

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Housing Counseling
Agency Performance Review**
Of a HUD-Approved Housing Counseling Agency or Participating Agency

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 9.5 hours per initial response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions to reduce this burden, to the Reports Management Officer, Paperwork Reduction Project, to the Office of Information Technology, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410-3600. When providing comments, please refer to OMB Approval No. 2502-0574. This agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless that collection displays a valid OMB control number.

The following information is used to assist HUD in evaluating the managerial and financial capacity of organizations to sustain operations sufficient to implement HUD approved housing counseling programs. The information is required under 24 CFR 214 subpart D. The collection of information assists HUD in reducing its own risk from fraudulent activities or supporting inefficient or ineffective housing counseling programs. HUD publishes a web list of HUD approved Housing Counseling Agencies and maintains a toll-free housing counseling hotline. Performance reviews help HUD ensure that individuals seeking assistance from these participating agencies can have confidence in the quality of services that they will receive. This information is collected in connection with the HUD Housing Counseling Program and will be used by HUD to evaluate participating agency compliance with programmatic requirements. The information will not be held confidential.

NOTE: Part A will be completed by the HUD Reviewer, based on housing counseling agency performance, and Part B and C (if applicable) will be completed by the housing counseling agency. The agency will self-certify the responses and are subject to verification. HUD may, at its discretion, request clarification or additional information from an agency. The agency may consult with HUD to determine the specific actions needed to complete the form.

Agency Name:	HCS ID Number:

Address:

Name of Parent Agency, if Applicable:	Parent ID Number, if Applicable:

Reviewer(s):	Review Date:

Onsite Review	Desk Review

INSTRUCTIONS: Use this form to record the results of the Performance Review. Check the “Yes,” “No” or “N/A” box for each applicable question.

TO SUPPORT ANSWERS, PROVIDE DETAILED COMMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION, IF APPLICABLE. Housing Counseling Agencies are responsible for the requirements outlined in Parts A and B, and C, if applicable. Housing Counseling Agencies and HUD Reviewers are recommended to review Handbook 7610.1 REV 5, 24 CFR Part 214, and information on HUD’s Website at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/housing/sfh/hcc/hcc_home, in support of the most current legislative and programmatic requirements for the Department’s Housing Counseling Program.

PART A – Complete by HUD Reviewer(s)
PART B – Complete by Housing Counseling Agency, self-certified by Representative of the Housing Counseling Agency
PART C – Complete by Housing Counseling Agency, self-certified by Representative of the Housing Counseling Agency, (if applicable).

Part A – Complete by HUD Reviewer

GRANT MANAGEMENT		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
1	Did the agency receive HUD Housing Counseling grants or sub-grants since the last performance review? If yes, answer the questions in this section. If no, proceed to question number 7.				
2	Does the agency have adequate billing procedures in place so that it only bills HUD under a grant agreement for the cost of services in excess of the costs billed to other funding sources or fees charged to the client?				
3	Is the agency maintaining personnel activity reports in compliance with 2 CFR 200.430(i)? Provide supporting documentation.				
4	Does the source documentation show that reimbursed costs are actual and proper? If no, list the questioned costs and reason for possible exclusion in the comments box.				
5	Do the agency’s client notes and/or other documentation in the agency’s HUD-Approved Client Management System (CMS) support counselor hours billed and/or reported to the HUD Housing Counseling grant?				
6	Does the agency have documentation to support receipt of leveraged resources cited in the grant application?				
MAINTAINING APPROVAL CRITERIA		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
7	Is the agency functioning as a private or public nonprofit organization or a unit of local, county or state government?				

MAINTAINING APPROVAL CRITERIA (CONT)		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
8	Does the agency have evidence of nonprofit status and tax-exempt status under Section 501(a) pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1996 (26 U.S.C. 501(a) and (c))?				
9	Does the agency maintain policies to screen for ineligible participants, including the agency's directors, partners, officers, principals, or employees?				
10	If the agency subcontracts for housing counseling services, has the agreement been approved by HUD? Obtain copies.				
11	<p>• 501(c)(3) status and tax-exempt status under Section 501(a) pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1996 (26 U.S.C. 501(a) and (c))?</p> <p>a. Q: Does the agency have evidence of nonprofit status and tax-exempt status under Section 501(a) pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1996 (26 U.S.C. 501(a) and (c))?</p> <p>b. O: Does the agency have evidence of nonprofit status and tax-exempt status under Section 501(a) pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1996 (26 U.S.C. 501(a) and (c))?</p>				Agency Type:
12	<p>a. Q: Does the agency have evidence of nonprofit status and tax-exempt status under Section 501(a) pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1996 (26 U.S.C. 501(a) and (c))?</p> <p>b. Q: Does the agency have evidence of nonprofit status and tax-exempt status under Section 501(a) pursuant to Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1996 (26 U.S.C. 501(a) and (c))?</p>				
REPORTING TO HUD		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
13	Does the agency report to HUD the number of clients served, the number of counseling sessions provided, and the number of referrals made?				
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CLIENT AND GROUP EDUCATION FILES		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
17	Does the agency maintain a separate confidential file, use a unique number for each client, and document each unique, distinct provision of housing counseling services provided to the client?				
18	Is the agency entering into its CMS all data elements required by HUD?				
19	Is there evidence in the files that the counselor(s) performed a financial analysis of the client's financial and credit circumstances? If yes, answer the following questions:				
a.	Do the counselor(s) review the clients' income, expenses, spending habits, home value and use of credit?				
b.	Do the counselor(s) and client establish a household budget that the client can afford?				
c.	For pre-purchase clients, do the counselor(s) perform a comparative analysis of the client's spending habits to determine if the client's habits are more suitable for renting or owning?				
20	Does the agency record the date, time, duration and description of each interaction or activity performed on behalf of, and by, the client in the activity log?				
21	Does the agency establish an action plan for each client except HECM clients?				
a.	Do the action plans clearly identify the clients' needs or problems?				
b.	Do the action plans outline what the agency and clients will do in order to meet clients' housing goals?				
22	Is there a copy of the disclosure statement in each client's counseling file or documentation of the date that the disclosure statement was verbally provided during telephone counseling? Provide copy of disclosure(s).				
23	Does the agency make referrals to other resources, if applicable?				
24	For pre-purchase clients, does the agency document that clients are provided with HUD publications on Home Inspection, if applicable?				
25	If the counselor(s) provided information about a specific service, program, feature or product, do the counselor(s) document that he/she provided information on at least three alternatives if available, including FHA products, features or programs?				

CLIENT AND GROUP EDUCATION FILES (CONT)		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
26	Do the counselor(s) monitor the client's progress in meeting the housing need or correcting the housing problem?				
27	Do the counselor(s) document each client file with the date and cause/ explanation of termination when housing counseling services were terminated?				
28	Is there evidence of follow-up as required by HUD in each client file?				
29	Do the counselor(s) document the results of counseling?				
30	Is the agency accessing fees for client services? If yes, answer the following questions:				
a.	Does the agency document in each client file with the amount and the source of fees paid by other parties, including HUD?				
b.	Does each file reflect the amount paid through client fees?				
	If yes, does each file contain a copy of the receipt provided to the client?				
c.	Does the agency document in each client file that the cost did not create a financial hardship?				
31	If the agency uses credit reports as a tool for counseling, does each applicable client file contain an authorization to obtain a credit report?				
32	Does each client file contain the client authorization to share information with HUD and other third parties, if applicable?				
33	Does the agency provide group education? If yes:				
a.	Does the agency maintain a separate confidential file for each course?				
b.	Are all required items documented and is the agency entering into its CMS all data elements required by HUD?				
c.	Are there copies of the client disclosures in each education file?				

PART B

Complete by Housing Counseling Agency. To be returned by the agency 15 working days prior to review. For each question below, submit verification/documentation to support the agency's response.

This self-certification is to be signed by a Representative of the Housing Counseling Agency authorized by the Agency Executive Board, or equivalent, to make such representations and certifications on behalf of the Agency.

FACILITIES INCLUDING ACCESSIBILITY		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
34	Is the agency easily identified by permanent signage?				
35	Provide the agency's normal business hours in the comments box at right.				Agency's normal business hours:
36	Does the agency offer extended hours when necessary?				
37	Do the facilities provide for one-to-one counseling?				
38	Is the facility accessible for those with mobility impairments and does the facility meet federal accessibility requirements? Does the agency offer any other accommodations for person with disabilities?				
DELIVERY OF HOUSING COUNSELING SERVICES					COMMENTS
39	Types of Counseling Method: Check all that apply:				
	Face to Face Counseling	Video Conference	Phone Counseling	Other (explain below):	
	Internet Counseling (email)	Skype or equivalent	Group Counseling	Explain:	
40	Does the agency take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access for persons with Limited English Proficiency, including by providing translation and interpretation services and written materials in other languages?	YES	NO	N/A	Explain:
41	Does the agency counsel clients who are hearing impaired using interpreters, if necessary? Explain in the comments box at right.				Explain:
42	Does the agency use TDD, TTY or 211 services? Explain in the comments box at right.				Explain:
43	Does the agency indicate on written correspondence materials, provided to clients and prospective clients how to access information through alternative means if they have an impairment, disability or language barrier, etc.?				
44	Does the agency comply with all applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements in 24 CFR § 5.105(a), including the obligations to ensure meaningful access for individuals with limited English proficiency and effective communication with individuals with disabilities.				
45	Has the agency:				

DELIVERY OF HOUSING COUNSELING SERVICES (CONT)		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
a.	Been charged with an ongoing systemic violation of the Fair Housing Act? See 42 USC 3601 et seq. (Title VIII).				
b.	Become a defendant in a Fair Housing Act lawsuit filed by the Department of Justice alleging an on-going pattern or practice of discrimination?				
c.	Received a letter of findings identifying ongoing systemic noncompliance under Fair Housing and Civil Rights laws?				
46	Does the agency provide outreach to persons least likely to apply for housing counseling services as per the requirements of Handbook 7610.1 REV 5, Chapter 3?				
47	Does the agency maintain records of its activities to affirmatively further fair housing? See 24 CFR 5.150 (AFFH). If "Yes," do these records:				
a.	Identify the impediments to fair housing addressed by the planned activities?				
b.	Describe the activities that took place, and to the extent possible, describe the impact of the activities?				
48	Do housing counselors advise clients of the fair housing law and their rights to file a housing discrimination complaint with HUD?				
49	If the agency is an intermediary, affiliate, or sub-grantee, does the contract or agreement between the intermediary and its affiliate(s) or sub-grantee(s) address non-discrimination and equal opportunity responsibilities per Handbook 7610.1 REV 5?				
AGENCY RECORDKEEPING SYSTEM		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
50	Does the agency maintain a recordkeeping system so that HUD can access and review client files, electronic, or a combination of electronic and paper, and annual activity data can be verified, reported and analyzed?				
51	Is the agency using a Client Management System (CMS) that is a HUD-certified CMS product or identified by HUD?				
52	Does the agency retain the case file, both electronic and paper, for a period of three (3) years from the date the case file was terminated?				
53	If the agency is a HUD housing counseling grant recipient or sub-grantee, does the agency retain the client files attributed to the grant for three (3) years from the date of the final grant invoice paid by HUD?				
54	Does the agency safeguard and maintain the confidentiality of paper and/or electronic files, including credit reports, etc.?				
LENDER-FUNDED COUNSELING SERVICES		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
55	Does the agency receive any funding from lenders for counseling services? If yes, answer the following questions and attach copy of agreements:				
a.	Does the agreement indicate what services the agency will be compensated for?				
b.	Is the compensation commensurate with services provided?				
c.	Does the agreement compensate the agency for referring clients to the lender?				
d.	Does the agreement compensate the agency for closing loans with a specific lender?				
e.	Does the agreement state fee income is based on services rendered, not on amount of loans?				
f.	Does the agreement state the agency will provide information on comparable products from at least 3 different lenders?				
FEES FOR HOUSING COUNSELING AND RELATED SERVICES		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
56	Does the agency charge fees for its counseling, education and/or debt management services? If yes, answer the following questions:				
a.	Does the agency charge fees for mortgage default or homeless housing counseling or education services?				
b.	Does the agency waive fees for clients who cannot afford the fees or offer a sliding fee scale?				
c.	Are the fees commensurate with the level of services provided and reasonable and customary for the area?				
d.	Is the fee schedule prominently displayed?				
e.	Are the clients informed of the fees prior to the provision of services?				
f.	Is the initial client intake performed without charge?				
g.	Does the agency charge the client for credit reports?				

FEES FOR HOUSING COUNSELING AND RELATED SERVICES (CONT)		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
	If yes, does the agency charge only the actual cost of the report?				
FINANCIAL AUDIT AND CAPACITY		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
57	Did the agency/grant recipient/sub-grant recipient expend \$750,000 or more in federal funds a year? See 2 CFR 200.501 (Audit requirements).				
a.	If yes, did the agency have a Single Audit (in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, Subpart F) performed within the last 12 months?				
b.	If no, did the agency have an independent audit every two years?				
58	Did the agency provide HUD a copy of all audit reports within 30 days of completion? Provide date of most recent audit in comment box at right.				Date of most recent audit:
59	Did the auditor's notes identify any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses relating to the agency's housing counseling program or other programs that might impact the housing counseling program?				
a.	If yes, did the agency correct the problem(s)?				
60	Does the agency's budget and financial statements demonstrate the necessary level of funds that enables the agency to perform the minimum workload required by HUD for the next year? See 24 CFR 214.303 (Performance criteria).				
61	Do budget and financial statements reflect program income including fees charged?				
TYPES OF COUNSELING SERVICES					
Types of Counseling Services: Check the boxes for all housing counseling services the agency currently offers.					
Education Service Activities FLW - Financial Literacy Workshop PLW - Predatory Lending, Loan Scam or Other Fraud Prevention Workshop FHW - Fair Housing Workshop HPW - Homelessness Prevention Workshop RHW - Rental Workshop PPW - Pre-Purchase Homebuyer Education Workshop NDW - Non-Delinquency Post-Purchase Workshop MDW - Resolving or Preventing Mortgage Delinquency Workshop DPW - Disaster Preparedness Assistance Workshop DRW - Disaster Recovery Assistance Workshop			One-on-One Counseling Activities HAC - Homeless Assistance RTC - Rental Topics PPC - Pre-Purchase/Homebuying NDC - Non-Delinquency Post-Purchase RMC - Reverse Mortgage Counseling RFC - Resolving/Preventing Forward Mortgage Delinquency/Default RRC - Resolving/Preventing Reverse Mortgage Delinquency/Default DPC - Disaster Preparedness Assistance DRC - Disaster Recovery Assistance		
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
62	Does the agency offer individual counseling for the same topics covered in the group education sessions?				
63	Does the agency limit its housing counseling activities to the geographic area specified in the agency's approved housing counseling work plan?				
64	Were there changes to the agency's work plan? Provide date of most recent work plan in comment box at right.				Date of most recent work plan
a.	If yes, were the changes submitted to HUD for approval before implementation?				
65	During the past fiscal year, for agencies that provided more services than just reverse mortgage counseling, were at least 30 clients provided counseling?				
66	Do at least half of the counselors have at least six months experience in the job they are performing? Provide a current list of counseling staff.				
a.	Are all staff providing housing counseling HUD certified housing counselors? See 24 CFR 214.3 (Definitions).				
67	Have the agency's housing counselor(s) received housing counseling training or education? List topics and dates for each counselor over the last 2 years.				
68	Do the supervisors of housing counselors monitor their work and document these monitoring activities?				
CONFLICT OF INTEREST		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
69	Does the agency provide any services besides housing counseling? If yes, list those services in the comment box at right.				Services other than housing counseling:
70	Does any person associated with the agency in a position of trust (as defined in Handbook 7610.1 REV 5) perform any additional services for the agency or outside of the agency that a housing counseling client would utilize?				
a.	If yes, does the person in a position of trust receive anything of value including compensation on a commission basis for the services listed above? (This excludes compensation in the form of a reasonable salary from the participating agency.)				
71	Does any person associated with the agency in a position of trust as defined by HUD engage in any activities that might result in or create the appearance of administering the housing counseling operation for personal or private gain or provide preferential treatment to any organization or person?				
72	Does any person associated with the agency in a position of trust as defined by HUD undertake any action that might compromise the agency's ability to ensure compliance with the requirements of HUD's conflict of interest regulations and to serve the best interest of its clients?				

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (CONT)		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
73	Are all persons in a position of trust as defined by HUD in compliance with programmatic requirements that prohibit the acquisition of a client's property from the trustee in bankruptcy?				
74	Did the agency notify HUD of conflicts of interest no later than 15 days after the conflict was discovered and report to HUD on the corrective action taken to cure the immediate conflict and avoid future conflicts? See 24 CFR 214.303(f)(5).				
75	If applicable, did the agency notify HUD of its policy or changes to policy regarding the following:				
a.	Other housing services offered by the agency in addition to housing counseling services?				
b.	Business practices and/or partnerships that would constitute a conflict of interest pursuant to HUD regulations per 24 CFR 214.303(f)?				
c.	Description of the organizational structure and business practices that protect the client from inappropriate steering or influence?				
d.	Agency's written standard of ethics?				
e.	Agency's quality control plan for identifying, addressing, or mitigating any conflicts of interest and complying with HUD requirements? See 24 CFR 214.303.				
76	Does the agency's disclosure meet the following HUD requirements:				
a.	Does the disclosure explicitly describe the various services provided by the agency?				
b.	Does the disclosure identify any financial arrangements or partnerships between the agency and any other industry partners that are relevant to the client?				
c.	Does the disclosure clearly indicate that the client is not obligated to receive any other services offered by the organization or its partners?				
REPORTING TO HUD - HOUSING COUNSELING AGENCY		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
77	Did the agency experience any of the following changes?				
a.	Change in address(es) of the agency's main office and the address(es) of its branches and affiliates.				
b.	Changes to staff personnel responsible for the Housing Counseling Program, such as counselors, ineligible partners, and management staff.				
c.	Changes to the telephone numbers and website of the main office, affiliates and branches.				
d.	Changes to any other aspect of the agency's purpose or functions that may impair its ability to comply with the programmatic requirements, applicable regulations or applicable grant agreement(s) (e.g., lack of qualified housing counselors).				
78	Were the above changes reported to HUD within 15 days of the change?				

PART C

Complete by Housing Counseling Agency, if applicable. To be returned by the agency 15 working days prior to review. For each question below, submit verification/document to support the agency's response.

REVERSE MORTGAGE COUNSELING		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
79	Does the client intake process collect all the required information per the HECM protocol? See HUD Handbook 7610.1 REV 5.				
80	During the intake process, did the counselor make an initial evaluation of the clients' capability to understand the complexities of the HECM program?				
81	Do the counselor(s) encourage participation by family, friends and/or professional advisors who could assist the client?				
82	Is the agency in compliance with clients lacking legal competence? See HUD Handbook 7610.1 REV-5, Chapter 4.				
83	Do the counselor(s) document the session review with the client(s) and ask appropriate questions per Attachment B 10, Appendix 4, Handbook 7610.1 REV 5?				
84	Do the files contain the required information noted below (if applicable)?				
a.	Client Data				
b.	Client Concerns/Interest in Reverse Mortgage				
c.	Client Needs and Circumstances				

REVERSE MORTGAGE COUNSELING (CONTI)		YES	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
d.	Client and Property Eligibility				
e.	Reverse Mortgage Features				
f.	Reverse Mortgage Loan Cost				
g.	Borrower Obligation/Implication after Closing				
h.	Information about Financial Alternatives				
i.	HECM Refinance Information				
j.	HECM for Purchase Information				
k.	HECM Saver Option and Information				
l.	HECM Proceeds to Purchase Annuity				
85	Do the counselor(s) provide the required additional information as listed in Appendix B.1 and B.2, Appendix 4, Handbook 7610.1 REV-5?				
86	Does the agency maintain complete client files that meet the requirements of the HECM protocol?				
87	Does the agency issue a HECM counseling certificate through the FHA Connection System and keep an executed copy in the client file?				
88	Do the counselor(s) perform the required client follow-up to include:				
a.	Follow-up Phone Call				
b.	Follow-up Emergency Counseling				
c.	Close-out or Outcome Letter				
89	Are the Application Coordinator and/or counselor updating the HECM training information in FHA Connection (Information only)?				
90	If a HECM Roster counselor is no longer with the agency, did the agency reflect the termination in FHA Connection?				
91	Are only HECM roster counselors conducting the reverse mortgage counseling sessions?				
92	Does the agency's fee structure for HECM counseling meet the current HUD requirements including a policy for waiver of fees?				
93	How do the clients become aware of the counseling agency? Check all that apply.				
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>HUD Website</p> <p>Lender Provided Counselor List</p> <p>Direct Mailing</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>State Office on Aging</p> <p>Realtor Referrals</p> <p>Area Office on Aging</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>AARP or other RM Website</p> <p>Friend Referral</p> <p>Other (List in box to right):</p> </div> </div>				

GENERAL COMMENTS SECTION:

Note: The self certifications in Parts B and C (if applicable) are to be signed by a Representative of the Housing Counseling Agency authorized by the Agency executive board, or equivalent, to make such representations and certifications on behalf of the Agency. By signing below, the Agency's authorized representative hereby certifies that all responses and information provided, and submissions made for Part B and C (if applicable) are true and correct. HUD may elect to change the status of a HUD approved or Participating Agency's status to inactive. HUD may exercise its discretion to change an agency's status as a result of information obtained by HUD, or at the agency's request.

Representative of the Housing Counseling Agency NAME (please print):	Representative of the Housing Counseling Agency TITLE (please print):
Telephone Number (XXX-XXX-XXX):	Email:
Signature of Representative	Date (month/day/year):

REVIEW RESULTS

There are no findings or concerns that need to be addressed.	There are findings or concerns that need to be addressed.
Signature of Reviewer	Date (month/day/year):
Signature of Reviewer	Date (month/day/year):