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Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 7:40 AM
To: 'SF-HOUSING-COUNSELING-L@hudlist.hud.gov'
Subject: Notice to Housing Counseling Agencies on the Government Shutdown

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Notice to Housing Counseling Agencies on the Government Shutdown:

As you may know, the Federal government's spending authority expired at midnight, Monday September 30, 2013. Therefore most HUD programs have been temporarily interrupted and most HUD employees have been told they cannot work. Like all Federal agencies, HUD is required to develop a plan in case there is a lapse in appropriations, often referred to as a government shutdown.

Now that the government shutdown has occurred, HUD is beginning to implement that plan. The plan is a publicly available document and it is posted on HUD's website at: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=HUDContingencyPlan2013.pdf>

Below are several Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to the government shutdown that the Office of Housing Counseling has prepared for all program participants:

Q: Will the Housing Counseling System (HC) be available to HUD-approved agencies?

A: The Housing Counseling System (HCS) will not be available. Consequently, counseling agencies will be unable to update agency profile information, submit activity data, or otherwise utilize the functionality in HCS. Once HCS back online, FHA will require all counseling agencies to submit activity data for the shutdown period retroactively.

Q: Will clients be able to utilize Housing Counseling search engines?

A: The www.hud.gov website will be available in "Maintenance Mode" only. This means that www.hud.gov will be up but there will be no updates made to pages on the site. As a result, HUD's website housing counseling search functionality, and similarly HUD's toll free number to search for counseling services, will still be available to households seeking counseling services. However, with HCS down, the data behind the search functionality will not be updated.

Q: Will HUD-approved agencies be able to access HUD grant funds through the LOCCS System?

A: While the LOCCS system should be functioning, there will be no HUD staff available to approve requests for disbursements. Consequently, no grant disbursements will occur during a shut down.

Q: Will the “Housing Counseling Industry Conference Call on The Housing Counseling Program proposed rule and FHA Mortgagee Letter 2013-26 - Back to Work” previously scheduled for Friday, October 4, 2013 at 2:30PM Eastern Time still occur as scheduled?

A: During the government shut down all previously scheduled HUD conference calls, training and outreach events are cancelled. These will be rescheduled once the government reopens.

Please visit the HUD website at www.hud.gov for further updates.

Bulk subscriptions:

Some housing counselors have asked, "How do I sign up my entire agency staff for housing counseling 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. Email your list to: jerrold.h.mayer@hud.gov

If you have a housing counseling industry friend who you want to subscribe to this listserv, there are 3 other ways to sign up: 1. send them this link: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/sfh/hcc/ohc_listserv they can sign up for the listserv there; or 2: forward them this email; or 3: Visit: <http://www.usa.gov> and subscribe at: <http://apps.gsa.gov/FirstGovCommonSubscriptionService.php> To unsubscribe - go to: <http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/subscribe/maillinglist> and click on "Housing Counseling" and follow the unsubscribe instructions on that page.

Some Helpful Links for Housing Counselors:

Technical support for Housing Counselors is available via email at: housing.counseling@hud.gov

HUD Housing Counseling webpage: www.hud.gov/housingcounseling

“The Bridge” is the HUD Office of Housing Counseling Newsletter; read archived issues on-line at:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/sfh/hcc/ohc_bridge

Housing Counseling Listserv archive:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/sfh/hcc/ohc_msg

Events & Training Calendar:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?mode=disppage&id=OHC_TRAINING

Contracting Opportunities:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/program_offices/cpo

Career Opportunities: <http://www.usajobs.gov>

Grant Opportunities:

http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/program_offices/administration/grants/fund_savail

Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/sfh/nsc/disaster

Foreclosure Assistance:

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/i_want_to/talk_to_a_housing_counselor

Making Home Affordable: <http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov/pages/default.aspx>

Freddie Mac Housing Professionals Resource

Center: <http://www.freddiemac.com/corporate/housingpros/>

This list will often provide training opportunities and event announcements for non-profit and local government HUD Housing Counseling partners. HUD does not endorse the organizations sponsoring linked websites, and we do not endorse the views they express or the products/services they or their community/business partners offer. For more information on HUD's web policies please visit:

<http://www.hud.gov/assist/webpolicies.cfm>

Thank you!!!!