

Funding Availability for the Housing Counseling Program

Program Overview

Program Purpose. This program supports the delivery of a wide variety of housing counseling services to homebuyers, homeowners, low- to moderate-income renters, and the homeless. The primary objectives of the program are to expand homeownership opportunities and improve access to affordable housing. Counselors provide guidance and advice to help families and individuals improve their housing conditions and meet the responsibilities of tenancy and homeownership.

Agencies funded through this program may also provide Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) counseling to elderly homeowners who are looking to convert equity in their homes into income that can be used to pay for home improvements, medical costs, living expenses, or other expenses.

Available Funds. \$35.56 million in FY03 Funds.

Application Deadline. June 25, 2003.

Match. No specific ratio is required. However, in order to receive points under Rating Factor 4, applicants are required to demonstrate the commitment of other private and public sources of funding to supplement HUD funding for the applicant's counseling program. HUD does not intend for its housing counseling grants to cover all costs incurred by an applicant.

I. Application Submission, Further Information and Technical Assistance

Application Kits. There is no application kit. Specific application submission requirements are outlined in Section VI.

Application Due Date. Completed applications must be submitted on or before June 25, 2003.

Mailing. See the General Section of the SuperNOFA for mailing instructions and procedures.

Application Submission Procedures. Local Housing Counseling Agencies

(LHCAs) applying under Category 1 and State Housing Finance Agencies (SHFAs) applying under Category 3 must submit an original and two copies of a complete application to the contact person listed for the Homeownership Center (HOC) whose jurisdiction includes the geographic area in which the applicant is proposing to provide services (see Appendix B.) The envelope should be clearly marked "FY 2003 Housing Counseling Grant Application (indicate Category 1 or 3.)"

National and regional housing counseling intermediaries applying under Category 2 must submit an original and two copies of a complete application to "Director, Program Support Division, Room 9266, Office of Single Family Housing, HUD Headquarters, 451 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20410." The envelope should be clearly marked, "FY 2003 Housing Counseling Intermediary Application."

Colonias and Predatory Lending Grant Applications. All applicants applying under Categories 4 and 5 must submit an original and two copies of a complete application to the Santa Ana HOC (see Appendix B.) The Santa Ana HOC will be evaluating all applications submitted under Categories 4 and 5. Applications should be sent to the attention of the Program Support Division Director. For Category 4 applicants, the envelope should be clearly marked "FY 2003 Housing Counseling—Colonias Application." For Category 5, the envelope should be marked "FY 2003 Housing Counseling—Predatory Lending Application (indicate your organization type, e.g.: National Intermediary / Regional Intermediary, SHFA, LHCA.)"

Further Information. Local housing counseling agencies (LHCAs) and state housing finance agencies (SHFAs) should call the HOC serving their area (See Appendix B for the contact information for the HOCs). National and regional intermediaries should contact HUD Headquarters, Program Support Division at (202) 708-0317 (this is not

a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments may access any of these numbers via TTY by calling the toll-free federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

Satellite Broadcast. HUD will hold an informational broadcast via satellite for potential applicants to learn more about the program and the application. For more information about the date and time of the broadcast, consult the HUD web site at <http://www.hud.gov/grants>.

II. Amount Allocated

Amount Allocated.—Of the \$39,740,000 appropriated for housing counseling in FY 2003, \$37.561 million is made available for eligible applicants under this SuperNOFA. Specifically, \$35.561 million is available through this NOFA, and \$2 million is available through a separate NOFA for Section 8 Homeownership Voucher Housing Counseling found elsewhere in this SuperNOFA. Of this \$35.561 million, up to \$250,000 is available for counseling services that specifically target Colonias, and \$2.7 million is available for counseling services addressing predatory lending. An allocation of \$1 million of the \$39,740,000 appropriated is available for the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Program, as provided in section 255(k) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-20). With the balance of FY03 appropriation, and additional carry-over funding, an allocation of up to \$4 million has been set aside for housing counseling support such as training and tuition assistance for housing counselors, or other HUD counseling initiatives and activities, or both.

Grant Categories.—HUD will award grants to qualified public or private nonprofit organizations to provide housing counseling services through five grant categories: (1) Local Housing Counseling Agencies (LHCAs); (2) National and Regional Intermediaries; (3) State Housing Finance Agencies (SHFAs); (4) Agencies Serving Colonias; and (5) Predatory Lending.