



OFFICE OF
HOUSING COUNSELING
LET'S MAKE HOME HAPPEN

Housing Counseling Stakeholder Meeting FY 2017 NOFA Feedback Webinar

**Audio is only available by
conference call**

Please call: **866-233-3841**

Participant Access Code: **428721**

to join the conference call portion of the webinar

August 22, 2017

Webinar Logistics



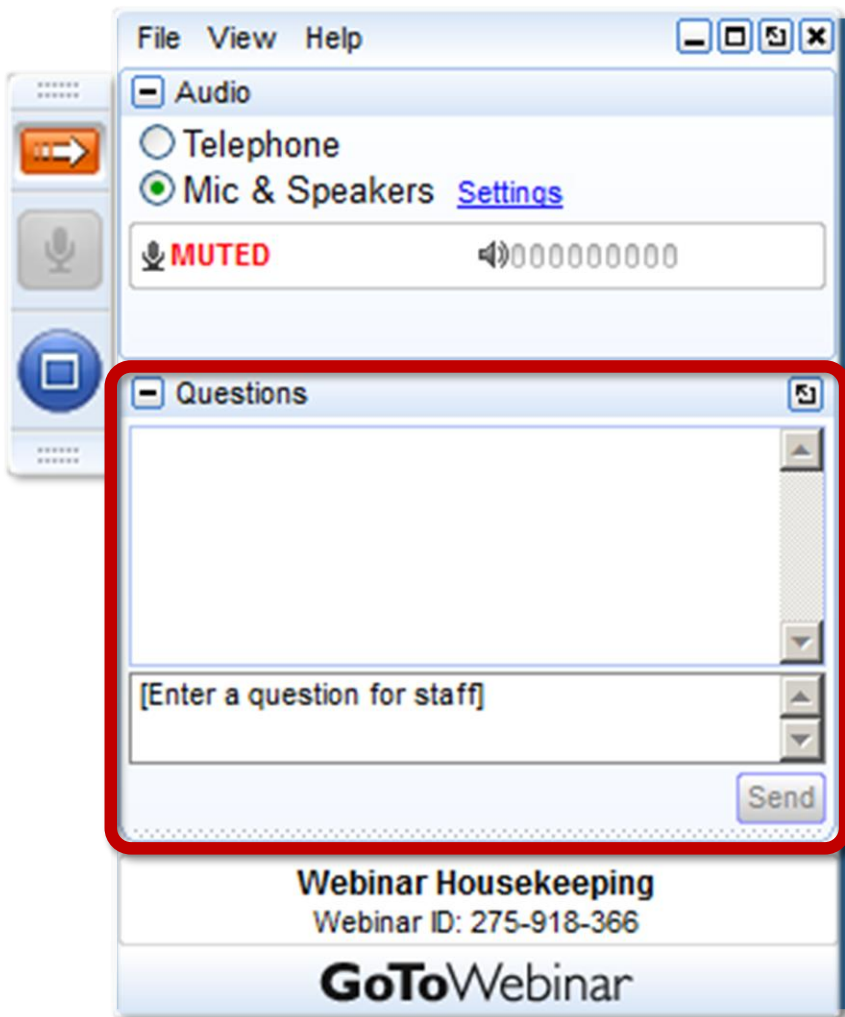
- Audio is being recorded. The playback number along with the PowerPoint and a transcript will be available on the HUD Exchange at www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/webinars/
- An OHC LISTSERV will be sent out when the Archives are posted. Posting will usually be within 7-10 days.
- Attendee lines will muted during presentation.
- Handouts were sent out prior to webinar. They are also available in the Control Panel. Just click on document name to download.

Questions & Comments



- There will be Polling Questions. Please respond to them.
- There will be Q&A periods, as well as discussion opportunities.
 - The operator will give you instructions on how to ask questions or make your comments.
 - If unmuted during Q&A, please do not use a speaker phone

Other 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.

Please Mute Your Phones During Discussions



- During the discussions, all the phones may be unmuted by the operator.
- It is critical that you mute your phone during these discussions.
 - Most phones have a mute function.
 - *6 Will also mute and unmute your phone.

Brief Survey



- Please complete the brief survey at the end of this session.
- Your responses will help OHC better plan and present our webinars.

Certificate of Training



- If you logged into the webinar, you will receive a “thank you for attending” email from GoToWebinar within 48 hours.
- The email will say “**This is your CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING**”. There is no attachment.
- Print out and save that email for your records.

Thank you for attending our XX hour Webinar on XX. We hope you enjoyed our event. This is your CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING. Please print out and save this email for your records. Please send your questions, comments and feedback to: housing.counseling@hud.gov.

Welcome

Lorraine Griscavage-Frisbee
Deputy Director
Office of Outreach and Capacity Building

Agenda

- Purpose of Stakeholder Meetings
- Feedback on:
 - FY 2017 funding process
 - Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) policies

Stakeholder Meeting Purpose

- Provide the opportunity for communication and interaction
- Evaluate stakeholder input on program policy and procedures
- Share best practices and challenges
- Provide valuable insight for the OHC to help consumers achieve housing goals
- Provide advice to leadership of the department as it relates to housing legislation, regulation, policy development, budget, training, program evaluation and oversight

Stakeholder Meeting Purpose

- This stakeholder meeting does not replace a HUD debriefing or serve as Housing Counseling Program or Grant Administration Training.
- All applicants are encouraged to request a debriefing. You may do so by sending an email to housing.counseling@hud.gov with the subject line “Debriefing Request.”

FY 2017 Funding Process

David Valdez

**Housing Program Specialist
Office of Policy and Grant Administration**

Polling Question #1

What type of organization are you representing?

- A. Intermediary
- B. Multi-State Organization (MSO)
- C. State Housing Finance Agency (SHFA)
- D. Local Housing Counseling Agency (LHCA) – direct grantee
- E. Affiliate or Sub-grantee of an Intermediary/MSO/SHFA

Polling Question #2

How did/will your organization receive FY 2017 HUD housing counseling funding?

- A. Through the FY 2017 Supplemental NOFA published January 2017, or through a sub-grant from an Agency that received 2017 funds through the 2017 Supplemental NOFA
- B. Through the FY 2016-2017 NOFA published February 2016, or through a sub-grant from an Agency that received 2017 funds through the 2016-2017 NOFA
- C. Did not receive FY 2017 funding
- D. Unsure

FY 2017 Funding Process Timeline



Polling Question #3

The FY 2017 Supplemental NOFA had an application window of 45 days (the same amount of days as the previous year).

Your thoughts on this timeframe?

- We would have liked additional application days
- We thought the timeframe was just right
- The timeframe was too long
- N/A – We didn't apply

Polling Question #4

If you applied to the FY 2017 Supplemental NOFA, what was your experience with the grants.gov application process?

select all that apply

- A. We didn't have any issues submitting our application
- B. We experienced issues with DUNS or SAMS registration
- C. We experienced transmission problems and timing out
- D. We applied, but want information on how to see the application that was submitted
- E. We tried to apply but could not complete the process or had missing application materials

Funding Methodology

HUD's funding methodology for FY17 included:

- Base award – based on size and nature of counseling network
- Competitive funding amount – based on application score
- Funding Based on Number of Counselor FTEs
- Funding to Provide Support to a Network
- Funding for Reverse Mortgage Counseling

Question: How can HUD do a better job of measuring and rewarding quality of service without relying too heavily on narratives?

Rating Factors

The FY17 Supplemental NOFA included the following rating factors and point values.

- Rating Factor 1. Capacity of the Applicant – 31 points
- Rating Factor 2. Need/ Departmental Policy Priorities – 14 points
- Rating Factor 3. Soundness of Approach/ Scope of Housing Counseling Services – 41 points
- Rating Factor 4. Leveraging – 6 points
- Rating Factor 5. Achieving Results and Program Evaluation – 8 points

Questions:

- What are your thoughts on the point values?
- Do you think they are weighted properly?

Grant Agreement and Training

For those who received an FY17 grant:

- Was the grant agreement clear?
- If you participated in Grant Agreement Training, was it helpful?
- Are there areas for improvement?

Notice of Funding Availability Policies

Brianna Benner
Housing Program Specialist
Office of Policy and Grant Administration

Polling Question #5

For Intermediaries, MSOs, and SHFAs:

How does your network experience change?

- Sub-agencies are added and removed from the network throughout the grant period.
- Sub-agencies are added and removed from the network when applying for a HUD grant, but typically are not added/removed during the grant period.
- Sub-agencies are rarely added and removed from the network.
- My agency was recently approved or hasn't experienced network change yet.

Polling Question #6

For LHCA's, Affiliates and Sub-grantees:

What are your plans for the next HUD grant cycle?

- We apply for funding directly from HUD and plan to continue doing so.
- We apply for funding directly from HUD but are considering joining an Intermediary or SHFA network.
- We access funding through an Intermediary or SHFA network and plan to continue doing so.
- We access funding through an Intermediary or SHFA network but are considering applying for funding directly from HUD.
- We do not apply for HUD funding, or do not plan to apply.

Housing Counseling Networks

Questions for Parent Agencies:

- Sub-grantee Selection Factors?
- Importance of Network Flexibility?
- Network Expansion – Recent and/or Planned?

Questions for LHCAs, affiliates, and sub-grantees:

- Application or Affiliation - Decision Factors?
- Change from Grantee to Affiliated Sub-grantee (or vice versa)
 - Talk about the Experience
 - Advantages and Disadvantages?

Polling Question #7

HUD Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grants have an 18-month period of performance rather than 12 months.

What do you think of this change?

Select all that apply

- A. I like the increased flexibility to expend funds over 6 additional months if needed.
- B. I like not having to request an extension to expend funds over a longer period of time.
- C. I feel the need to stretch the money out over the full 18 months.
- D. I find it confusing or need more guidance.
- E. I prefer a 12-month period of performance.

Period of Performance

Questions:

- Is the 18-month period of performance helpful?
- Extended period of performance questions or comments?
- Challenges with overlapping periods of performance?
- Is more guidance needed?
 - Which aspect(s)?
 - Preferred format(s)?

Polling Question #8

What has been your experience with expending grant funds awarded in the past few years?

Select all that apply

- A. We have had to return all or part of the award because we were not able to expend all the funding.
- B. We have had to request an extension in order to expend all the funding.
- C. We have not had any problem expending all the funding during the period of performance.

Expending Grant Funds

Questions:

- Did you indicate a cap funding amount in your NOFA application? If so:
 - Why did you do so?
 - How did you arrive at your cap funding amount?
- The FY16-17 NOFA, and the FY 2017 Supplemental NOFA incorporated a grantee's grant expenditure history into NOFA scoring and funding methodology. What do you think of this change?

Other NOFA Policy Questions

- Should HUD further incorporate 9902 reporting performance in the NOFA? If so, suggestions?
- How could the NOFA better recognize and fund network oversight responsibilities?
- Did you have issues uploading and/or verifying relevant application documents were uploaded to grants.gov?
 - If so, what can HUD do to ensure applicants are able to verify all relevant documents were uploaded?

Discussion Questions

- What is your **overall impression** about the Housing Counseling NOFA Application and Grant Award Process?
- What additional suggestions or comments do you have that could further improve this process?

Concluding Remarks

Lorraine Griscavage-Frisbee

Deputy Director

Office of Capacity Building and Outreach

Closing Discussion

- Evaluation Survey
 - Survey will launch after the webinar

Conclusion

For housing counseling program information, grant information, training and events, counselor resources and to sign up for our LISTSERV.

www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/

Questions or comments:

housing.counseling@hud.gov