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Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 12:51 PM
To: 'SF-HOUSING-COUNSELING-L@hudlist.hud.gov'
Subject: Message on Tax Preparation from the CFPB for Housing Counselors

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Please see this message on Tax Preparation from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) for Housing Counselors:

“Good afternoon,

During the 2015 tax season, CFPB is providing tools and training for providers of free tax preparation services, to help them talk to consumers about saving part of their refund and the benefits of saving. If your organization helps with free tax preparation, CFPB welcomes you to join! Our goal is to help taxpayers build savings from their tax refunds. Having a savings cushion provides more financial stability and security, especially for consumers who have limited income or are economically vulnerable.

CFPB has created a set of materials for use at your VITA site. And, CFPB is offering training webinars to show how to use them during tax season. Please help yourself to the tools listed below—they’re designed to be easy to download and print.

- [Checklist](#) to send in advance to help taxpayers prepare for their tax appointment
- [Checklist](#) to hand out at the VITA site to help taxpayers have brought all their information with them
- [Worksheet](#) to help taxpayers decide how much to save
- [Handout](#) and [table tent](#) describing convenient ways to save from a tax refund
- [Web banner](#) and [share graphic](#) for posting on your organization’s Web site and social media
- [Poster 1](#), [Poster 2](#), and [Small Poster](#) encouraging taxpayers to consider saving

Limited quantities of the large poster will be available for shipping to your site. To order posters, please send a note to empowerment@cfpb.gov with “Tax Time Poster” in your subject line.

To support you in using these materials and helping your volunteers and staff talk to taxpayers about savings, CFPB is offering a one-hour webinar at two different times before tax season starts. Site coordinators, tax time volunteers, and other support staff are welcome to participate. CFPB will talk about how important it is to offer a savings opportunity to every taxpayer, and tips for making those conversations more successful. Please register now:

- [Friday, January 9, from 2 – 3 p.m. ET](#)
- [Tuesday, January 13, from 3 – 4 p.m. ET](#)

CFPB is looking forward to supporting your great work during tax season!

Thank you,
David Sieminski
The Office of Financial Empowerment
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

P.S. If you're not part of the VITA community, we'd just like to remind you that these sites provide free tax help to taxpayers with income of \$53,000 or less, as well as persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited-English-speaking taxpayers who need help preparing their tax returns. Click [here](#) to find a site in your area."

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](#)
- [Events & Training Calendar](#)
- [Contracting Opportunities](#)
- [Career Opportunities](#)
- [Grant Opportunities](#)
- [Disaster Recovery Resources](#)
- [Foreclosure Assistance](#)

- [Making Home Affordable](#)
 - [FHA Resource Center](#)
 - [Index of HUD Listserv Mailing Lists](#)
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Disclaimer: This list will often provide training opportunities, event notifications and other announcements for non-profit and 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 partner's offer. For more information please see [HUD's web policies](#)

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Thank you!!!!