Update from HUD and the Office of Housing Counseling

Audio is only available by conference call

Please call: (866) 320-4709
Participant Access Code: 431985
to join the conference call portion of the webinar

November 8, 2017
Webinar Logistics

• Audio is being recorded. The playback number along with the PowerPoint and a transcript will be available on the HUD Exchange at www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/webinars/

• An OHC LISTSERV will be sent out when the Archives are posted. Posting will usually be within 7-10 days.

• Attendee lines will muted during presentation.

• Because of the large number of attendee, we will not be taking live questions.
Ways to Ask Questions

- Please submit your text questions and comments using the Questions Panel. We will answer some of them during the webinar.
- You can also send questions and comments to housing.counseling@hud.gov with the webinar topic in the subject line.
Agenda

• Welcome by:
  • Dana Wade, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing

• Update on the Office of Housing Counseling by:
  • Sarah Gerecke, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Housing Counseling
Dana Wade
General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing
Priorities

• Support sustainable and responsible homeownership

• Eliminate unnecessary regulations

• Transform the way HUD does business
Sarah Gerecke
Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Housing Counseling
Today’s Discussion

- Certification
- Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)
- Reducing Burden
- Expanding Access to Housing Counseling
- Awareness and Visibility
- Research
- NOFA
- Oversight
- Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM)
- Training
Housing Counselor Certification

• Launched August 1, 2017
• Exam information and free online training available at www.hudhousingcounselors.com
• Current exam cost may change September 30, 2018
• FHA Connection - Application Coordinator role
• Use of designation “HUD Certified Housing Counselor”
Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)

- Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate, and the California Fires
  - 251 housing counseling agencies have offices in impacted areas

- OHC created DART after Hurricane Sandy
  - Team reaches out to impacted agencies to assess damage
  - Provides information on disaster declarations, training, and resources

- Important for agencies to have an emergency preparedness plan in place and training on disaster response

- [https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/topics/#disaster-recovery-toolkit](https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/topics/#disaster-recovery-toolkit)
Reducing Burden

• Review of existing regulations to reduce unnecessary administrative burden

• Watch for opportunities to provide feedback in FY18
Expanding Access to Housing Counseling

• Integrating housing counseling throughout the mortgage process
  • Uniform Residential Loan Application (URLA)
  • Mortgage Industry Standards Maintenance Organization (MISMO)

• Borrower Engagement
  • Address borrower needs after sunset of Making Home Affordable program and National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program

• Federal Advisory Committee
Awareness and Visibility

We don’t want the HUD Housing Counseling Program to be a best-kept secret!

- Awareness and Visibility team
- Toolkits, videos and collateral material
- Research Name Change
• Research on housing counseling available at www.hudexchange.info/counseling
  • First Time Homebuyer Demonstration
    • 5,800 subjects
    • HUD publishing additional results in 2018

• Early Insights:
  • Improved mortgage literacy
  • Greater appreciation for communication with lenders
  • Improved underwriting qualifications
  • No evidence of improved budgeting practices
Housing Counseling NOFA

• Fiscal Year 2017 - second year of a two-year NOFA
  • Distributed grant funds quickly
  • Reduced unnecessary burden on grantees
  • 231 second-year grantees funded

• $50,525,888 million in comprehensive housing counseling and housing counseling training grants announced on July 6, 2017
  • Training: $3,500,000
  • Comprehensive: $47,025,888
NOFA Accomplishments

• Collaboration with grants.gov to create a fillable PDF to replace old version of HUD 9906
  • Auto-completed most quantitative elements
  • Reduced staff hours
  • Eliminated the possibility that an applicant failed to attach a critical scoring document
Oversight

• Reduce the amount of grant funds underspent or recaptured
  • Early intervention strategies

• Complying with the revised 2 CFR Part 200
  • Protect federal investment in counseling program
  • Reduce compliance burden placed on agencies

• Program update for Housing Counseling System

• 339 Agencies reviewed in FY2017
Improving Customer Service

- Housing Counseling Agency Management System (HCAMS)
  - Under testing
  - Will Streamline:
    - Performance Reviews
    - Quarterly reporting
    - New agency applications
    - NOFA scoring and grant executions

- Training and technical support
- Complaint resolutions
Reverse Mortgage Counseling

- Major changes to Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM) announced on August 29, 2017
  - Changes need to address risk of loss to the insurance fund
  - FHA issued Mortgagee Letter 2017-12
  - Policy changes resulted in a spike in demand for HECM counseling before the effective date
Training

• 40 Live webinars in FY 2017
  • Archived on www.hudexchange.info
• $3.5 million in FY17 grants received by training grantees
  • 287 classes for 6,950 counselors
• Training opportunities announced through OHC Listserve. Sign up on the Housing Counseling webpage on HUD Exchange (link on last slide)
Thank You!

Find us at:
www.hudexchange.info/counseling

Email us at:
Housing.counseling@hud.gov