

national and regional intermediaries; and (3) SHFAs.

*Award:* There is no cap on the award amount.

*Category 5—Predatory Lending.* \$2.7 million is available for housing counseling services addressing predatory lending. Specifically, grants under this category are designed to: (a) assist victims of predatory lending; and (b) assist clients with identifying and avoiding predatory lending practices, such as loans with unfair and inappropriate terms and conditions, and other unscrupulous practices intended to defraud and/or take advantage of homebuyers / borrowers.

*Eligible applicants* include (1) HUD-approved LHCA's; (2) HUD-approved national and regional intermediaries; and (3) SHFAs.

*Award.* Awards for HUD-approved national intermediaries may not exceed \$450,000. Awards for HUD-approved regional intermediaries and SHFAs may not exceed \$140,000. Awards for HUD-approved LHCA's may not exceed \$40,000.

*Funding Allocation.* \$1.5 million is available for national intermediaries. \$300,000 is available for regional intermediaries and SHFAs. The amount of funding available for LHCA's is \$900,000.

### III. Program Description/Eligibility

*(A) Eligible Applicants—*Eligible SHFAs are entities that satisfy the definition in 24 CFR 266.5 of a "Housing Finance Agency." SHFAs and eligible sub-grantees/affiliates do not need HUD approval in order to receive these funds.

*Eligible LHCA's and intermediaries* are private nonprofit and public organizations, including grass-roots faith-based and other community-based organizations, that secure HUD-approval as an LHCA, or as a national or regional intermediary, as of the publication date of this SuperNOFA, and retain such approval through the term of any grant awarded. For information on securing HUD-approval visit HUD's website at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hccprof13.cfm>.

Additionally, to be eligible to receive a grant directly from HUD under this Housing Counseling NOFA, all applicants (except SHFAs) must be (1) duly organized and existing as a nonprofit, (2) in good standing under the laws of the state of its organization, and (3) authorized to do business in the states where it proposes to provide counseling services. For example, applicable state licensing, corporate filing, and registering requirements must be satisfied.

An LHCA, intermediary, SHFA or affiliate may use branch offices to provide counseling funded through this NOFA. A branch office is an organizational and subordinate unit of the LHCA, intermediary, or SHFA, not separately incorporated or organized. LHCA's and affiliates of intermediaries and SHFAs may maintain a main office and branch offices in no more than two states, which must be contiguous.

Intermediaries and SHFAs provide sub-grants to affiliates and/or branches. Eligible sub-grantees are not required to be HUD-approved, although HUD-approved LHCA's may apply to an intermediary or SHFA as a sub-grantee. Intermediaries and SHFAs that award sub-grants to affiliates or branches that are not HUD-approved must assure that said organizations meet or exceed the standards, as specified in paragraph 2–1 of HUD Handbook 7610.1, Rev-4, CHG–1, for HUD-approved LHCA's. These organizations will be monitored by HUD, and intermediaries that do not ensure their affiliates'/branches' compliance with HUD standards could be prohibited from participating in the program.

To be eligible for a sub-grant under categories 2 or 3, affiliates or branches must not have directly applied for or received a grant under Category 1 of this NOFA, or another sub-grant from an Intermediary or SHFA under Category 2 or 3 of this NOFA. Affiliates or branches receiving a sub-grant under Category 2 or 3 are also eligible to receive sub-grants under categories 4 and/or 5, but only with the same intermediary or SHFA through which they receive a sub-grant under Categories 2 or 3. If also HUD-approved as an LHCA, affiliates or branches receiving a sub-grant under Categories 2 or 3 are permitted to apply to HUD directly as an LHCA under Categories 4 and/or 5. Similarly, an LHCA that applies directly to HUD under Category 1 may also receive sub-grants from an intermediary or SHFA under Categories 4 and/or 5, but only with the same intermediary or SHFA.

Additionally, to be eligible for a sub-grant, an affiliate must be (1) duly organized and existing as a nonprofit, (2) in good standing under the laws of the state of its organization, and (3) authorized to do business in the states where it proposes to provide housing counseling services. For example, applicable state licensing, corporate filing, and registering requirements must be satisfied.

*(B) Eligible Activities.* Agencies selected as grantees or sub-grantees will only be reimbursed for the eligible activities outlined in this Section.

Grantees or sub-grantees directly providing housing counseling services under Categories 1 through 4 may use their HUD housing counseling funds for one or more of the 8 eligible activities listed below.

Grantees or sub-grantees directly providing housing counseling services under Category 5 (Predatory Lending) may use their HUD housing counseling funds for group sessions and/or one-on-one counseling that clearly and directly assists victims of predatory lending or helps to prevent predatory lending.

(1) *Pre-Occupancy Counseling.* This includes the following types of one-on-one counseling: pre-purchase; pre-rental; search assistance/mobility; fair housing; budgeting for mortgage or rent payments; money management; and housing care and maintenance. This also may include guidance on: alternative sources of mortgage credit; how to apply for housing assistance; how to identify and avoid predatory lending practices; locating housing which provides universal design and visitability; referrals to community or homeless services, and regulatory agencies; and advocating with lenders for non-traditional lending standards.

(2) *Homebuyer Education Programs.* These programs are housing related education programs in which educational materials are used in training sessions for multiple participants, including HUD's Homebuyer Education and Learning Program (HELP). For a typical homebuyer education program, participants complete eight to twelve course hours. Agencies that provide this service must also offer individual counseling to complement group sessions.

(3) *Post-Purchase/Mortgage Default and Rent Delinquency Counseling.* This includes counseling on how to: restructure debt, obtain recertification for rent subsidy, establish reinstatement plans, seek loan forbearance, and manage household finances. This counseling can also include helping victims of predatory lending, educating clients on renter's and landlord's rights, explaining the eviction process, providing referrals to other sources, and assisting clients with locating alternative housing or pursuing loss mitigation strategies.

(4) *Post-Purchase/Post-Occupancy Counseling.* This includes education programs and counseling activities on property maintenance, personal money management, and relations with lenders and landlords.

(5) *Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) Counseling.* HECM counseling assists clients who are 62 years or older