



OFFICE OF
HOUSING COUNSELING

Updates from Office of Housing Counseling (OHC)

September 15, 2020

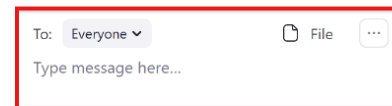
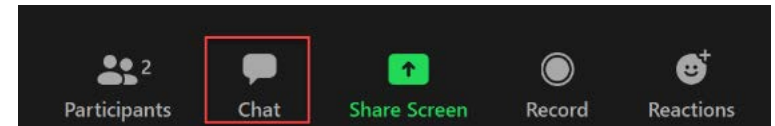
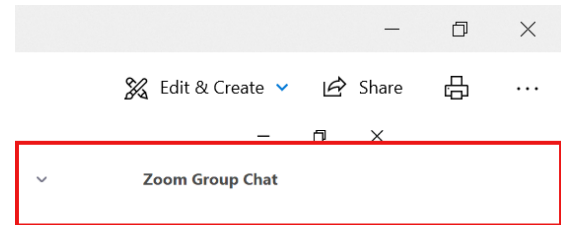
Time for
Mentimeter!

Please go to www.menti.com for our icebreaker!



Technical Issues? Questions?

- All participants have been muted.
- Please do not use video camera to ensure best connection.
- Please chat with HOST for any technical questions via Zoom Chat Box.
- Please submit any content related questions via Zoom Chat Box.
- Chat icon can be found at the bottom middle of the screen.





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Session Agenda

- Welcome and Event Overview
 - Shawna Moraille, Principal, ICF
- Policy Update
 - Danberry Carmon, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary, HUD's Office of Housing Counseling
 - Dana Wade, Federal Housing Commissioner, Federal Housing Administration (FHA)
- Office Update
 - Brian Siebenlist, Director, Office of Policy and Grant Administration (OPGA)
 - Phyllis Ford, Deputy Director, Office of Oversight and Accountability (OOA)
 - Jerrold H. Mayer, Director, Office of Outreach and Capacity Building (OCB)
- Q & A

New Interim Rule Delays the Final Compliance Date



- The new final compliance date is **August 01, 2021**
- Ensures vital counseling services remain available during COVID-19 National emergency
- [Read the new interim rule](#)

HUD Certified Counselor Progress

09/14/20

- 2,986 out of an estimated 4,064 counselors now certified (74%)
- 236 HECM counselors out of an estimated 306 HECM counselors now certified (77%)
- Visit “Tracking Progress” on the [HUD Exchange](#) for state by state statistics

Certification Compliance Technical Assistance



- HUD is about to begin direct certification technical assistance to HCA's
- ICF will be reaching out to your agency on any compliance issues your counselors, affiliates and branches may need resolved
- Please make sure your Agency Manager contact information is updated in HCS

Certification Exam Changes



- HUD has made available \$500,000 to grantees in the FY 2020 housing counseling grant to cover exam fees
- As of August 06, 2020, HUD no longer requires the use of an external web cam
- Reviewing the exam for improvements; your feedback is valuable!
- The exam will continue to be available after the new final compliance date of August 01, 2021

Reasonable Accommodation (RA) Requests



- Bixal follows Americans with Disabilities Act ([ADA](#)) guidelines
- Bixal needs 30 days to review RA requests & schedule accommodations
- Please contact Bixal for an RA request before you schedule your exam date
- Requests are submitted through Bixal [tech support](#)

Certification Tips For Agency Managers



- Complete FHA Connection Registration
- Be aware of your counselor's engagement in the certification process
- Make time available for counselors to study, attend trainings, take the exam & apply for certification
- Understand how housing counselor certification affects your agency
- Review [HUD's best practices](#) & lessons learned

Rental Housing Counseling Communities of Practice



- HUD is seeking to a work with agencies focused on rental eviction counseling
- HUD will be working with ICF and volunteer HCA's
- HUD's goals are to better assist clients and agencies, identify your best practices and challenges, improve HUD's policy guidance and create TA tools and products

Disaster Housing Counseling



- Disasters are frequent and ongoing
- Housing Counseling plays an important role
- CDBG-DR funds are available - connect with local communities to access
- Visit the HUD Exchange to view [Housing Counseling Disaster Recovery and Emergency Preparedness Resources](#)

FY 2020 HUD Training Resources



- Training NOFA provides \$2.5 million in funding to 5 grantees
- NeighborWorks, National Community Reinvestment Coalition, Unidos US, Neighborhood Stabilization Corporation/Housing Action Illinois & Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- Virtual training, scholarships

FY 2020 HUD Training Resources



Visit the [HUD Exchange](#) for:

- Training digest (scholarships)
- Toolkits
- Live and Archived Webinars
- Self paced online learning
- Pamphlets, brochures, and posters
- Research papers and 9902 Data Dashboard
- The Bridge Newsletter

Housing Counseling Federal Advisory Committee (HCFAC)



Visit the [HUD Exchange](#) for updates, meeting information and reports

- HUD is currently evaluating applications for new committee members
- HUD seeks to fill 6 vacancies on the 8 member HCFAC. New members will represent the mortgage industry, real estate industry, consumers, and HCAs.
- Solicitation closed on 07/29/20

Q and A

Remaining Conference Sessions

- September 16th
 - 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Partnering with the Financial Literacy Education Commission (FLEC)
- September 23rd
 - 1:00 – 3:00 PM: COVID-19 Lessons Learned and Beneficial Resources
- September 24th
 - 2:00 – 3:00 PM: Connecting EnVision Centers and Housing Counseling Agencies
- Visit our conference site for materials, bios, etc.
 - <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/2020-virtual-intermediary-conference/>

Please let us know your feedback on this session!

**Time for
Mentimeter!**

