

Request for Waiver of Housing Directive

**U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development**
Office of Housing
Federal Housing Commissioner

OMB Approval No. 2502-0029
(Expires 09/30/2016)

1. Field Office HUD Headquarters	2. Program and DAS (e.g., multifamily development) Office of Housing Counseling (OHC)
3. Waiver Requested by (person, entity, HUD employee) Office of Housing Counseling	
4. Waiver Item (directive number, date, page, paragraph, etc.) HUD Housing Counseling Program Handbook 7610.1, REV-5, Chapter 3-1(c) Relief Sought A renewal of the temporary partial waiver of the HUD Housing Counseling Handbook, REV-5, Chapter 3-1(c) requirement that "all participating agencies that provide service directly must offer and provide in-person counseling to clients that prefer this format."	
5. Did a check of SharePoint indicate Prior Approval of a factually similar waiver?"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (skip No. 6) If previously approved, give Counsel's name and date of approval. <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to No. 6) Sherece Tolbert, February 7, 2022
6. Counsel Determination. The Waiver Proposal does not conflict <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conflicts <input type="checkbox"/> with statutory or regulatory provisions (cite rule or provision) The Office of Housing Counseling also renewed the partial waiver of the applicable regulatory provision at 24 C.F.R. 214.300(a)(3)	

Counsel (signature) <i>Elizabeth Davis</i>	Date 2/17/23
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7. Employee Justification (attach additional pages if necessary)

The Coronavirus National Emergency declared on March 13, 2020, and beginning on March 1, 2020, remains in effect. In addition to continued concerns of COVID-19, Americans are now facing Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and increased rates of the seasonal flu. Beyond government recommendations for avoiding COVID-19, RSV, and flu, there is public concern about possible transmission and many Americans remain concerned about, and avoid, in-person contact. Public concern and avoidance of in-person contact could hinder the ability of counseling agencies to provide needed services. HUD's requirement that all participating agencies are required to provide in-person counseling to clients that prefer this format is not practical given the public health recommendations being disseminated by local, state, and federal government agencies to limit contact between individuals to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus and its variants and the public's concerns about transmission of COVID-19, RSV, and flu. This renewal of the partial waiver continues the removal of the in-person housing counseling requirement through December 31, 2023.

Field Office Concurrence

Name David L. Berenbaum	Title Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing Counseling	Date 3-8-2023
8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Granted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Granted	Housing Director (signature) DAVID BERENBAUM <small>Digitally signed by: DAVID BERENBAUM DN: cn = DAVID BERENBAUM c = US o = U.S. Government OU = Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Housing Date: 2023.03.08 07:27:01 -0500</small>	Date 3-8-2023

Comments

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One copy to each of the following:

Director, Organizational Policy, Planning and Analysis Division, Room 9116, HUD Headquarters, HRO
Assistant General Counsel, Multifamily Mortgage Division, HUD Headquarters, Room 9230, CAHAA

And one copy to either of the following:

Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Single Family Housing, Room 9282, HUD Headquarters, HU
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing, Room 6106, HUD Headquarters, HT