



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Office of Housing Counseling

550 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20024

OFFICE OF HOUSING

July 7, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Final Virtual Tribal Consultation for Certification of Tribal Housing Counselors

Dear Tribal Leader:

On January 26, 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published a proposed rule providing for the Certification of Tribal Housing Counselors. The [proposed rule](#) provides an alternative regulatory standard for compliance with the Dodd-Frank Act's counselor certification requirement that recognizes Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, and accounts for the unique status of Tribal land and housing programs in Indian Country.

**Tribal Consultation**

HUD will be holding a final virtual Tribal Consultation virtual session on July 27, 2023, before publishing a Final Rule that implements counselor certification requirements for Tribes, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), and other Tribal entities conducting housing counseling required, or provided in connection with, the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) and Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) programs. During this final consultation, HUD officials will provide a brief overview of the proposed rule, its impact on Tribes and Tribal borrowers and renters, and then listen to questions and comments on the proposed rule from attendees.

The proposed rule amends 24 CFR Part 214 by:

- Adding new definitions to 214.3;
- Establishing Subpart F that outlines Tribal Housing Counseling Certification requirements that apply only to the IHBG and ICDBG programs;
- Creating a certification exam tailored to the IHBG and ICDBG programs and that accounts for the unique status of trust land and the relevant non-discrimination requirements applicable to these programs;
- Exempting Tribes, TDHEs, and Tribal entities from compulsory participation in the existing housing counseling program unless the entities also provide housing counseling under, or in connection with, other HUD programs (programs other than IHBG and ICDBG).

Input from Tribal leaders is essential. Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in the effective delivery of HUD's programs.

Sincerely,

*David Berenbaum*

David Berenbaum  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing Counseling

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