

Quarterly Review Newsletter

FLORIDA NON-PROFIT HOUSING, INC.



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HUD Offers \$43 Million to Support Housing Counseling

June is National Homeownership Month, a time to recognize the importance of homeownership to the U.S. economy and the benefits owning a home have on building household wealth for families. To support stable and sustainable homeownership, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced on May 31, 2019 that it is making \$43 million in grants available to support hundreds of housing counseling organizations across the country.

HUD-approved housing counseling agencies will use these grant funds to support a broad array of counseling services to help individuals and families find and keep their homes, including:

those seeking to buy their first home; searching for affordable rental housing; or households trying to avoid foreclosure or eviction. Read HUD's new funding announcement.

"HUD-approved housing counselors can make all the difference in helping families find and keep stable housing," said HUD Secretary Ben Carson. "Research demonstrates that housing counseling helps people make informed housing choices and can be the best preventative medicine to avoid housing problems down the road."

HUD estimates that every federal dollar invested in housing counseling stimulates six dollars from other state and local sources. Working through a network of more than 1,700 approved counseling agencies, it is expected that more than one million households will receive the counseling services they need. Read more about the services offered through HUD's Housing Counseling Grant Programs.

In addition to the comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant funding, HUD will also make an additional \$2.5 million dollars available through its Housing Counseling Training Grant Program to support basic and specialized housing counseling training for housing counseling agencies.

HUD-approved housing counseling agencies help homebuyers evaluate if they are ready to buy a house, understand their financing and down payment options, help families find affordable rental housing, navigate through issues associated with Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs), and offer financial literacy training to help struggling families repair credit problems.

There are many ways to find a HUD-approved housing counseling agency. Visit HUD's website or call (800) 569-4287 for our interactive telephone directory.

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The Critical Path Construction Schedule

The Critical Path Construction Schedule created by your organization is one of the most important systems in the Mutual Self-Help Program. The schedule is a snapshot of the construction progress, timeframes, subcontractor tasks, family tasks and revisions when necessary.



At times it appears that the Construction Schedule is an afterthought to Grantees. The schedule is a great time management tool for staff and families. The dates and tasks in the schedule allow everyone to be prepared for the next step during the construction process. Use the time wisely by reminding your subcontractors that they are scheduled to start/complete a task on the construction site on or by a specific date.

Conduct meetings daily and/or weekly so that families will know their labor tasks for the day and/or week. When necessary, call the families if there are changes

regarding their labor task.

Revisions to the Construction Schedule are critical. Make necessary changes to dates, family labor task, subcontractor tasks and suppliers as soon as possible. The Grantee staff needs to be aware of changes to the schedule and adjust accordingly, depending on their self-help responsibilities.

The Critical Path Construction Schedule can make your program or break it. Time management, family meetings, staff meetings, ordering from vendors/suppliers and subcontractor schedules are not included in your Critical Path Construction Schedule. However, these undocumented aspects will prove to be valuable tools if you use them wisely.

GOOD LUCK!!!

Homes In Partnership, Inc. (HIP) located in Eustis, Florida has submitted a new grant in the amount of \$2,310,000. HIP will help 78 families to build new homes in Lake, Orange and Sumter Counties, Florida.

Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) in Hendersonville, North Carolina has submitted a new grant application to construct Self-Help homes in Polk and Transylvania Counties. HAC will assist eight families using \$300,000 in grant funds.

SELF-HELP SPOTLIGHT

Take advantage of the Self-Help Spotlight. Efforts continue to provide current information in a user-friendly format. Visit the Spotlight at:
<https://www.selfhelphousingspotlight.org>

Update your agency's information, visit other grantee's profile and take the opportunity to network and share ideas. The Spotlight now has a SSL certificate to ensure that the site remains secure. Please note that the URL now begins with "https:" instead of "http:" The "s" symbolizes that the site is secure. This is primarily to encrypt information sent over the website, such as a contact form. However, the biggest benefit for all grantees is that the site should now rank higher in search results. The website now has a Google Translate button. This bright orange translate button is at the bottom corner of the site. The button translates all text between English and Spanish.

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IMPORTANT REMINDER: The Due Date for HUD's FY 2019 Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant Program NOFA is July 01, 2019. Remember that electronically submitted applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on this date. HUD encourages applicants to submit their NOFA applications well in advance of the due date.

Please Register for HUD's Webinar for FY2019 NOFA Applicants on the Housing Counseling Comprehensive Grant:

- June 11, 2019 - Webinar: How to Apply for a Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant: This free webinar will help applicants understand the FY19 housing counseling training grant NOFA application process. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. Register today to reserve your place.

NOFA for HUD's Fiscal Year 2019 Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant Program:

- Program Office: HUD Office of Housing Counseling
- Funding Opportunity Title: Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Department's Fiscal Year 2019 Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant Program
- Announcement Type: Grant
- Funding Opportunity Number: FR-6300-N-33
- Primary CFDA Number: 14.169
- Due Date for Applications: July 01, 2019

This NOFA provides information and instructions for the FY 2019 Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant Program. Applicants must comply with threshold requirements, as well as statutory and regulatory requirements established in this NOFA, and all Housing Counseling Program requirements. See Section III of the NOFA for additional eligibility requirements.

HUD encourages activities in Opportunity Zone communities. HUD will award preference points for applicants located in an Opportunity Zone. To view the list of designated Opportunity Zones, please see the following link on the U.S. Department of the Treasury website.

Please visit www.grants.gov to view the FY 2019 Housing Counseling NOFA and submit your agency's application.

USDA Celebrates National Homeownership Month

Activities and events are scheduled across the nation to spotlight USDA's efforts to help families in rural communities achieve prosperity through homeownership. Here are some events in the southeast region.

Sowing Seeds of Hope, Marion, AL: Had a Showcase Tour of the homes built by their agency on Friday, June 7, 2019 with fifty plus in attendance. The group visited the new homes and some of the previous homes. It was well received by the community with positive feedback. Mr. Gordon was present along with Mr. Stewart from Congresswoman Sewell's office. – Frances Ford

Homes In Partnership, Inc. Eustis, FL: National Homeownership Month. June 14, 2019, they conducted a day of Volunteering 3629 Citrus Farms Drive Astatula, FL 34705. – Toby Best

Florida Home Partnership, Ruskin, FL: National Homeownership Month – Celebrating Affordability! June 28, 2019 10am – 1pm. RSVP Required. info@flhome.org

Big Tent Event: Featuring State & Local Housing Official, Community Organizations, Construction Site Visits, Free Refreshments.

Community Resources: Celebrating with Housing Education and Building Partners, Community Nonprofits, Social Services and More!

ICF Building Display: Presentation of Innovative Energy Efficient Building Materials.
14th Ave SE & 6th St SE, Ruskin, FL – Mike Morina

Success Stories

FNPH continues to be interested in our grantees contributing stories regarding the success of the families in your programs. We are certain all grantees are proud of the families they work with and we would like to spotlight them for all to see. Please submit your stories of the journey to homeownership of one, two, or a few of your families, a photo and authorization to FNPH. For more information or a submission, please email Tara Rogers at trogers@fnph.org.

USDA Appoints Rural Housing Service Administrator

Acting Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Joel Baxley today announced the appointment of Bruce Lammers as the Administrator of Rural Development's Rural Housing Service.

"Public-private partnerships are essential to increasing access to capital and building prosperity in rural America," Baxley said. "Lammers has been a long-time leader in government-guaranteed lending, and this important perspective will help USDA Rural Development be a stronger, more innovative partner with private, community-focused lending institutions across the country."

Lammers comes to USDA with more than 35 years of experience leading public-private partnerships at national community-oriented lending institutions. Since 2016, he has served as president of a specialized government-guaranteed lending division of Byline Bank. Prior to this, Lammers was chairman and CEO of Ridgestone Bank, a national leader in government-guaranteed lending before being acquired by Byline Bank in 2016. Lammers has served as a board member of many community organizations, including the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders (NAGGL). Lammers looks forward to enhancing his focus on economic development in small towns across America in his new role.

This leadership change is effective May 28, 2019. USDA Rural Development encourages partners and stakeholder groups to reach out to Lammers in his new role to build on existing partnerships and facilitate new relationships.

Courtesy of usda.gov, Press Release-May 28, 2019