

Laurie Stephenson, HCCP

Deputy Director of Compliance
Midwest Housing Equity Group



Laurie Stephenson is deputy director of compliance for Midwest West Housing Equity Group (MHEG). Stephenson has worked in this industry for almost 17 years and joined MHEG in December 2000.

How has the HCCP designation impacted your career?

I received my HCCP designation in August 2001. Receiving this designation gives assurances to many we work with that they are working with knowledgeable staff that can help them understand the complexities of the LIHTC program.

How did you get into the LIHTC industry?

I actually got into this field by accident. I was working for a housing authority and our executive director was working with a consultant who wanted to build 32 new duplexes in our town to help our elderly with housing. I was in charge of qualifying those applicants through the LIHTC program. MHEG, the tax credit syndicator that was helping me process the files liked what they saw and offered me a job. Seventeen years later I am still there, and love what I do help families find affordable housing.

What are your day-to-day responsibilities?

I oversee our compliance department and lead a team of two compliance specialists. Together we work to approve all initial move-in files for initial lease-ups. We currently have about 52 properties in various stages of lease-up monitoring from start to finish the initial lease-up. I train property managers who are new to this industry. We also monitor our existing stabilized portfolio, which consists of over 350 projects doing random file audits and site visits when required. We offer assistance to our property managers during state file audits to clear issues as needed.

What helped with your success in the LIHTC industry?

The nice thing about this job is there are many people who have worked in this industry for a long time you can turn to and ask questions about how they handled certain issues. You think you have seen it all, then a new scenario pops up and throws you for a loop. You know people in this business had it happen to them. It's great to be able to talk to someone who understands this program. Most in this business know this program is not always clear.

What's your favorite hobby?

Scrapbooking, reading murder mystery books, and spending time with my family and friends.