

FAQS for Housing Counseling Training Grant NOFA 3/15/2016

What is the purpose of the Housing Counseling Training Grant (HCTG) NOFA?

- This HCTG NOFA funding is to support training of housing counselors to improve and standardize the quality of housing counseling. The training is to be accessible to all counselors nationwide.
- This HCTG NOFA supports both:
 - General housing counseling training; and
 - Training in specialized topics

Who is eligible to apply for a Housing Counseling Training Grant?

- Eligible applicants are public or private non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental organizations with at least two years of experience providing housing counseling training services nationwide.

Can the nationwide training be restricted to an agency's network members?

- Neither past or proposed nationwide training nor scholarships may be restricted to Affiliates or Branches of a specific Intermediary or Participating Agency, or conducted in a way that an advantage to Affiliates or Branches of a particular organization.

Are Local Housing Counseling Agencies excluded from applying for HCTG NOFA funding?

- No, a Local Housing Counseling Agency is not excluded. However, a Local Housing Counseling Agency must have the necessary two years of experience providing housing counseling training services nationwide.

What are Training Partners?

- Training Partners are agencies and organizations that have at least two years of experience providing housing counseling training services to housing counselors employed by housing counseling agencies participating in HUD's Housing Counseling Program. Training Partners may be governmental agencies, 501(c)(3) private and public organizations or for-profit organizations
- This HCTG NOFA emphasizes the use of training partnerships with local and state-wide organizations to provide additional place based training on state and local issues.

Can an applicant partner with another entity to meet the requirement for two years of experience providing nationwide training to counselors?

- No, the Applicant itself must have the required two years of experience providing training on a nationwide basis.

Who can the Applicant utilize to provide the training identified in their proposed plan?

- The Applicant may utilize in-house staff, Sub-grantees, Training Partners, qualified third-party trainers, and consultants with requisite experience and capacity to provide the training.

What information does an Applicant, which did not receive a HCTG NOF funding previously, need to provide to explain their training experience?

- Applicants who have not received a HCTG funding in the past will be asked to provide narratives in each Rating Factor, explaining how their training program meets the requirements of the HCTG NOFA.
- The Applicant should base its response on training activities and requirements under HUD's Housing Counseling Program, other HUD grants, or other sources of funding, such as other federal, state, local, or other funding sources.
- The application will be evaluated on the information provided by the Applicant in the narratives.

What does a training scholarship cover under the HCTG NOFA?

- A scholarship can cover the full or partial costs for the training, including travel, lodging, and tuition.
- Scholarships are to be awarded only to housing counselors employed by a HUD Participating Agency.

Regarding the NOFA Priority: Staff Training (Rating Factor 2 – SF.b.1) - Does this pertain to the Applicant's own staff, or does it pertain to training staff from HUD-approved counseling agencies?

- Applicants that are HUD Participating Agencies must show that the agency is providing training to both their training staff and the counseling staffs on the topics of fair housing and civil rights requirements thereby counselors are better able to provide housing counseling clients with information about their fair housing requirements.