



## Information Sheet for the Public on the Housing Counseling Federal Advisory Committee and Application for Membership

In 2010, recognizing the importance of HUD's Housing Counseling Program, Congress passed the "Expand and Preserve Homeownership through Counseling Act" (Act), establishing the Office of Housing Counseling (OHC). The Act mandates the Secretary appoint an advisory committee, the Housing Counseling Federal Advisory Committee (HCFAC), to provide advice to the Deputy Assistant Secretary to carry out the functions of the Office of Housing Counseling.

Since 1968, HUD has supported a network of independent housing counseling agencies. This strong network has approximately 1,700 HUD-approved housing counseling agencies and nearly 5,000 housing counselors. The purpose of housing counseling is to assist homeowners and renters in improving their housing conditions and meeting the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership. HUD's Housing Counseling Program includes a wide variety of services for homebuyers, homeowners, renters, and those at risk of homelessness. In 2019, HUD housing counselors assisted over 1 million families to overcome barriers to housing and achieve their housing goals. In addition to making grant funding available, OHC develops standards for housing counseling and monitors the performance of the housing counseling agencies.

The Charter establishing the HCFAC was approved by GSA March 2014, and a Federal Register Notice announcing the establishment of the HCFAC was published April 15, 2015. The HCFAC provides a forum for those involved in housing counseling to offer advice directly to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for OHC on a regular basis. The HCFAC is to have no role in reviewing or awarding housing counseling grants and procurements. To ensure input from stakeholders and other entities, the HCFAC will not be the sole source of advice to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Housing Counseling. OHC benefits from the experience and perspective of housing industry experts, housing counseling agencies, and consumers.

The HCFAC will consist of eight members, appointed by the Secretary, equally representing the mortgage industry, the real estate industry, consumers, and HUD-approved housing counseling agencies. There are currently six vacancies on the HCFAC. HUD is soliciting applications for membership on the HCFAC to fill those vacancies.

Applications must be submitted using the HUD-90005, and must be completed in full. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Nominations may be made by agency officials, members of Congress, the general public, professional organizations, and the nominee. The selection of members is based on candidates' experiences, skills and knowledge which will contribute to the accomplishment of HCFAC's objectives. HCFAC membership will be balanced to include a broad representation of geographic areas within the U.S., with representation of gender, ethnic, racial minorities, and persons with disabilities. Nominees must be U.S. citizens, and cannot be full-time employees of the U.S. Government. No person who is a federally registered lobbyist may serve on HCFAC. Members provide their expert advice as an individual not as a representative of their employer



## OFFICE OF HOUSING COUNSELING

Potential outcomes of the HCFAC may be:

- Identification of opportunities to expand visibility for and access to HUD housing counseling programs
- Development of innovative public and private housing counseling programs
- Identification of current and emerging needs for housing counseling
- Development of metrics to ensure the HUD program results in quality housing counseling delivery and a healthy housing counseling industry

The estimated number of meetings during a fiscal year is two and at other intervals as needed to render advice to OHC. The meetings will be held in person or virtually. The meetings are open to the public unless prior notice has been provided for a closed meeting. Regular attendance is essential to the effective operation of HCFAC.

Members of the Committee shall serve without pay but shall receive travel expenses including per diem in lieu of subsistence as authorized by 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

Members of the HCFAC shall be evaluated by HUD prior to appointment. HUD will identify applicants most likely to meet the objectives of the HCFAC as a result of their experiences, skills and knowledge. The evaluation will assure HUD no conflict of interest or financial relationships exists. Information related to the review will be kept confidential. Selected members, as Special Government Employees, will be required to complete a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report.

Nominations must use the PDF fillable HUD-90005 and submitted via email to [HCFAC.application@hud.gov](mailto:HCFAC.application@hud.gov).

For more information on the HCFAC and the application form, please visit:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/housing-counseling/federal-advisory-committee/>