

Notice of Funding Availability for
HUD's FY 2016 and 2017 Comprehensive Housing Counseling Program NOFA

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: My organization is interested in applying for funds for grant funding under the Housing Counseling Program NOFA. This will be our first application. How are the grant funds allocated? Does the use of grant funds cover any and all aspects of counseling (pre, post, foreclosure prevention)?

Answer: All housing counseling agencies (including LHCA's, Intermediaries and MSOs) approved by HUD to participate in the Housing Counseling Program along with State Housing Finance Agencies (SHFA) are eligible to apply for this grant funding under the NOFA. Please see "Section II. Award Information" of FY 2016 and 2017 Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant Program NOFA for information on how funds are allocated. Grantees and sub-grantees will be reimbursed only for the applicable activities outlined in "Section III.C.1. Eligible Activities" of the FY 2016-2017 NOFA. Eligible activities under this NOFA include the full spectrum of housing counseling activities as stated in the NOFA including, but not limited to, Pre-Purchase; Foreclosure Prevention; Reverse Mortgage; Non-delinquency Post Purchase; Rental and Homeless Counseling and Education. Prospective applicants should also review HUD's 2016 General Section to the NOFAs for Discretionary Programs.

Question: My organization is interested in this grant opportunity. How do we apply?

Answer: Prospective applicants should review the Housing Counseling Program NOFA and the General Sections to the NOFAs for Discretionary Programs before submitting an application. Organizations must submit applications online at Grants.gov. Individuals who plan to submit grant applications on behalf of an Organization must register at Grants.gov and be the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) in SAM in order to submit an application. The Grants.gov registration involves several steps, and the process may take a few weeks to complete if any issues need to be resolved. Complete registration instructions and guidance are provided on the Grants.gov website.

Applicants must download both the Application Instructions and the Application Package from Grants.gov. Please verify that you are submitting an application for the correct funding opportunity as applications will only be considered for the competition indicated on the submission. Only applications received by Grants.gov on or before the deadline will be considered timely submissions eligible for consideration.

Applications received after the deadline will be deemed ineligible for further consideration and shall not be reviewed.

Question: Will HUD-approved Intermediaries that are funded through the FY 2016-2017 NOFA be able to make changes to their sub-grantee list?

Answer: Yes, Intermediaries will be able to make changes to their sub-grantee list after awards are made by submitting a written request and detailed justification to HUD. Such amendments are required and are subject to HUD approval.

Question: Are non HUD-approved housing counseling agencies eligible to apply for funding under the Housing Counseling Program NOFA?

Answer: No. Housing Counseling agencies that have not received HUD approval but meet the Housing Counseling Program eligibility criteria set forth at 24 C.F.R. Part 214 are encouraged to affiliate with a HUD-approved Intermediary or SHFA to receive subgrant funding. However, all housing counseling agencies (including LHCAs, Intermediaries and MSOs) that are directly approved by HUD to participate in the HUD Housing Counseling Program prior to the NOFA issue date and SHFAs are eligible to apply for funding under the Housing Counseling Program NOFA.

Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship organizations are not eligible to apply for or receive awards made under the Housing Counseling Program NOFA.

Question: I am having an issue with the Grants.gov system. Who can I contact for assistance?

Answer: Grants.gov offers customer support 24 hours a day, seven days per week, except on Federal holidays. Applicants may call the following toll-free number, 1-800-518-GRANTS, or send an email to Support@Grants.gov. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who have speech disabilities, may contact customer support through the Federal Relay Service's teletype service at 1-800-877-8339.