



Housing Counseling Stakeholder Meeting FY 2015 Notice of Funding Agreement Feedback Webinar

Please call: **(800) 260-0719**

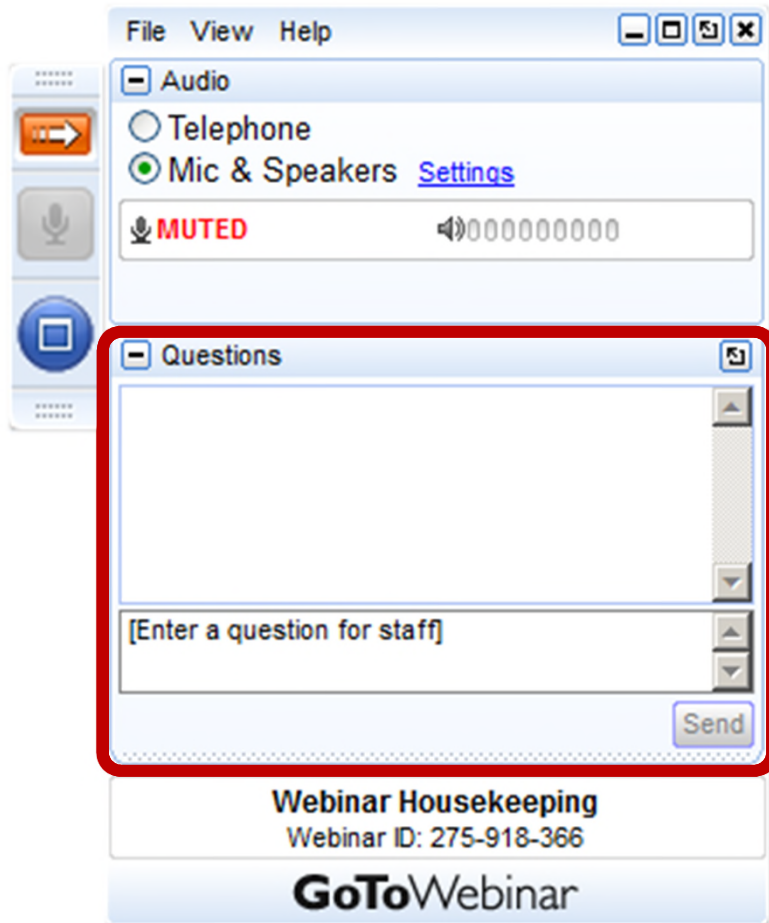
Participant Access Code: **362816**

to join the conference call portion of the webinar

Webinar Logistics:

- This webinar is being recorded.
- The audio along with the PowerPoint will be available at www.hud.gov/housingcounseling under “Training Webinar Archives”
- All attendee lines will muted during presentation.
- There will be several polling questions.
- There will be important discussion questions. The operator will give you instructions. You will not have to give your name and agency to participate in the discussions.

Other Ways to Ask Questions



Your Participation

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 **webinar topic is subject line.**

Note: The audio and presentation will be available on OHC's website. Information will be sent out via OHC's LISTSERV

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 so use it.
 - *6 will also mute and unmute your phone.
- Unmuted phones are a distraction to the discussion.
- Please be courteous to others on the call.

Brief Survey

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



Welcome

Lorraine Griscavage-Frisbee

Deputy Director

Office of Outreach and Capacity Building

Agenda

- Purpose of Stakeholder Meetings
- Feedback on:
 - FY 2015 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 2015 Funding Process

Ashley McAskill

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 your organization receive FY 2015 HUD housing counseling funding?

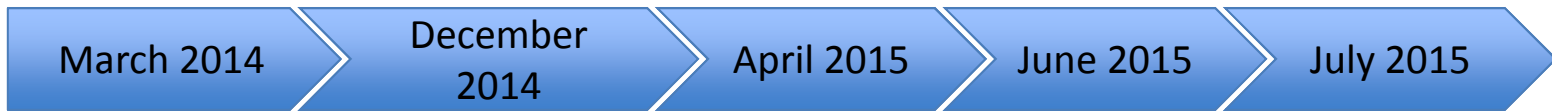
- A. Through the FY 2014 – 2015 NOFA published March 2014
- B. Through the FY 2015 Supplemental NOFA published April 2015
- C. Did not receive FY 2015 funding
- D. Not sure

FY 2015 Funding Process

New Process for Awarding FY15 Funds

- Majority of FY15 grantees did not have to apply for funding
- FY15 Supplemental NOFA – limited eligibility

FY 2015 Funding Process Timeline



March 4, 2014
- Published
FY14-15 NOFA

Dec 11, 2014
- Issued
Expression of
Interest letters

April 2, 2015
- Published
FY15
Supplemental
NOFA

April 14, 2015
- Announced
initial FY15
awards for
FY14-15 NOFA
grantees

June 15, 2015
– Announced
FY15
Supplemental
NOFA awards
2nd installment
of FY15
funding for
FY14-15 NOFA
grantees.

June 24, 2015
– Mailed grant
award
packages.

July 8, 2015
– Provided
grant
agreement
training.

Polling Question #3

FY 2014 – 2015 NOFA grantees did not have to reapply for FY15 funding. How many work hours do you estimate that saved your organization?

- A. Less than 8 hours
- B. 8 – 24 hours
- C. 25 – 40 hours
- D. More than 40 hours
- E. N/A – Not an FY 2014 – 2015 NOFA grantee

Two-Year NOFAs

- Do you think HUD should implement two-year NOFAs in the future?
- Did you experience any challenges related to the two-year NOFA or expression of interest notification letter?
- Any suggestions for improving the process if HUD implements a two-year NOFA again?

Funding Methodology

HUD's funding methodology for FY14 and FY15 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 Based on Participation in HUD-Sponsored Research or Pilot Programs
- 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 FY14-15 NOFA and FY15 Supplemental NOFA included the following rating factors and point values.

1. Rating Factor 1. Capacity of the Applicant – 33 points
2. Rating Factor 2. Need/ Departmental Policy Priorities – 14 points
3. Rating Factor 3. Soundness of Approach/ Scope of Housing Counseling Services – 39 points
4. Rating Factor 4. Leveraging – 4 points
5. Rating Factor 5. Achieving Results and Program Evaluation – 10 points

Questions:

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

Multiple Installments of Funding

If HUD awards funding in multiple installments, it *may* help get funding out earlier in the fiscal year. **BUT** it would likely require grantees to sign an amended HUD-1044 and submit a revised budget, client projections, and sub-allocations (if applicable) for each installment.

Questions:

- Would you prefer to receive HUD funding as early as possible, even if that means you would receive it in multiple installments?
- Or would you prefer to receive funding in one installment but potentially later in the fiscal year?

Reimbursement Process

- For those who received an FY14 grant, what was your overall impression of the reimbursement process?
- Was the grant agreement clear in terms of what you needed to submit to process a payment request?
- Are there areas for improvement?



Notice of Funding Availability Policies

Jamie Spakow

Housing Program Specialist
Office of Policy and Grant Administration

Polling Question #4

For Intermediaries, MSOs, and SHFAs:

How does your network experience change?

- A. Sub-agencies are added and removed from the network throughout the grant period.
- B. 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.
- C. Sub-agencies are rarely added and removed from the network.
- D. My agency was recently approved or hasn't experienced network change yet.

Polling Question #5

For Intermediaries, MSOs, and SHFAs:

Does your network charge a network fee?

Select all that apply.

- A. We charge an initial fee to join the network
- B. We charge an annual fee
- C. Fees charged exceed \$500 per year per member agency
- D. We do not charge a network fee

Polling Question #6

For LHCAs, Affiliates and Sub-grantees:

What are your plans for the next HUD grant cycle?

- A. We apply for funding directly from HUD and plan to continue doing so.
- B. We apply for funding directly from HUD but are considering joining an Intermediary or SHFA network.
- C. We access funding through an Intermediary or SHFA network and plan to continue doing so.
- D. We access funding through an Intermediary or SHFA network but are considering applying for funding directly from HUD.
- E. 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

FY14 and FY15 grants had an 18-month period of performance rather than 12 months like in previous grants.

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:

- Would you like to have the option of indicating a cap funding amount in the NOFA application?
- Should HUD incorporate a grantee's drawdown performance into NOFA scoring or funding methodology?

Other NOFA Policy Questions

- HUD's strategic plan goal: Increase the number of FHA borrowers who receive pre- or post-purchase housing counseling. How to measure, recognize in the NOFA?
- Should HUD further incorporate 9902 reporting performance in the NOFA? If so, suggestions?
- How could the NOFA better recognize and fund network oversight responsibilities?

2015 Supplemental NOFA

Application Questions

- What is your overall impression about completing the FY 2015 Supplemental NOFA application?
- Were the NOFA instructions clear and concise?
- What additional suggestions or comments do you have on the grant application process?

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.hud.gov/housingcounseling

Questions or comments:

housing.counseling@hud.gov