

From: Housing.Counseling
Sent: Wednesday, July 01, 2009 10:38 AM
To: 'SF-HOUSING-COUNSELING-L@hudlist.hud.gov'
Subject: HUD - HECM Standardization and Roster Final Rule

To: HUD Approved HECM Counseling Agencies

The Department of Housing and Urban Development will publish the HECM Standardization and Roster Final Rule in the Federal Register in the near future. The rule will go into effect 30 days after the publication date in the Federal Register. This rule provides that only counselors appearing on the HECM Roster will be eligible to perform HECM counseling.

To be eligible to be on the Roster the counselor must:

- 1) Be employed by a HUD-approved housing counseling agency or affiliate of a HUD-approved intermediary or state housing finance agency
- 2) Have successfully passed a standardized HECM counseling exam administered by HUD or a party selected by HUD, within the last three years. In order to maintain eligibility, a counselor must successfully pass a standardized HECM counseling exam every three years
- 3) Have received training and education related to HECMs within the prior two years. In order to maintain eligibility, a counselor must complete continuing education every two years.
- 4) Have access to and is supported by technology that enables HUD to track the results of the counseling offered to each client
- 5) Not be listed on:
 - i) The General Services Administration's Suspension and Debarment List;
 - ii) HUD's Limited Denial of Participation List; or
 - iii) HUD's Credit Alert Interactive Response System

The following training opportunities are available through NeighborWorks in the next two months:

HO111 Home Equity Conversion Mortgages - Basic/Fundamental Level Training
- 2-day classroom course

This basic training from national experts in an interactive, fun environment covers everything you always wanted to know about reverse mortgages for older homeowners. Understand products and programs, analyze plans, compare costs and benefits, and identify alternatives. You will review counseling skills and ethics. Includes provocative case studies and hands-on access to product-comparison software and valuable Web-based resources. Appropriate for housing counselors and other housing, finance or nonprofit professionals new to the reverse mortgage field.

HO335 Home Equity Conversion Mortgages Advanced Level Training

This one-day course is for counselors who already have experience providing HECM or other reverse mortgage product counseling. Participants will learn advanced level counseling techniques and work through case studies. This course will also help better prepare counselors from HUD approved agencies who want to pursue certification as a HECM counselor.

Both of these HECM courses will be offered at the remaining HUD multi-course trainings (Denver week of July 20-24 and Philadelphia week of August 3-7). Both courses will also be offered at the Chicago NTI, August 17-21st. NFCC is sponsoring a place-based training (PBT) for their affiliates in September.

We are looking into increasing the number of scholarships for the above 3 HUD courses and perhaps even add a 2nd section where possible. We may also look at adding a stand-alone PBT as needed - August/September.

In addition to this, HUD will be hosting several webinars/conference calls that will provide training on the new HECM Counseling Protocol and will be considered eligible training for the purposes of applying to the HECM Counselor Roster. More information will be available about these sessions soon.

Please provide HUD with information on any HECM training offered by your state housing finance agencies or other non-profit or governmental organizations. We will review these and make a determination as to their acceptability for meeting the Roster training requirement. Please submit this information to housing.counseling@hud.gov

This message has gone out to the email addresses provided by all active HECM Counseling agencies in HUD's Housing Counseling Program. All Parent Agencies should make sure their sub-agencies have received this information. Please direct questions or comments to your HUD point of contact or email Housing.Counseling@hud.gov

Sincerely,

Ruth Román
Director, Program Support Division
Office of Single Family Housing
Department of Housing and Urban Development