

How Can Housing Counseling Agencies Partner with Minority Serving Institutions?

The FY 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is providing funding to housing counseling agencies (HCAs) that demonstrate partnerships with Minority Serving institutions (MSIs). This fact sheet provides more information about the funding available and tips for HCAs looking to partner.

NOFO Language

Description: HUD will provide \$3,000,000 of the approximately \$51,000,000 to eligible HUD-approved HCAs that demonstrate their status as a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) or other MSI and/or to HUD-approved HCAs partnering with HBCUs and MSIs.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants requesting funds must:

1. Submit evidence of the college or university's status as an HBCU/MSI.
2. Submit a letter certifying that a partnership is in place or that there is an intent to enter a partnership.
3. The letter must be signed by the Applicant and an authorizing official of the HBCU or other MSI.

An eligible Applicant can request up to \$250,000 as an HBCU or other MSI, or for its partnership (and/or partnership of a subgrantee) with an HBCU or other MSI. An Applicant can also request up to \$150,000 for each additional partnership (and/or partnership of a subgrantee) with an HBCU or other MSI. **For additional information on application submission requirements see [pages 35-36 of the NOFO](#).**

Benefits for HCAs Partnering with MSIs

There are a number of benefits from this partnership – to the college or university, to the housing counseling agency, and to the entire community. The following are just a few reasons to partner:

- Creates direct access point to a pool of clients who need education and housing counseling services (e.g., students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and the surrounding community)
- Addresses the history of racial inequity in housing and academic programming
- Creates a pipeline of future homeowners
- Establishes a foundation for generational wealth building among people of color

Types of Partnerships

Partnerships can be structured using a variety of approaches. Here are three examples of the types of partnerships some HCAs have created:

- (1) Services that elevate MSI students' financial skills and teaches them about money management, and the importance of maintaining good credit and wealth building.
- (2) Programs that offer renter and/or homebuyer education and counseling specifically to MSI staff, students, and the surrounding community.
- (3) Internships or practicums that expose students to housing counseling fundamentals with a goal of recruiting new housing counselors to the workforce.



What is an MSI?

A federally recognized Title IV college or university – based on either historical origin or the percentage of enrolled minorities at a particular institution. HBCUs and Tribal Colleges are just two types among the total of seven different categories of MSIs. Online searchable databases are available from the [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#) and the [U.S. Department of Education](#).

Additional Resources

- [Office of Civil Rights: Minority Serving Institutions Program](#)
- [Housing Counseling Webinar: HBCU and Other MSI Partnerships](#)
- [What is an HBCU? | White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities \(ed.gov\)](#)