Check Non-Qualified Student if household has students that do not meet any exceptions (HOME and/or LIHTC). Initial Certification will automatically check for Initial Certification. Family size and Household Annual Income will auto fill when family data is entered. Check box Ready to Submit when entry is complete. Note that with a new move in, Move in Date and New Cert Date should be the same.



This information is optional in the system and not required by NIFA:



This information will auto fill when a transfer occurs:

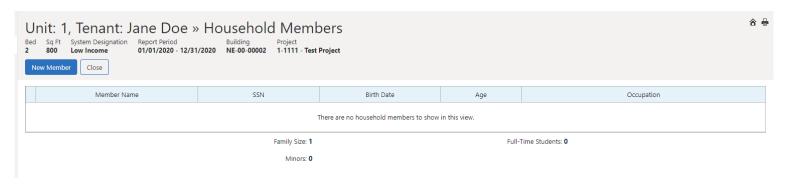


Click when done with the page or Save & Close when ready to move to next unit.

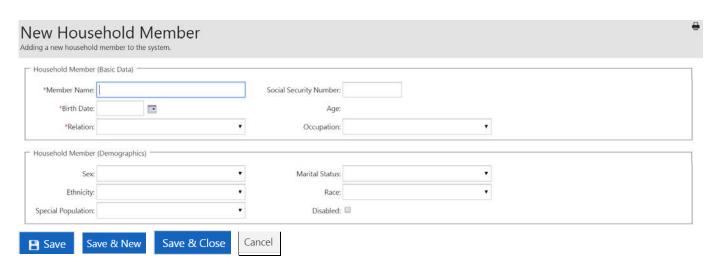
When clicking Bave a menu will open on left side of screen for entering additional household data.



If more than one household member, click Household Members to add all (adults, minors, unborn child, etc.) additional members.



Click New Member



Enter Member Name, Birth Date, Relation, Social Security Number, Occupation.

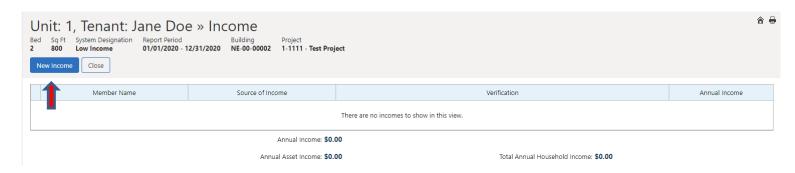


Enter Sex and Marital Status. Ethnicity, Race, Specialty Population and Disabled are optional questions for all members. (The questions are required to be on the application and the household may choose not to answer).

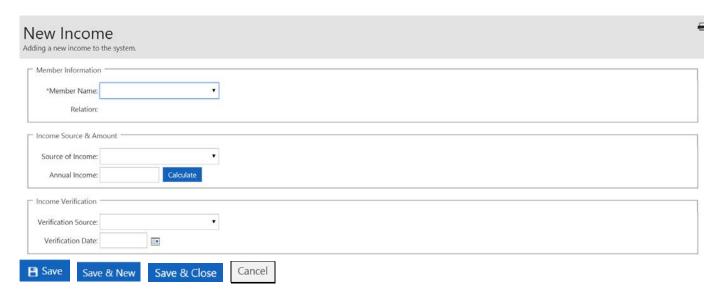


Click when done with the page or save & New to add additional members or save & Close when ready to move to next unit.

To add all household income, click on the menu on the left side of the screen.



Click New Income to enter household income by Member Name. All boxes with down arrows have drop down selection. All fields must be completed.



<u>Member Information</u>, click on down arrow to show a list of Member Names, select member name you are entering information for.



<u>Income Source & Amount</u>, click on down arrow to show Source of Incomes. Select type of income. Enter Annual Income for the selected member or use the Calculate button as explained below.



User can click on calculate Calculate to have system calculate each earned income. Enter Pay Rate, Pay Frequency, Hours per Year and the system will show you the Annual Income. For each income to calculate, user will need to click Apply. The calculated incomes will populate the Annual Income box to the Income Source & Amount.



<u>Income Verification</u>, part of income process includes Verification Source and Verification Date.



Once all incomes have been entered and saved, the main tenant screen will show a calculated Annual Income.



Click when done with the page or Save & New to add additional incomes or Save & Close when ready to move to next unit.

To add all household Assets (if any), click on the menu on the left side of the screen.

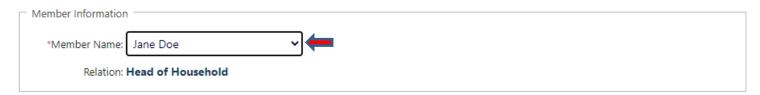
Click on New Asset to enter household asset data by Member Name.



Fields with down arrows have drop down selections. All fields must be completed.



In Member Information, click on down arrow to show a list of Member Names, select member name you are entering information for.



In Asset Type & Value, click on down arrow to show Type of Asset and select type. Enter Cash Value and Annual Asset Income for the selected member.



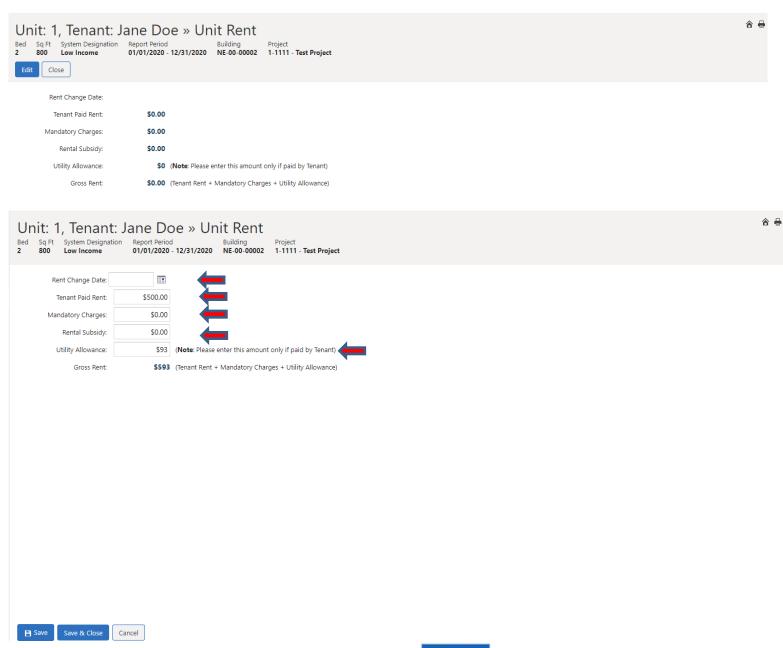
In Asset Verification, part of Asset Verification includes Verification Source and Verification Date.



Click when done with the page or save & New to add additional Assets or save & Close when ready to move to next unit.

To enter rent data, click Unit Rent on the menu on the left side of the screen.

Click Edit to access Rent fields.



When all data has been entered in all screens in the unit, click

Save & Close

to return to Unit screen.

Rent Change Date:

<u>DO NOT</u> enter a Rent Change Date except in cases where an increase or decrease occurred at a time other than move-in or recertification that changes the tenant paid portion (TPP)., i.e. add new subsidy, remove subsidy, utility allowance changes, etc.

Tenant Paid Rent:

This is the out of pocket amount the tenant pays (TPP) for rent.

Mandatory Charges: These are non-optional charges that the tenant must pay as a condition of occupancy (i.e. garage rental, cable, etc....).

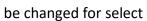
Rental Subsidy: This is the amount of subsidy the tenant is receiving in rental assistance (i.e. Section 8 voucher or other government rental assistance).

Utility Allowance: This amount reflects what has been provided by the local PHA or a NIFA approved allowance.

Gross Rent:

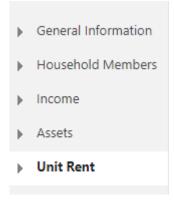
Will include Tenant Paid Rent, Mandatory Charges, and Utility Allowance.

Rent Changes at times other than move-in or recertification: From the Unit screen on the unit that the rent needs to

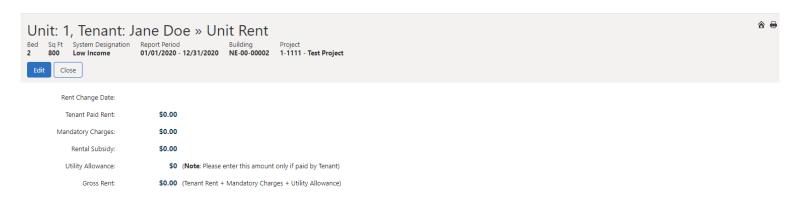


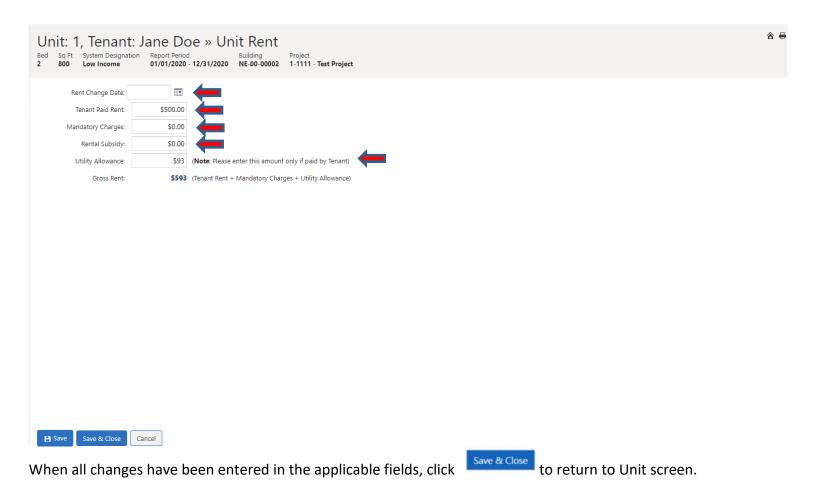


Then select Unit Rent on the left tab



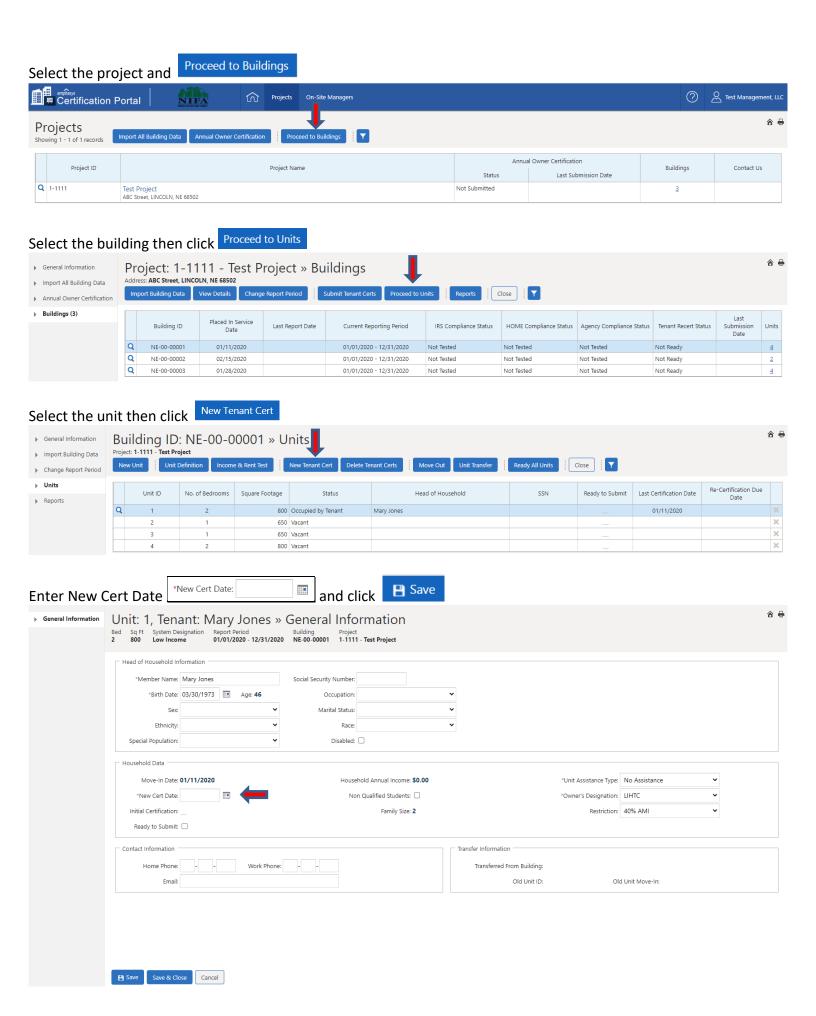
Choose to access rent fields





SECTION 4

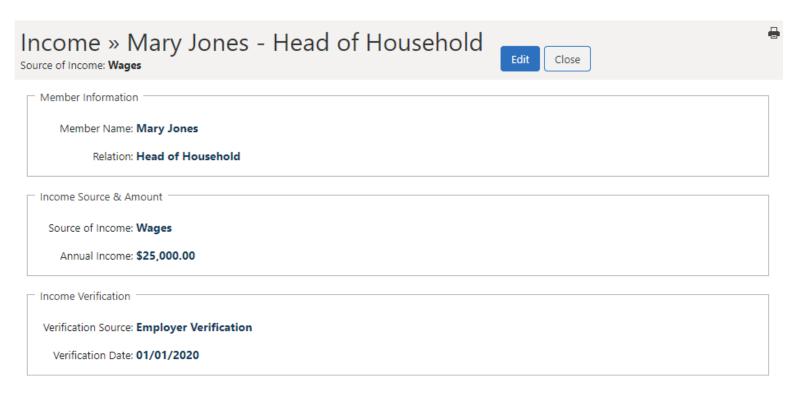
MANUAL ENTRY RECERTIFICATION



Click on member name if the household still has the same income so it can be edited:

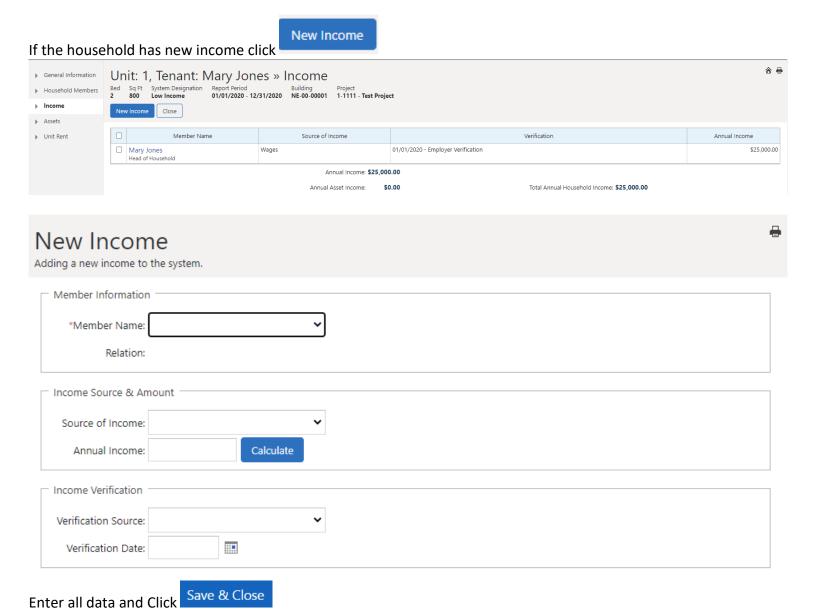


Click Edit and update the applicable fields.





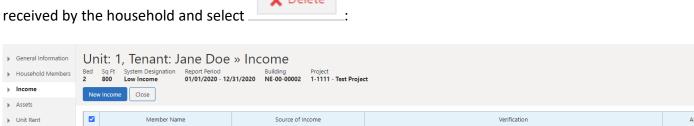
Click B Save



***Repeat income and asset edits and/or additional sources until complete.

If a previous income is no longer valid check the box next to the member and the income that is no longer being

Delete



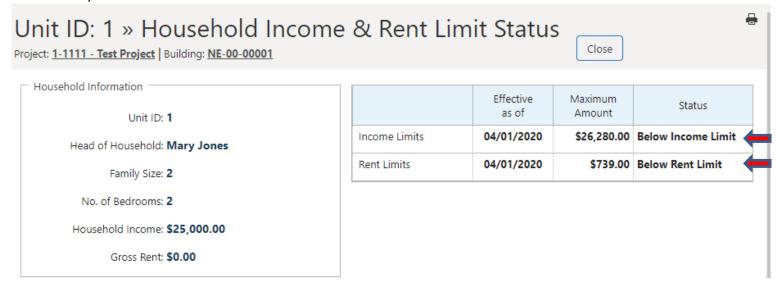
Assets Unit Rent ✓ Jane Doe 01/31/2020 - Employer Verification \$31,200.00 Wages Annual Income: \$31,200.00 Annual Asset Income: Total Annual Household Income: \$31,230.00 ★ Delete 1 income selected

Income & Rent Test

Household Members if there have been any changes to the members, i.e. member (other than HOH) moved Click out during the year.



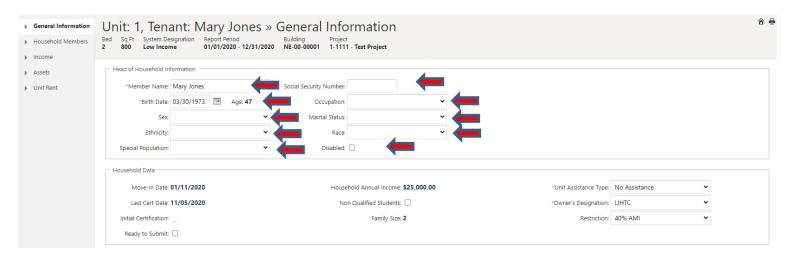
It is highly recommended the user view the Income & Rent Test. It will identify if the system determines Over Income and/or Over Rent based on Certification date and Effective Income and Rent dates.



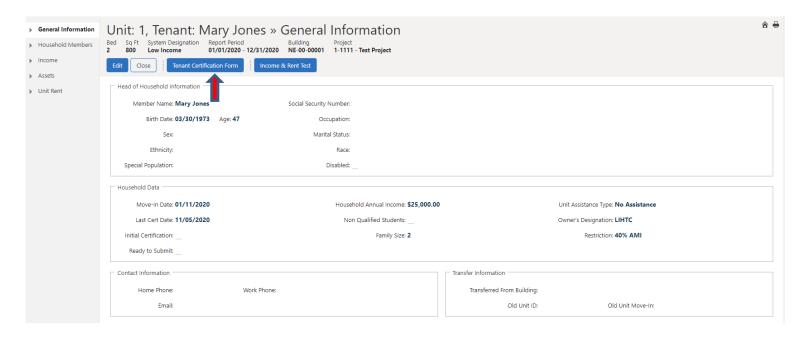
Upon reviewing all data entered in the system and the user determines an incorrect entry has been entered, other than the Move In Date, select (Move in dates can only be corrected by using Delete Tenant Cert).



Edit any correctable field identified below and select or Save & Close

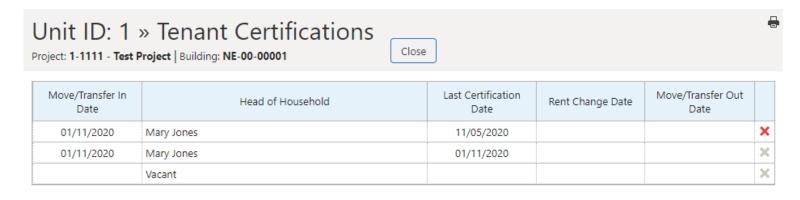


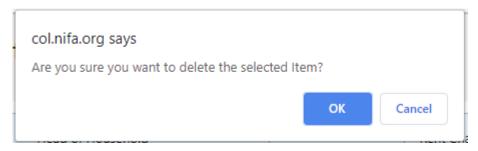
Tenant Certification Form



Delete Tenant Certs

If a date of certification, move in or transfer was entered incorrectly, click Delete Tenant Certs to remove the incorrect entry. Only the entry with can be deleted. When more than one entry has a delete must be completed starting from top entry.





End Section 4

SECTION 5

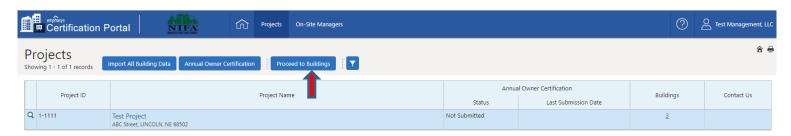
MANUAL ENTRY UNIT TRANSFER

- 1. Within Same Building (If project only has one building or when the project has multiple buildings and the owner elected to treat the buildings as single buildings on the 8609)
 - 2. Between Buildings (Multiple Building Project 8609 Election Only)

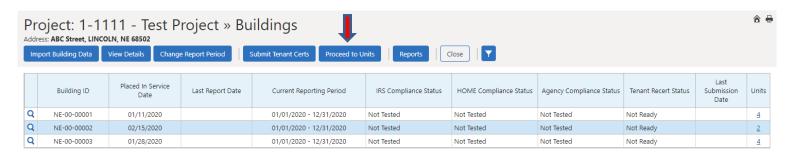
NOTE: Unit Transfers cannot occur on the same day. If the unit being transferred into moved out the same day as the new transfer in, you will need to enter the day before as the move out date.

TRANSFER WITHIN SAME BUILDING

Select the project and click Proceed to Buildings



Select the building and click Proceed to Units

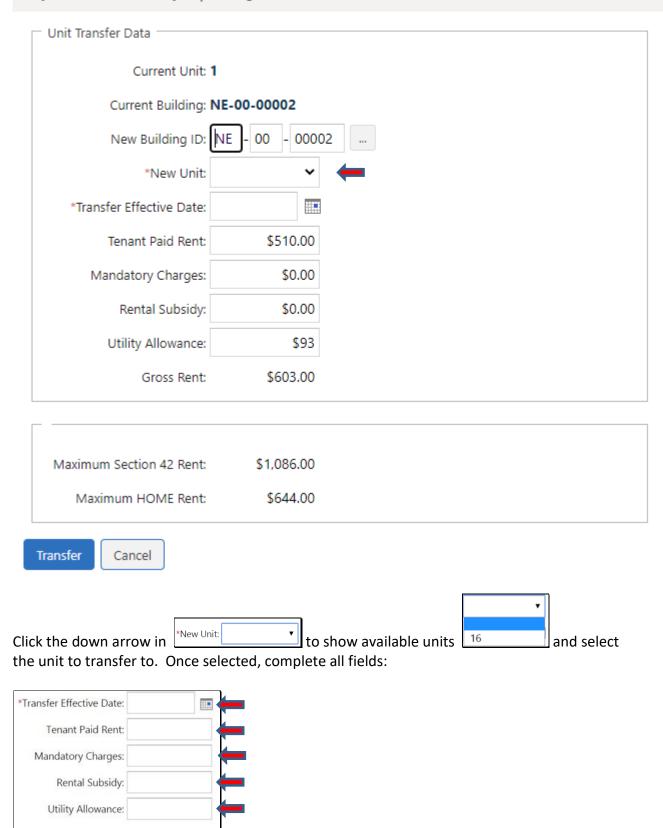


Select the unit that is transferring OUT and click Unit Transfer



Unit ID: 1 » Unit Transfer

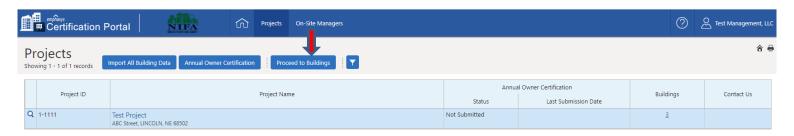
Project: 1-1111 - Test Project | Building: NE-00-00002



Then click Transfer at the bottom of the page.

TRANSFER BETWEEN BUILDINGS – Based on 8609 election when allowable.

Select the project and click on Proceed to Buildings



Select the building and click Proceed to Units

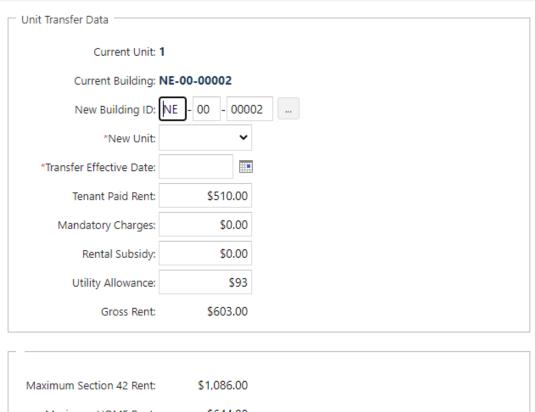


Select the unit that is transferring OUT and click Unit Transfer



Unit ID: 1 » Unit Transfer

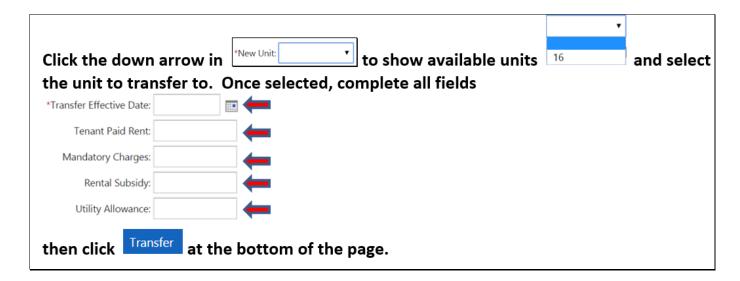
Project: 1-1111 - Test Project | Building: NE-00-00002



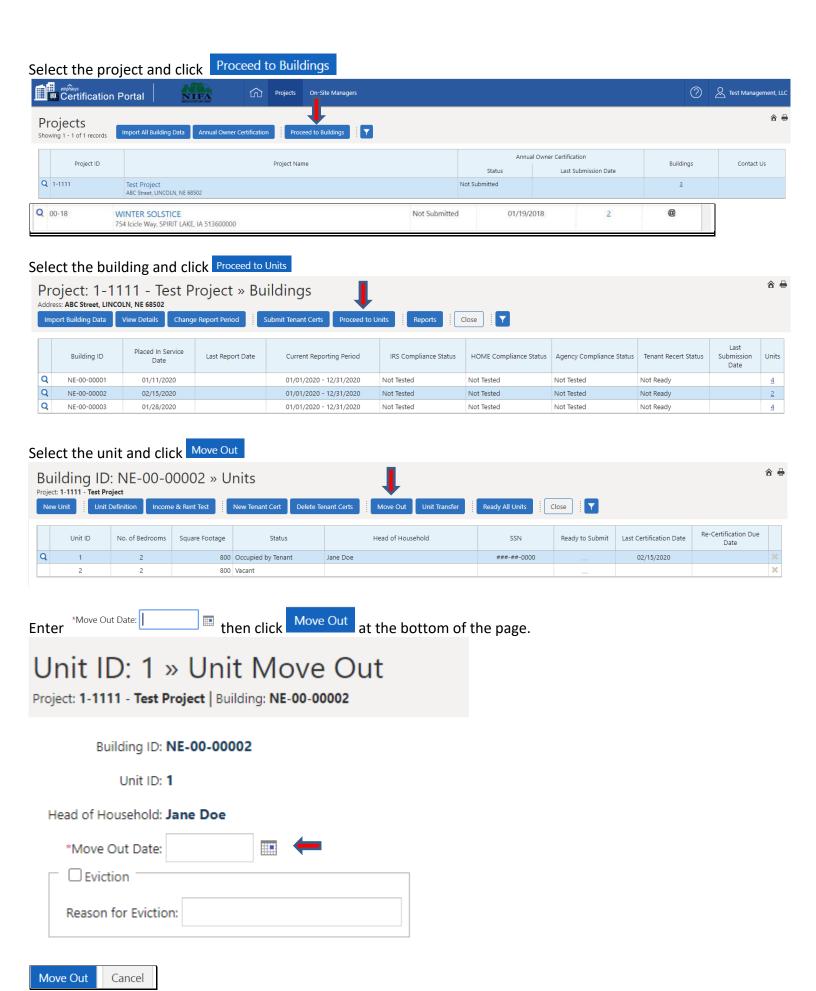
Maximum HOME Rent:	\$644.00		
Transfer Cancel			

Click the next to transferring to.

New Building ID: NE - 00 - 00002 ... to select the building they are



MANUAL ENTRY
MOVE OUT

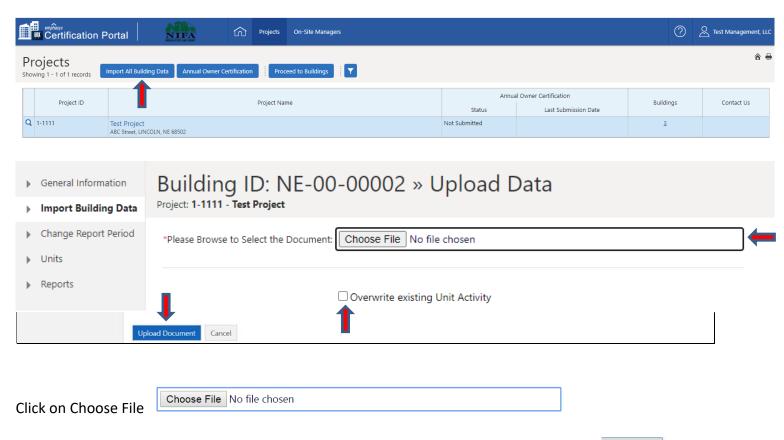


3RD PARTY SOFTWARE TENANT DATA UPLOAD

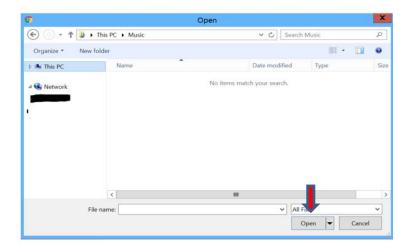
- 1. All Buildings One File
- 2. Single Buildings Multiple Files (based on number of buildings in project)

UPLOADING ALL BUILDING XML FILE

If the 3rd party software (i.e. Yardi, RealPage, etc.) creates an XML file that includes <u>all buildings</u> in the project, highlight the project and click Import All Building Data



Select the XML file created by the 3rd party software (typically found on the C: drive), click Open and click Upload Document to complete the process.



Documents can be uploaded multiple times for the same project as needed, due to errors. After the initial upload, any subsequent uploads, you must check the box Overwrite existing Unit Activity

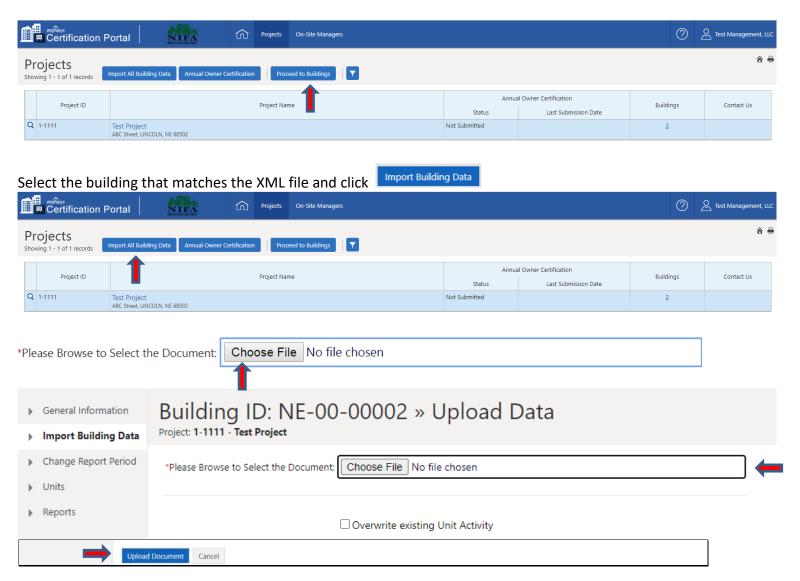
NOTE: If user is unable to locate file on the computer, do a search for .xml and it should show up.

<u>UPLOADING SINGLE BUILDING(S)</u> – Even when multiple buildings in the project.

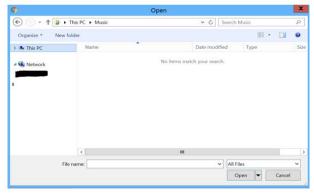
If the third-party software makes a separate XML file for each building in the project, you will need to go to the Building Screen to upload each of these files.

Highlight the project and click

Proceed to Buildings



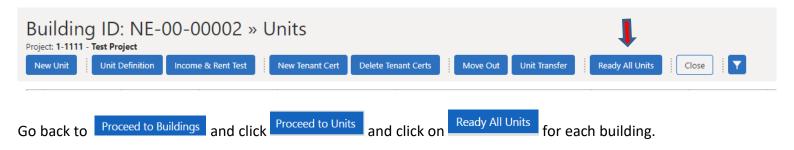
Select the XML file and click open and then click at the bottom of the Upload screen to complete the process. This must be done for all buildings.



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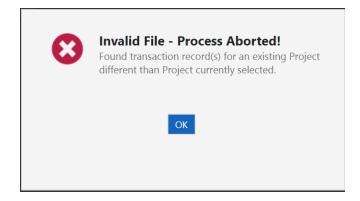
Continue this process until all buildings have been uploaded.

NOTE: If user is unable to locate the .xml file on their computer, do a search for .xml and it should show up.



Documents can be uploaded multiple times for the same project as needed, due to errors. After the initial upload, any subsequent uploads, you must check the box Overwrite existing Unit Activity

If you upload an incorrect BIN or Project xml file that does not belong to the selected project, this message will appear:

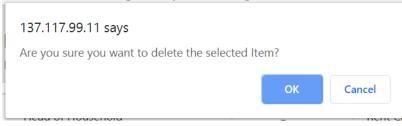


When an XML file has errors during import, the process will cancel and provide an Error Log, see below. If you receive errors, provide a copy of the Error Log and XML file via e-mail (txcr.multifamily@nifa.org) to the NIFA tax credit department for review, correction and re-uploading.

Locate the correct xml file to upload or select and program will return to the Building screen.

Delete Tenant Certs

If a date of certification, move in or transfer was entered incorrectly, click Delete Tenant Certs to remove the incorrect entry. Only the entry with can be deleted. When more than one entry has a delete must be completed starting from top entry.



END SECTION 7

ANNUAL CERTIFICATION

Annual Owner Certification

The system requires it to be submitted in order to submit the building(s).

 ▶ General Information ▶ Import All Building Data 	Project: 1-1111 - Test Project » General Information Address ABC Street, LINCOLN, NE 68502 Type of Certification Certification Correction
Annual Owner Certification	*New Certification
▶ Buildings (3)	No Buildings have been Placed in Service At least one building has been Placed in Service but owner elects to begin credit period in the following year None of the above applies The Undersigned: On Behalf of:
	1. The project meets the minimum requirements of: (check one) 20-50 test under Section 42(g)(1)(A) of the Code 40-60 test under Section 42(g)(1)(B) of the Code (25-60 NY Only) 15-40 test for "deep rent-skewed" projects under Section 42(g)(4) and 142 (d)(4)(B) of the Code 2. There has been no change in the applicable fraction (as defined in Section 42(c)(1)(B) of the Code) for any building in the project: No Change Change
Save & Close Submit Certification Cancel Annual Owner Certification Form	

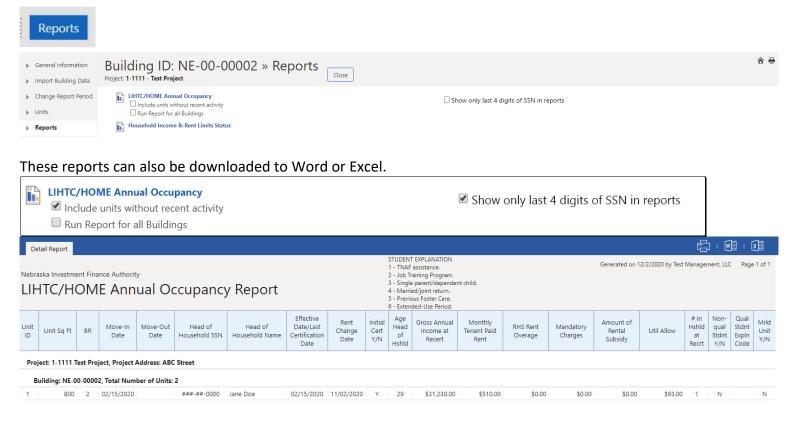
Prior to submission if you would like to print the form select.

Annual Owner Certification Form

The form will open in a separate window for you to print.

REVIEWING DATA AND SUBMITTING TO NIFA

REVIEWING UNIT DATA AND READYING UNITS FOR SUBMISSION.





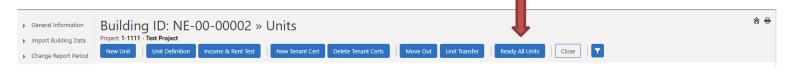
Household Income & Rent Limits Status



There are 2 ways to make a unit Ready to Submit.

At the BUILDING Level Screen:

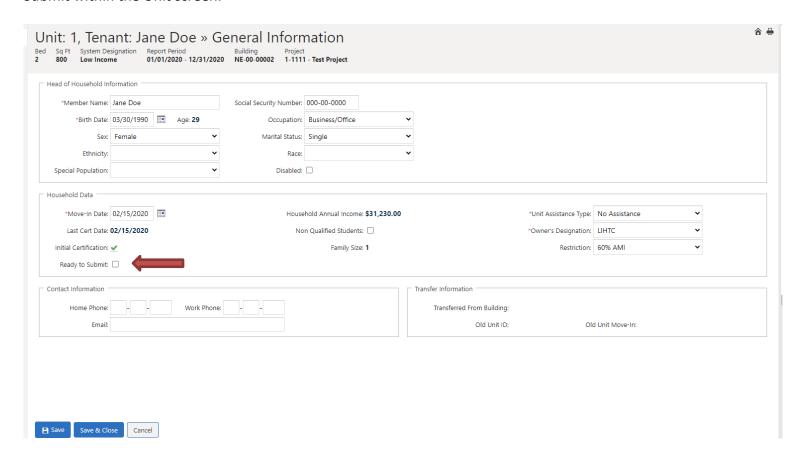
Click Ready All Units this allows the building to be submitted to the agency. When using 3rd party uploads, this is the preferred method to ready the units. Manual entries can also use this process by waiting until they have entered all unit data for the building(s).





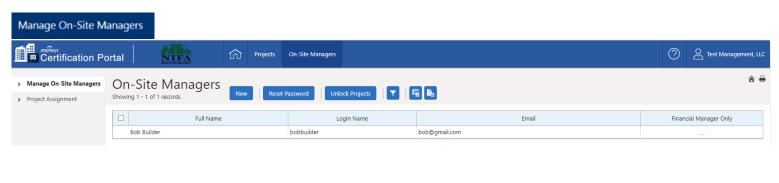


To manually check the Ready to Submit: while in each unit entering data the user can check the box Ready to Submit within the Unit screen.



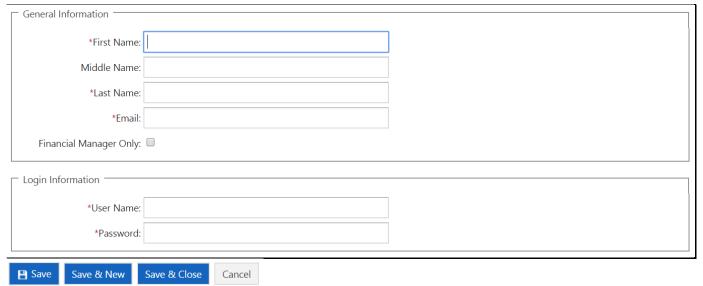
MANAGEMENT CONTROLS (SUPER USER)



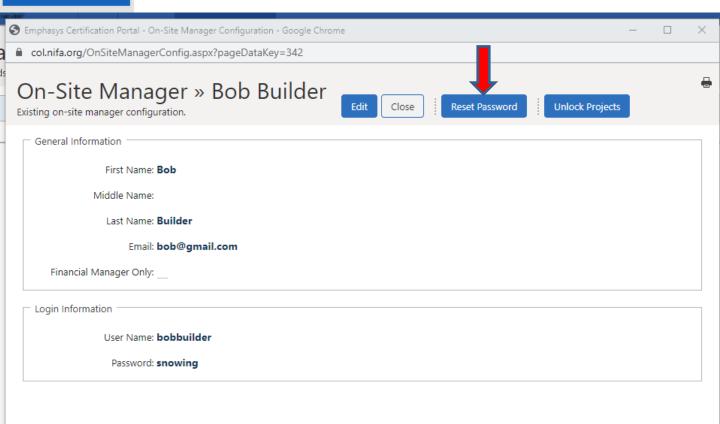


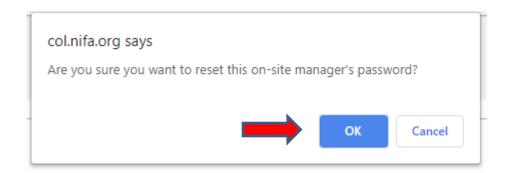


USER NAME MUST BE AT LEAST SIX CHARACTERS

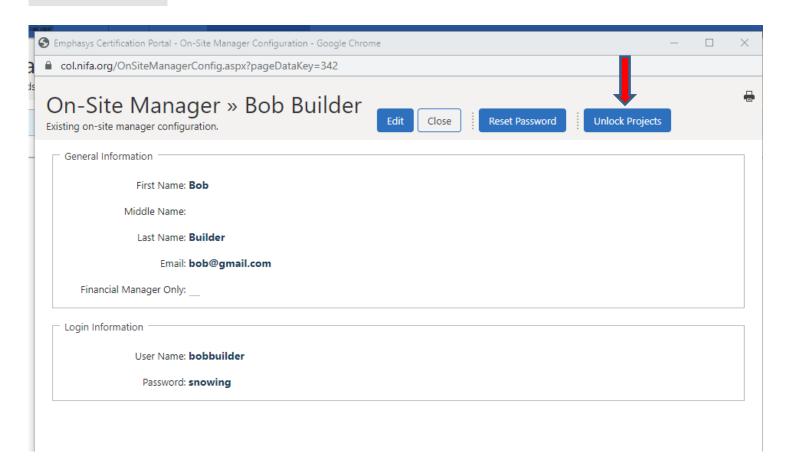


Reset Password





Unlock Projects





Project Assignment

Choose from drop down list

