



www.HomebuyerEducation.info

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FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

For What It's Worth is a service for members of the Oklahoma Homebuyer Education Association. We welcome your responses or other information you would like to share with us. Send items to Tricia Auberle at HomebuyerEd@okacaa.org

OHEA Training. OHEA will be holding a 5-day Train-the-Trainer class for Certified Homebuyer Education Professionals on April 23-27 at the Oklahoma Weatherization Training Center in Edmond. Please help us increase the availability of homebuyer education by passing along the attached registration form. Forms are also available on the OHEA website at www.HomebuyerEducation.info

Continuing Education. CFED is offering two webinars in April that qualify for CHEP continuing education hours. *Applying Behavioral Economics for Improved Program Delivery and Greater Impact* is on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at 1:00 – 2:00 pm EASTERN time (1 hr. credit for CHEPs). *Credit Unions and Financing Manufacturing Homes: Opportunities and Innovation* is on Thursday, April 5 at 3:30 – 5:00 pm EASTERN time. (1.5 hrs. credit for CHEPs). Register at http://cfed.org/knowledge_center/events/

FHA's National Servicing Center offers free courses in loss mitigation in Oklahoma City on May 16-17 and August 15-16, 2012. Register through www.hud.gov (13 hrs. credit with required prerequisite web classes.)

HUD will accept internet-based education. The FHA has issued a Notice that HUD counseling agencies can use internet-based education (including education provided by a third party provider) if the client and counseling agency agree to it and the agency can demonstrate that clients learned about and accessed the web-based education through actions of the counseling agency. The same industry standards for high quality education apply as in person-to-person education/counseling. Also the agencies who offer education via internet must still offer individual counseling and in-person education for clients preferring that format. Housing counseling agencies that provide or plan to provide web-based education must update their work plans to reflect these services and formats and send a copy to HUD. The notice points out that FHA/HUD's acceptance of internet-based education does not mean other programs or entities have to accept internet-based education, even those funded by HUD such as State Housing Finance Agencies, down payment assistance programs or HUD's Neighborhood Stabilization Program. OHEA does not endorse an internet-based program at this time.

Homeownership rates reflect racial wealth gap. Less than half of Oklahomans identifying themselves as Hispanic or African American own their home, while over 70% of those identifying themselves as white own homes. Homeownership rates in Oklahoma by ethnicity are 72.2% for Whites, 63.6% for Native Americans, 49.3% for Hispanics, and 42.7% for African Americans. The study noted that differences in foundational assets such as health, education, and transportation contribute to a decrease in the ability to generate the income and establish the job stability that are necessary to qualify for a loan. (K.Richey, Oklahoma Policy Institute)

HUD programs open to all. A new Final Rule ensures HUD core programs are open to all eligible individuals and families regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. The announcement noted that HUD, as the nation's housing agency, has the unique charge to promote the goal of providing decent housing and a suitable living environment for all. HUD must ensure its own programs to not involve discrimination and that its policies and programs serve as models for equal housing opportunity.

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