

Background

In May, 2007, the National Industry Standards for Homeownership Education and Counseling were developed and launched with the input of a national committee which consisted of a wide range of stakeholders including local, regional and national housing agencies, national intermediaries, financial institutions, GSEs and governmental agencies such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In developing the Standards, the National Industry Standards Committee drew upon existing standards used by HUD and local, regional and national housing counseling organizations. The established industry-wide standards promote increased quality and reliability in the delivery of homeownership education, counseling and foreclosure programs and in practice, provide a common industry roadmap for excellence and delivers confidence to homebuyers/homeowners and instills professionalism and credibility among and across diverse stakeholders who are part of the homeownership experience.

Purpose of the National Industry Standards Committee

The purpose of the Committee is to provide input, advice and counsel on the nature, content and requirements of the Standards on behalf of the homeownership education and counseling industry.

More specifically, the Committee's charge is to provide input on and promote:

- The National Industry Standards for Homeownership Education and Counseling including adoption by direct service providers and endorsement by industry-related, non-direct service providers;
- Curricula content, training, continuing education, tools and informational support to counselors and educators nationwide;
- National, state and local collaborations between government, private entities, national intermediaries, state housing finance agencies, and local and regional non-profit counseling organizations;
- Quality control and reporting on the Standards; and
- Financial sponsorships



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Selection Criteria

The number of members on the Committee shall be no more than 25. Committee members will be chosen from the following groups:

- Community Development Organizations (Local and/or Regional Non-Profits)
- Community Development Financial Institutions
- Governmental Agencies
- Government Sponsored Enterprises
- Housing Finance Agencies
- Insurance or Title Companies
- HUD-Approved National Housing Education and Counseling Intermediaries
- Private Sector Financial Institutions
- Real Estate Companies
- State-Wide Collaboratives
- Trade Associations

Membership on the Committee will be based on a review of completed membership applications by the Nominating Sub-Committee which is comprised of members who are representative of the Committee as a whole. Committee members will then vote on membership based on recommendations provided by the Nominating Sub-Committee.

Criteria that will be taken into consideration for membership on the Committee include, among others:

- Full and detailed completion of the membership application
- Current composition of the existing Committee and seat availability for a specific stakeholder category based on expiring terms
- Demonstrated strong community partnership and collaboration within the homeownership counseling and education and/or financial capability industry
- Types of services provided, target audience and geographic area(s) served



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Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act

The Committee encourages applications from entities above that in some course of their business activities are implementing aspects of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, particularly in the required key content areas related to the HUD Office of Housing Counseling:

- Financial management /capability
- Property maintenance
- Responsibilities of homeownership and tenancy
- Fair housing laws and requirements
- Housing affordability
- Avoidance of, and responses to, rental and mortgage delinquency and avoidance of eviction and mortgage default

In addition, the Committee encourages applications from entities serving under-represented areas and populations (e.g. rural and/or minority populations).



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