

CERTIFICATION PORTAL (CP) USER GUIDE



Formally known as: Certification Online (COL)

January 2025

Table of Contents

SECTION 1	Logging in	Page 3
SECTION 2	Accessing Projects	Page 6
SECTION 3	Manual Entry - New Move In	Page 9
SECTION 4	Manual Entry - Recertification	Page 17
SECTION 5	Manual Entry – Transfer	Page 23
SECTION 6	Manual Entry – Move Out	Page 27
SECTION 7	Third Party XML Tenant Data Upload	Page 28
SECTION 8	Document Upload	Page 31
SECTION 9	Annual Certification	Page 33
SECTION 10	Reviewing and Submitting Data	Page 34
SECTION 11	Management Controls & User Access	Page 36

LOGGING IN



New (Super) User

If you are a new user who will have full control (Super User) of the CP, contact IFA 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 set-up and login credentials.

New super and non-super users will login using the IFA issued temporary User ID and Password at the System Login page.



<u>New Users will be required to create a new User ID and Password</u>. This is also the case when IFA resets a Superuser login and password.

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

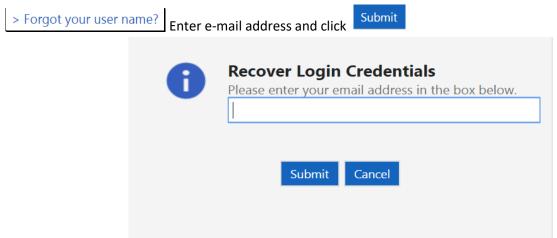


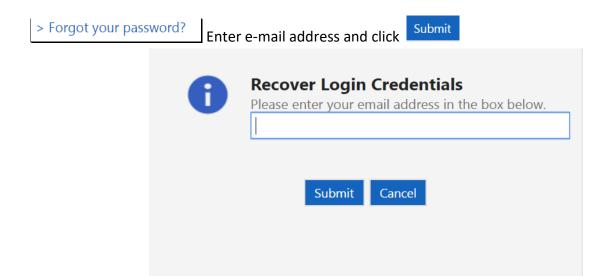
Continue

User Login screen



Forgot Username or Password

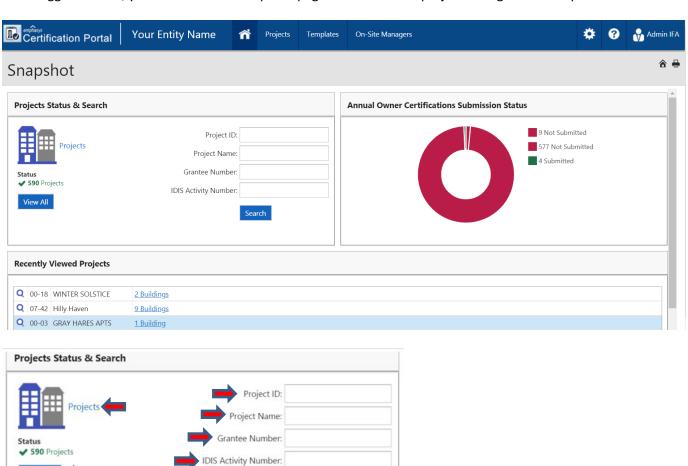




End Section 1

ACCESSING PROJECTS

Once logged into CP, you will be on the Snapshot page and can access projects using different options.



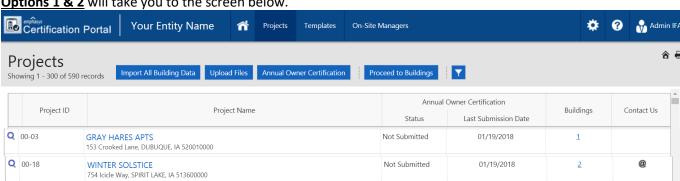
View All Option 1: Click on

View All



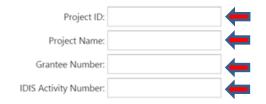
Option 2: Click on Projects

Options 1 & 2 will take you to the screen below.

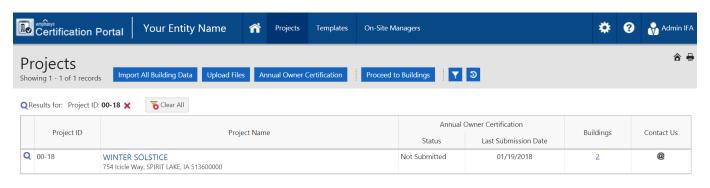


Search

<u>Option 3</u>: Enter Project ID and/or Project Name. Project ID is for all programs, LIHTC, HOME or NHTF. Grantee Number and IDIS Activity Number is rarely used. Note: using this method requires the entries to be exact. (spelling, dashes, etc.)



Click on Search This option will take you to this screen.



Option 4: If you have recently viewed projects, a list appears of those projects.

2 Buildings

9 Buildings

Recently Viewed Projects

Click on next to desired project. This option will take you to this screen.



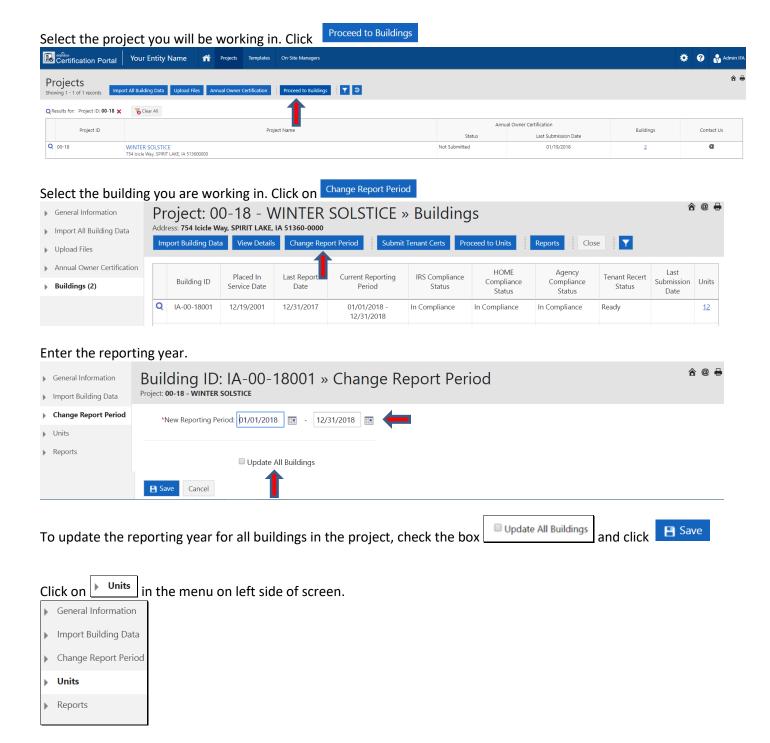


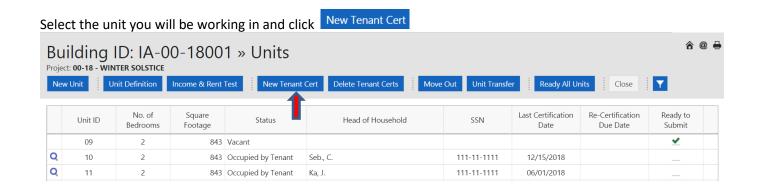
This will take you to your list of assigned projects.



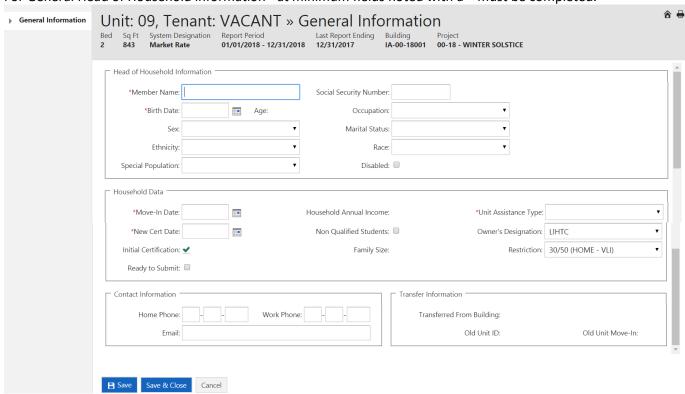
End Section 2

MANUAL ENTRY NEW MOVE IN

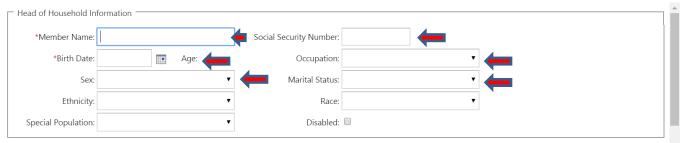




For General Head of Household information - at minimum fields noted with a * must be completed.

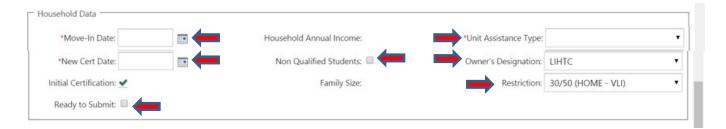


Enter Member (HOH) Name, Birth Date, Social Security Number (last four digits). Ethnicity, Race, Disabled, Gender (sex), etc. are all optional and not required to be answered.



For additional Household Data -at minimum fields noted with a * must be completed.

Enter Move-in Date, New Cert Date, Unit Assistance Type, Owner's Designation and Restriction. Check Non-Qualified Student, if applicable, and if household has students that do not meet any exceptions (HOME and/or LIHTC). Initial Certification box 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: With a new move in, the Move-in Date and New Cert Date should be the same.



This information is optional in the system and not required by IFA.

Contact Information	
Home Phone:	Work Phone:
Email:	

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

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

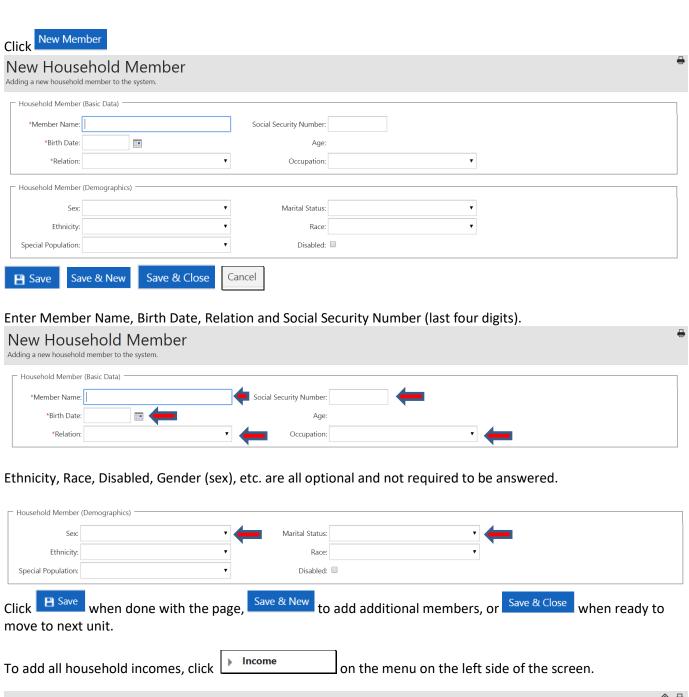


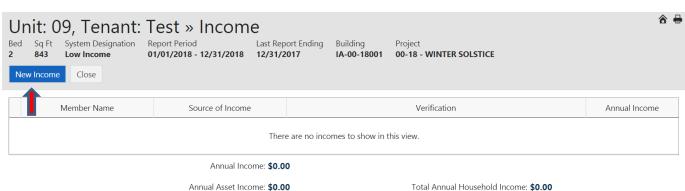


HOME ONLY projects are not required to enter detailed data, therefore these 3 links/sections may not be available.

If more than one household member, click to <u>add each additional</u> (adults, minors, unborn child, etc.) member.







Click New Income to enter household income by Member Name. All boxes with down arrows have drop down selections. Income Source and Amount section must be completed although not asterisked *.

New Income Adding a new income to the sys	stem.		·	J	
*Member Information *Member Name: Relation:	٧				
Source of Income: Annual Income:	▼ Calculate				
Verification Source:	¥				
B Save Save & N	lew Save & Close	Cancel			

Member Information, click on down arrow to show a list of Member Names. Select name and Relationship.

Γ	Member Information	1	
	*Member Name:	Test ▼	
	Relation: !	Head of Household	

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

Income Source & Ai	nount —					
Source of Income:			· —			
Annual Income:	\$0.00	Calculate	—			

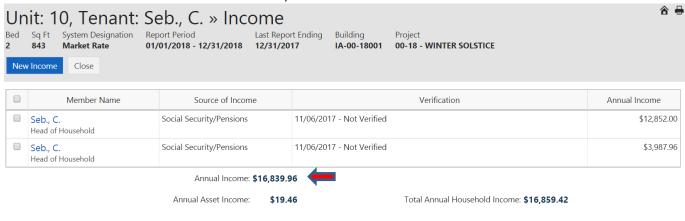
You can enter income listed on the TIC form in the tenant file or click on calculate to have system calculate each earned income. Enter Pay Rate, Frequency, Hours per Year, and the system will calculate Annual Income. For each income to calculate, click Apply. The calculated incomes will populate the Annual Income box to the Income Source & Amount.



<u>Income Verification</u>, the Income Verification section is not required to be entered. However, if the property would like to use this feature, complete the Verification Source and Verification Date as applicable.



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

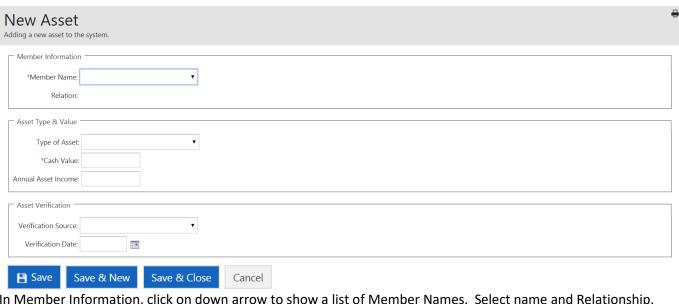


Click when done with the page or when done with the page or when ready to add additional incomes or save & Close when ready to move to next unit.

To add all household Assets (if any), click Assets 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. At minimum, fields noted with a * must be completed.



In Member Information, click on down arrow to show a list of Member Names. Select name and Relationship.



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

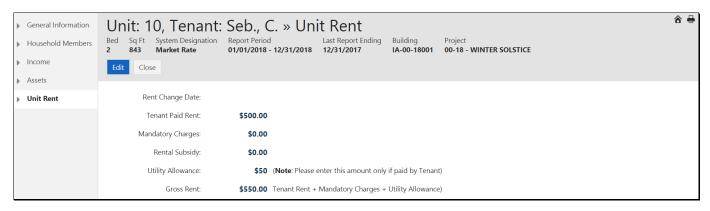


The Asset Verification section includes Verification Source and Verification Date. The Asset Verification section is not required to be entered. However, if the property would like to use this feature, complete the Verification Source and Verification Date as applicable.

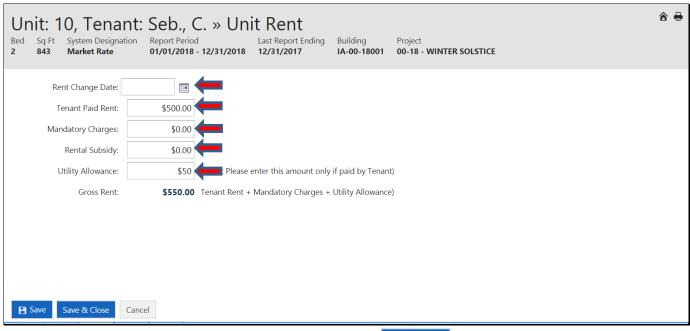


when done with the page or Save & New to add additional Assets or ■ Save Save & Close when ready to move to next unit.

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



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 a significant increase or decrease in rent has occurred at a time other than recertification that changes the tenant paid portion (TPP)., i.e. new subsidy added, subsidy removed, utility allowance changed, etc.

Tenant Paid Rent: This is the out of pocket amount the tenant pays (TPP) for rent.

Mandatory Charges: These are non-optional/mandatory fees that the tenant must pay as a condition of occupancy (garage rental, renter's insurance, etc.).

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

Utility Allowance: This amount reflects what has been provided by the local PHA or an IFA-approved allowance.

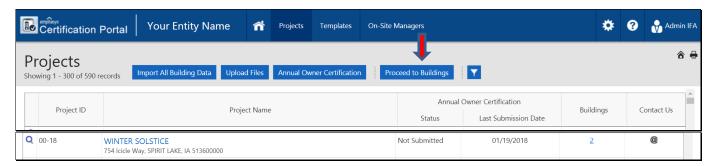
Gross Rent: If Tax Credit only it will include Tenant Paid, Mandatory Charges, and Utility Allowance. If HOME/TC/NHTF or HOME or NHTF only it will include all fields.

End Section 3

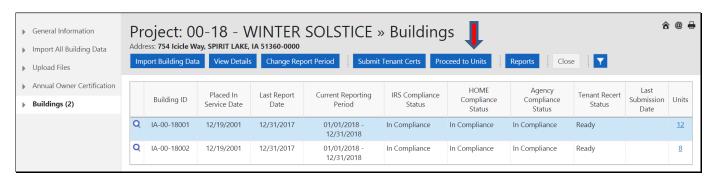
MANUAL ENTRY RECERTIFICATION

For projects that are Mixed Use (have Market Rate units), full recertifications are required throughout the life of the project. For projects that are Mixed Income (have lower targeted Agency Covenant units), full recertifications are required on the lower targeted units throughout the life of the project. For HOME or NHTF, full recertifications are required every 6th year of the Affordability Period.

Select the project and Proceed to Buildings

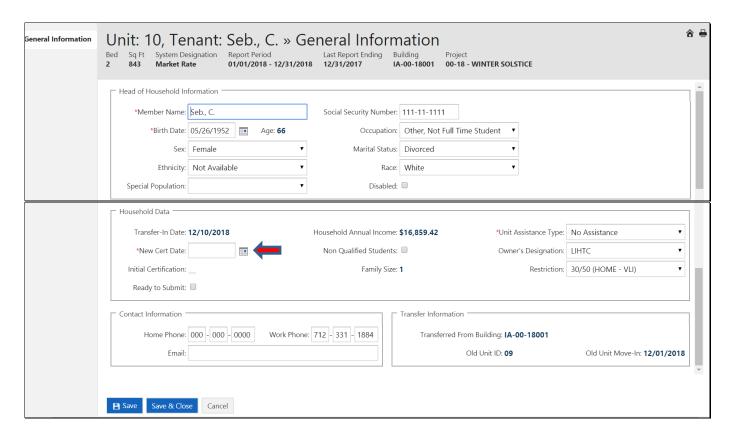


Select the building then click Proceed to Units



Select the unit then click New Tenant Cert

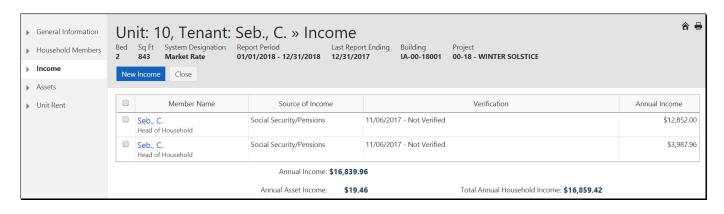


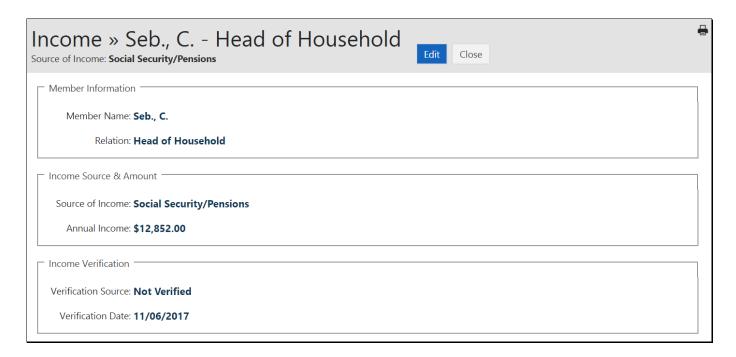


Enter New Cert Date *New Cert Date: and click

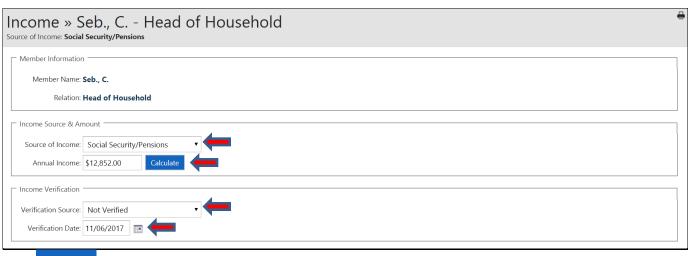
Click on member name then

New Income





Click Edit and update the applicable fields.



Click B Save

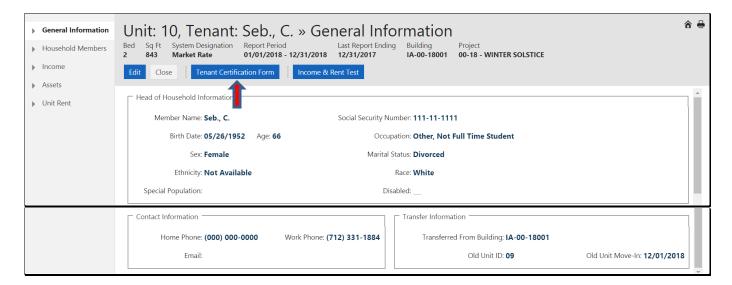


New Income Adding a new income to the system. Member Information *Member Name: Relation: Income Source & Amount Source of Income: Annual Income: Calculate Income Verification Verification Source: Verification Date:



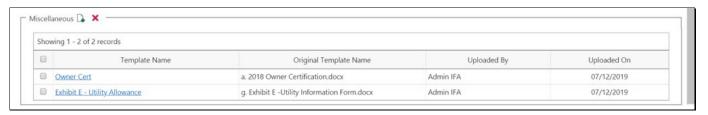
***Repeat income and asset edits and/or additional sources until complete.

- IFA <u>does not</u> accept the CP system generated TIC form for file reviews. IFA has a required TIC form that can be found on the IFA website.



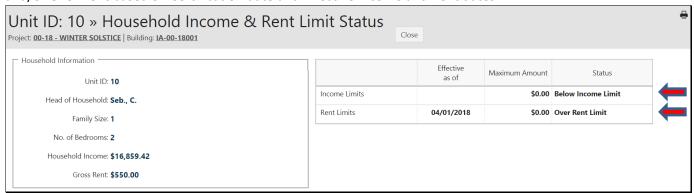






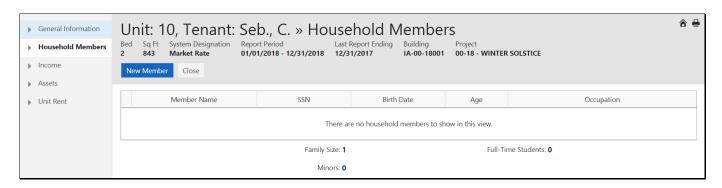
Income & Rent Test

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



Click Household Members if there have been any changes to the members. If a member (other than HOH) moved out during the year, click on the household member that you would like to remove. Once the tenant is selected, at

the bottom of the page, Will appear. Click on the delete button to remove the household member. If the household member that you would like to delete is tied to one or more incomes, the income for that person must be deleted first.

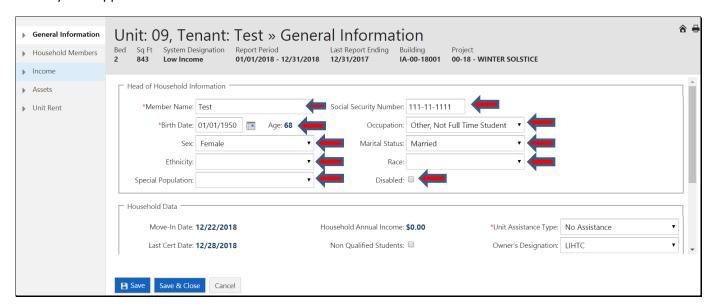


Upon reviewing all data entered in the system, if you identify an entry error, select **NOTE: Move in dates can only be corrected by using Delete Tenant Cert.**

Edit

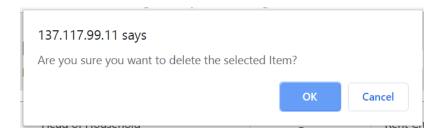


Edit any field applicable and identified below and Save & Close or



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 an delete must be completed starting from top entry.



End Section 4

MANUAL UNIT TRANSFER

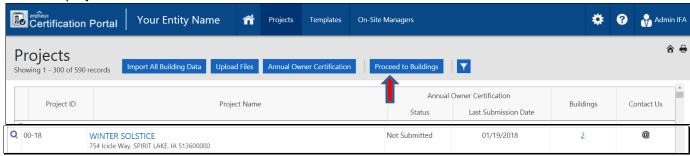
- 1. Within Same Building (If only one building or 8609 8b election, when project has multiple buildings and owner elected to treat buildings as single buildings)
- 2. Between Buildings (Multiple Building Project 8609 8b Election Only)

Part	First-Year Certification—Completed by Building Owners with respect to the First Year of the	Cred	dit Period		
7	Eligible basis of building (see instructions)	7			
8a	Original qualified basis of the building at close of first year of credit period	8a			
b	Are you treating this building as part of a multiple building project for purposes of section 42				
	(see instructions)?		Yes	No	

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.

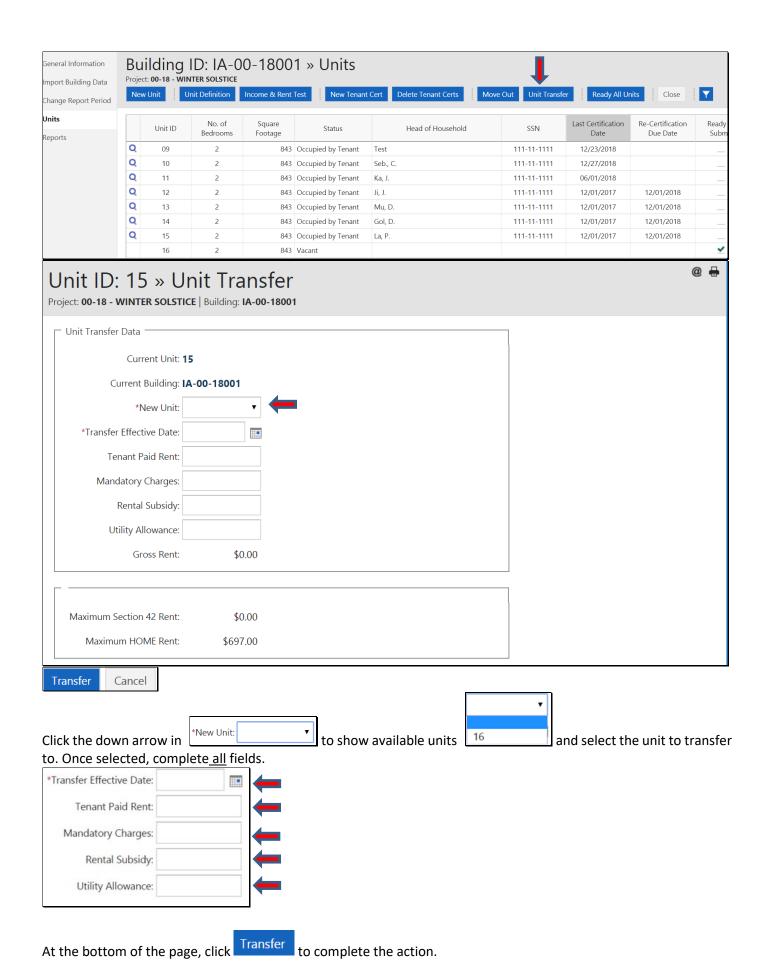
TRANSFER WITHIN SAME BUILDING





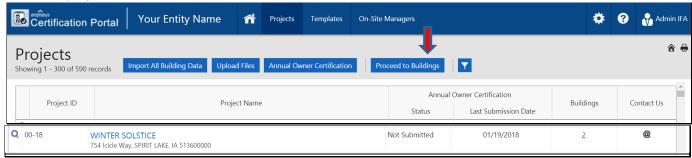
Select the building and click Proceed to Units





TRANSFER BETWEEN BUILDINGS— Based on 8609 8b election marked "Yes".

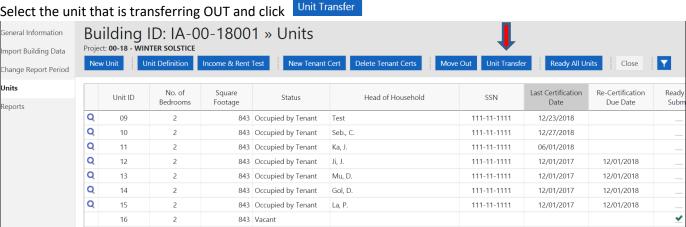
Proceed to Buildings Select the project and click on

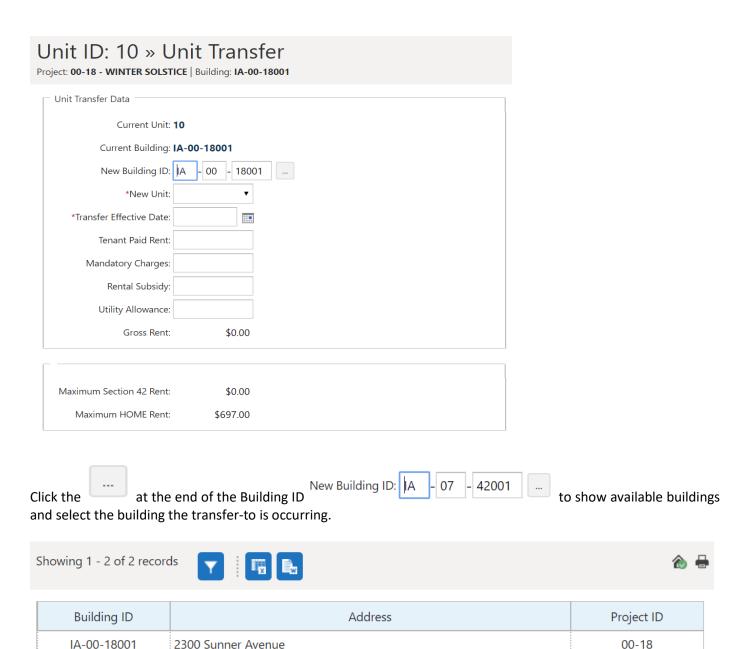


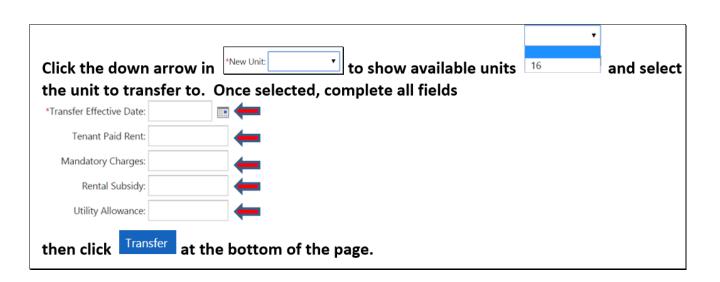
Select the building and click Proceed to Units



Select the unit that is transferring OUT and click







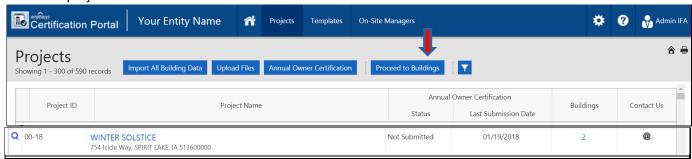
00-18

IA-00-18002

2302 Sunner Avenue

END SECTION 5

MANUAL MOVE OUT



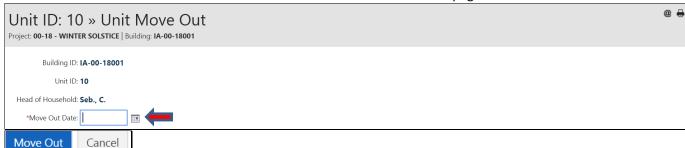
Select the building and click Proceed to Units



Select the unit and click Move Out



Enter *Move Out Date: then click Move Out at the bottom of the page.



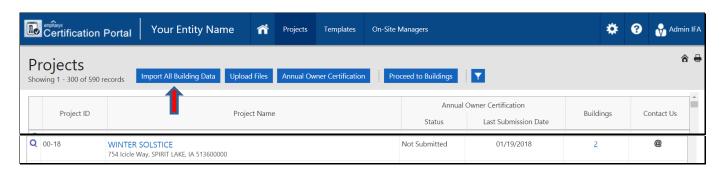
End Section 6

3RD PARTY SOFTWARE TENANT DATA IMPORT

- 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

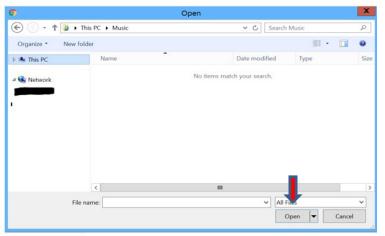




Click on Choose File

noose File No file chosen

Select the XML file created by the 3rd party software (typically found on the C: drive).



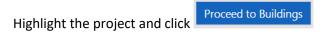
Select the XML file, click Open and click to complete the process.

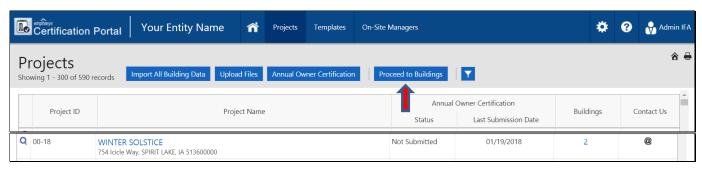
Documents can be imported multiple times for the same project as needed, due to errors. After the initial import, for any subsequent imports, you must check the box. Overwrite existing Unit Activity

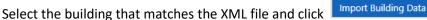
NOTE: If user is unable to locate file on the computer, search for XML I and it should show up.

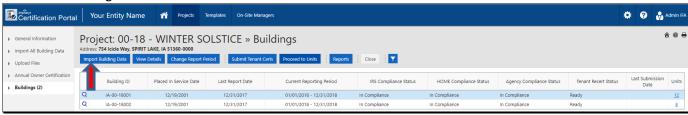
<u>IMPORTING SINGLE BUILDING(S)</u> – Even if multiple buildings are in the project.

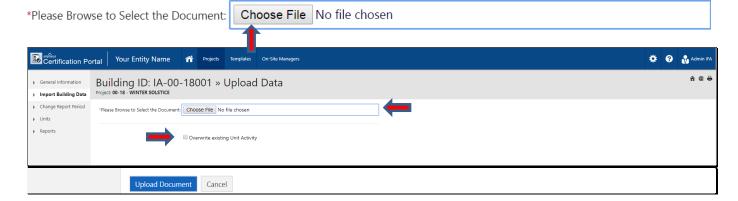
If the third-party vendor makes separate XML files for each building in the project, you will need to go to the Building Screen to import each of these files.



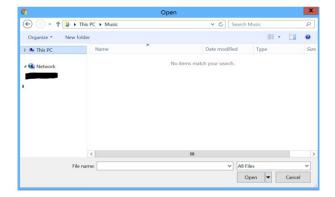








Select the XML file and click open and then click at the bottom of the Upload screen to complete the process. This must be done for all buildings.

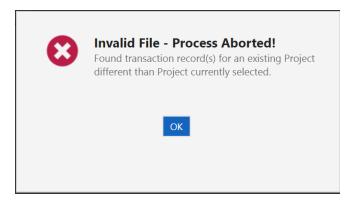


Continue this process until all buildings have been uploaded.



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

If you upload 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 an error message, provide a copy of the Error Log <u>and</u> XML file via email to the assigned IFA Compliance Officer for review, correction, and re-uploading.

Locate the correct XML file to upload or select and program will return to the building screen.

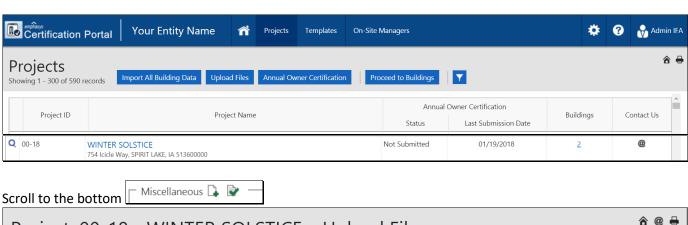
END SECTION 7

Document Upload (tenant files, inspection responses, annual reporting, etc.)

UPLOADING FILE DOCUMENTS

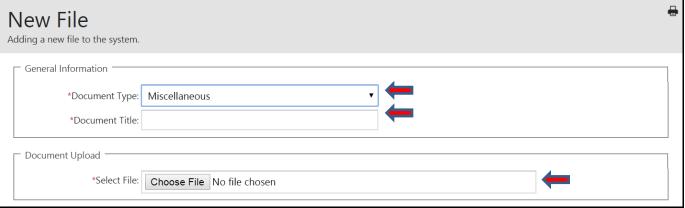
NOTE: This is different from the Upload Document above

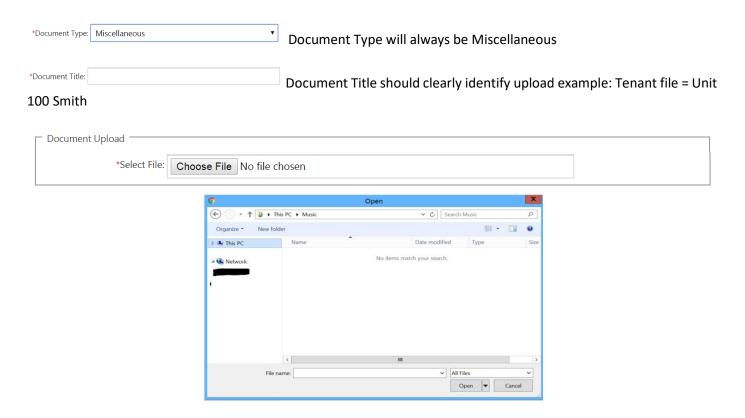






Click on NEW icon to search for the file(s) for uploading:





Select File: It is best to zip the documents and upload as one file (not individual files for each unit). **NOTE**: If you are unable to locate the file on the computer, search for .XML and it should show up.

Select how to proceed by using the buttons below. Buttons are at the bottom of the screen (screen must be maximized to access these).



SECTION 9 ANNUAL CERTIFICATION

Annual Owner Certification

IFA <u>does not review or accept</u> the CP system-generated Owner Certification documents. The system requires it to be submitted, to allow submission of the tenant data for each building(s). IFA has a required Owner Certification form with Exhibits which is provided annually via email and can be found on the IFA website.



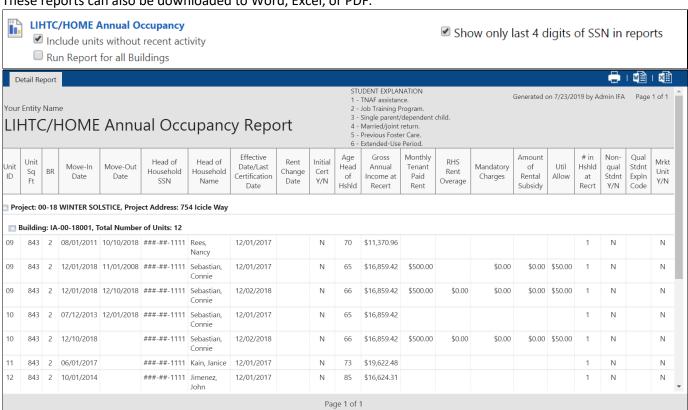
REVIEWING DATA AND SUBMITTING TO IFA

IFA highly recommends the owner/management agent review all data entry prior to submitting.

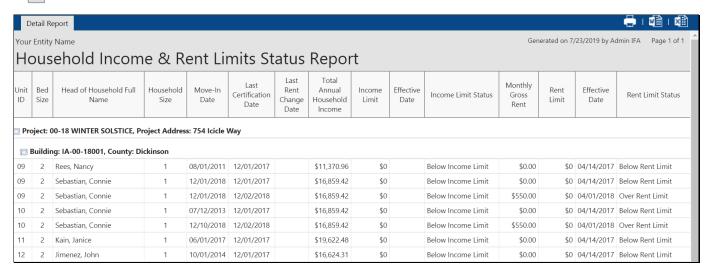
REVIEWING UNIT DATA AND READYING UNITS FOR SUBMISSION.



These reports can also be downloaded to Word, Excel, or PDF.



Household Income & Rent Limits Status

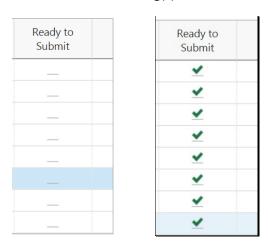


Once the data has been reviewed there are two ways to make a unit Ready to Submit.



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).



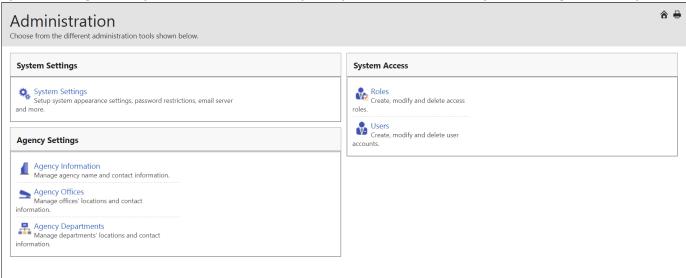
Or you can *Ready the Unit* each unit at the <u>UNIT</u> level screen. Select Information screen. Click Save after checking box.

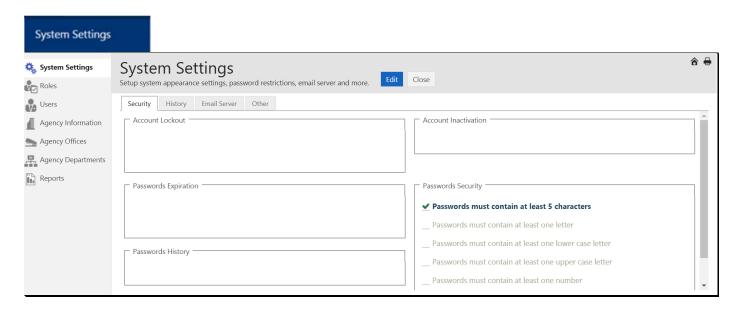
Ready to Submit: while in unit's General

MANAGEMENT CONTROLS (SUPER USER)

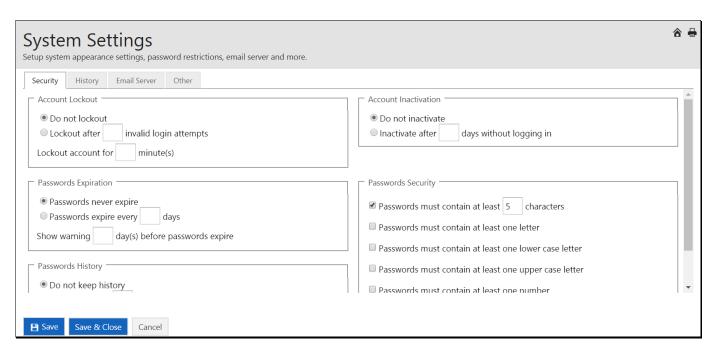


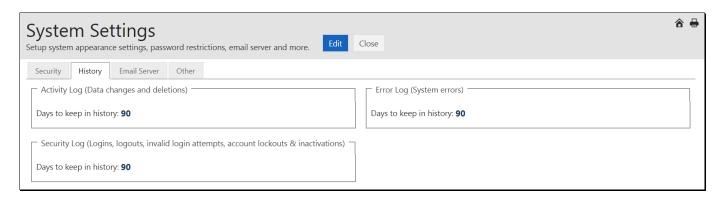
System Settings Security Tab will be used to set up user parameters. All other System Settings tabs are optional.



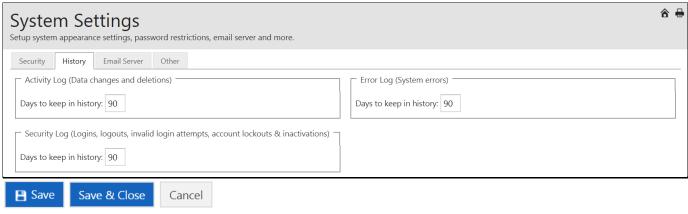


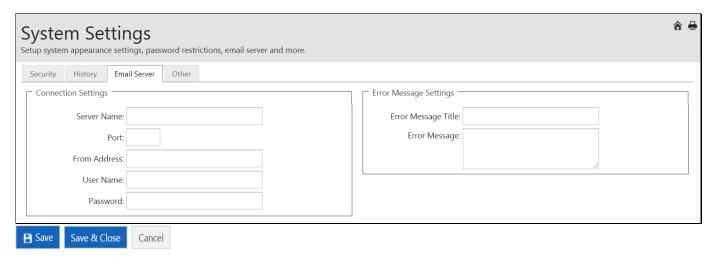
Click Edit

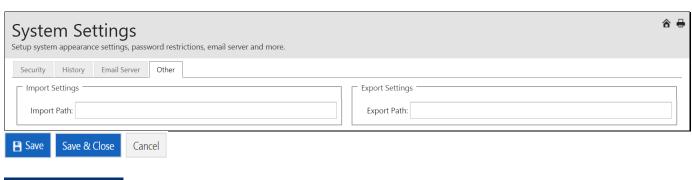












Setting up Roles to assign to individuals.

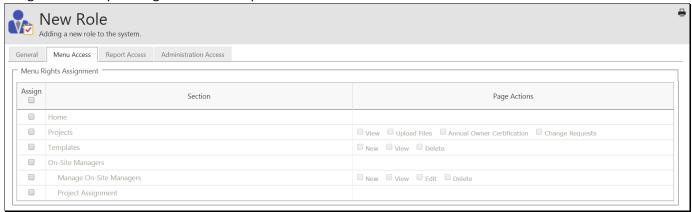
Roles

Roles only need to be set up one time and you can set up as many distinct roles as needed.

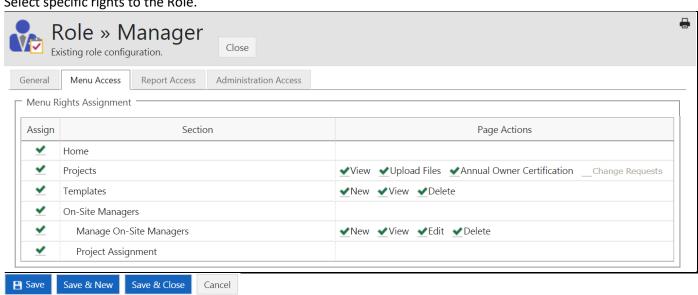




Assign the Role by clicking the boxes for specific menu access and various access levels within CP.



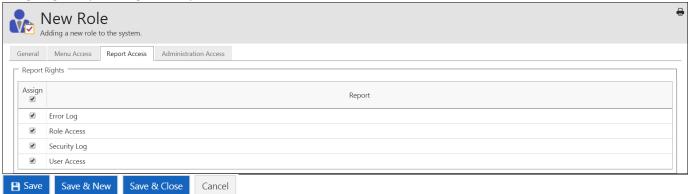
Select specific rights to the Role.



Set up Report Access for the Role.



Assign rights by clicking each report.

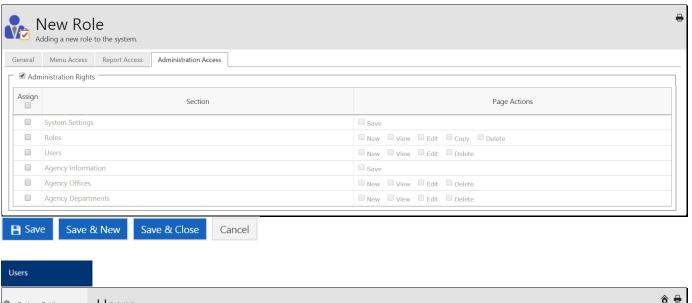


This Administrative Access tab is not available until a role is created. See 2nd example.



The box at the red arrow will not appear until a Role has been created.

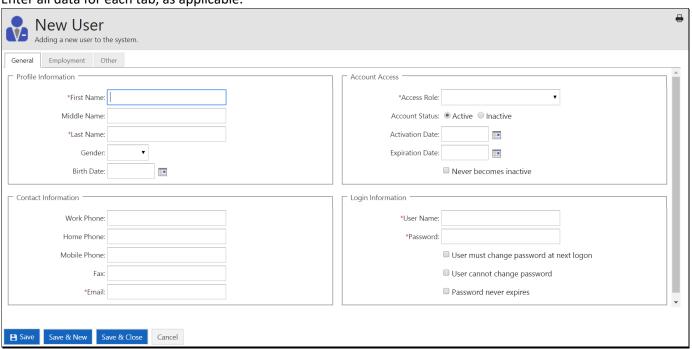




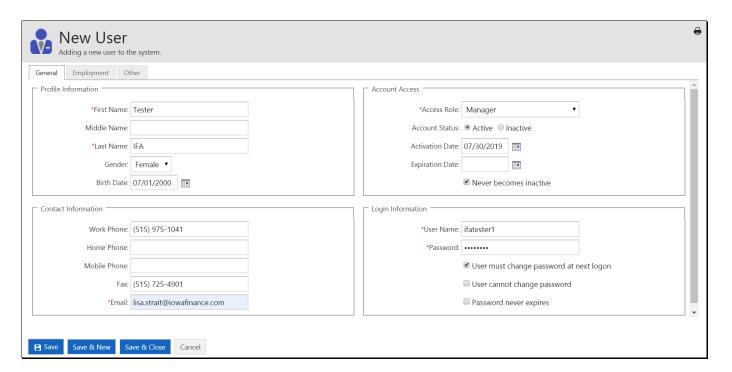


New

Enter all data for each tab, as applicable.



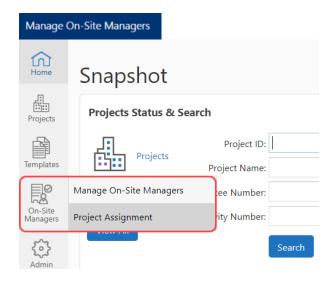
Click Save to close screen, Save & New to create additional users, or Save & Close to go back to main screen.



Adding Users



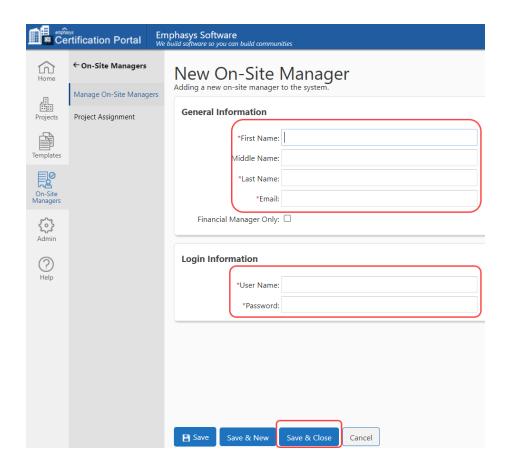
First, the Super User will add the On-Site Manager:







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



Once you have added in the On-Site Manager, go back into *Project Assignment* and update:

