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Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:55 AM
To: 'SF-HOUSING-COUNSELING-L@hudlist.hud.gov' (SF-HOUSING-COUNSELING-L@hudlist.hud.gov)
Subject: USDA/RHS Section 502 Loan Packaging News and Training for Housing Counselors

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USDA/RHS Section 502 Loan Packaging News and Training for Housing Counselors:

1. USDA/RHS Section 502 Loan Packaging News:

On April 29, 2015 the USDA Rural Housing Service (RHS) published a [final rule for Section 502 loan packaging](#). RHS had previously published a proposed rule on August 23, 2013, to amend its regulations for the section 502 direct single family housing loan program and create a certified loan application packaging process. This final rule incorporates revisions based on a series of public comments and the results of the pilot program which RHS began in 2010 designed to test changes to the loan application process. It will also impose experience, training, structure and performance requirements on eligible service providers and regulate the allowed packaging fee. RHS hopes that:

"By establishing a vast network of competent, experienced, and committed Agency-certified packagers, this action is intended to benefit low- and very low-income people who wish to achieve homeownership in rural areas by increasing their awareness of the Agency's housing program, increasing specialized support available to them to complete the application for assistance, and improving the quality of loan application packages submitted on their behalf."

Non-profits and Intermediaries who meet RHS program qualification may receive funds for packaging applications for RHS 502 Direct loans. A recent (RHS) Stakeholder Call discussed changes and implementation of the loan application packaging process. [View the presentation](#). Please subscribe to the [RHS listserv](#) for further program news, including Q & A's on 502 loan packaging as they are developed.

For additional information on RHS application packaging, contact Brooke Baumann, Branch Chief, Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division, USDA Rural Development, Telephone: 202-690-4250. Email: brooke.baumann@wdc.usda.gov

- 2. September 01- 03, 2015, Bismarck, ND: Section 502 Direct Loan Application Packaging Training:** For several years now, Rural Development has been partnering with the Housing Assistance Council, NeighborWorks, and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation to provide Section 502 direct loan application packaging training.

This three-day course provides a review of the Section 502 direct loan program and the regulations/laws that govern the program; a detailed discussion on the program's application process and borrower/property eligibility requirements; an examination of the Agency's loan underwriting process which includes the use of payment subsidies; and the roles and responsibilities of a loan application packager and the Agency staff.

This course is targeted to individuals working for housing nonprofits and public agencies that are interested in packaging direct loan applications and who have experience in housing loan origination and/or housing counseling. [Register on-line.](#)

HUD-OHC Listserv Bulk subscriptions:

Some housing counselors have asked, "How do I sign up my entire agency staff for HUD Office of Housing Counseling (HUD-OHC) listserv updates?" It is easy... Just list your staff email addresses like this:

aaa@xyz.com
bbb@xyz.com
ccc@xyz.com

You can send in one email address or your entire agency. Then [Email your list](#) to HUD-OHC. If you have a housing counseling industry friend who you want to subscribe to this listserv, there are 2 other ways to sign up: Send them this [link](#) or forward them this email.

Some Helpful Links for Housing Counselors:

- [Email Technical Support for Housing Counselors](#)
- [HUD Housing Counseling Webpage](#)

- [The Bridge Housing Counseling Newsletter Archive](#)
 - [Housing Counseling Listserv Archive](#)
 - [OHC Webinar Archive](#)
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Thank you!!!!