

The Power of NHNLA Training and Certification

Since 2008, the NCLR Homeownership Network Learning Alliance (NHNLA) has been a HUD-Certified Training and Certification provider. Professionals who provide critical advocacy and housing counseling services to their communities can look to NHNLA to receive high-quality coursework and training.

The NCLR Homeownership Network Learning Alliance has presented more than 350 place-based trainings, webinars, and eLearning classes to housing counseling professionals across the nation. Attendance for these programs is funded in part by grants through National Council of La Raza and NCLR Homeownership Network as U.S. Department for Housing and Urban Development-Approved Counseling intermediaries.

Delivery of materials are presented to housing counselors in a variety of ways. Multiple teaching methods are implemented to benefit all types of learners: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Place-based trainings are offered several times a year in major cities, not only providing equitable access to materials, but open dialogue and shared experiences with other professionals in the industry. Webinars and eLearning courses are structured to provide housing counselors and managers with the training and information they need without losing vital time away from the office. Resources are fully downloadable and a variety of collaborative tools keep users connected, ensuring a convenient, cost effective way to increase their skills and enhance their career opportunities.

Each method of training is facilitated by an active, certified professional working within the housing industry. Instructors leverage their proficiency and expertise to address real-world issues and share culturally sensitive communication strategies that empower organizations to generate positive community impact.

Comprehensive Real-World Information

Process-Oriented Learning

Course instruction and materials are presented in a sequence that replicates actual counseling sessions. Networking and group discussions of critical issues for their clients and their agencies build necessary skills in order to maximize effectiveness.

Detailed Course Manual and Templates

Counselors are provided with a wealth of material on specific topics of interest in housing counseling services, plus sample documents for immediate practical application.

Workflow and Data Integration

Online technologies are more important every day in managing organized counseling services. Program mechanics and data management are reviewed for effective flow of information.

Program Standards

Basic HUD requirements are integrated into the instruction to help ensure proper service delivery and documentation. Courses also teach counseling production standards to increase community impact.

NHNLA Training and Certification Achievements

- More than 5,828 counselors and managers trained
- Provided more than \$2.2 million in training scholarships
- Attendees representing 42 states serving thousands of households
- Attendees noted 150% improvement in knowledge gained through NHNLA training
- NHNLA instructors consistently score 95% or better in approval ratings

Certifications

To become certified, housing counselors and managers must demonstrate a certain level of competency and mastery of their profession to gain NHNLA certification. Participants who complete the NHNLA certification program will enhance their personal skills and gain the tools necessary to empower clients.

NHNLA currently offers certifications in:

- Housing Counselor Certification
- Advanced Housing Counselor Certification
- Foreclosure Counselor Certification
- Housing Counseling Program Management Certification
- Financial Counseling Certification

All NHNLA certifications are valid for three years and are renewable once the applicant has completed the NHNLA's requirements for recertification. Counselors must complete the required courses for the subsequent certification, pass a corresponding exam with an 80% or greater, and submit a letter certifying practical experience in the field as well as an application for approval. Applications and a list of specific requirements for obtaining each certification can be found at <http://nhnla.org/certifications>.

Scholarships

A limited number of scholarships are available for each full course. Scholarships for webinars are available at this time. There are three types available, full scholarships, partial scholarships, and tuition scholarships. They are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Scholarships are only considered for the next scheduled NHNLA training. Individuals can sign up for the NHNLA mailing list to be notified when new rounds of scholarships become available by emailing their name and email address to: nhnla@nclr.org. Applications will be accepted up to 15 days prior to this training. Scholarships are awarded to individually HUD-certified agencies or agencies certified by HUD-approved intermediaries only; they are not awarded to the counselor individually.

A full scholarship covers the entire cost of tuition for the class, up to \$300 reimbursement for airfare, and the negotiated rate for the hotel selected to host the training. Full scholarship recipients will only need to provide their credit card upon check-in at the hotel for any incidental costs that they may incur. The NHNLA limits the reimbursement for airfare to encourage participants to register early for scholarships and to maximize the number of full scholarship awards provided. (Note: Lodging covers the day before the course is to start with check out on the last day of class. Any additional days are to be paid at the counselor's/agency expense, unless previously approved by NHNLA)

A tuition scholarship only covers the cost of tuition for the course for one counselor. This does not cover the cost of lodging, or travel.

A partial scholarship will cover the cost of tuition for the course for one counselor and their individual lodging.

Eligibility Requirements for an Independently HUD-Certified Agency and agencies certified by a HUD-approved intermediary can be found at <http://nhnla.org/scholarships/apply>.