



TACOMA / PIERCE COUNTY  
**AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING  
CONSORTIUM**

**NEWS UPDATE 12-05-2013**

→ [People + Place: Action for a Sustainable Future](#) – A special free event!

**Smart growth, place making, and sustainable prosperity**

Growing Transit Communities December 10, 9 am – 2 pm  
Seattle Town Hall, 1119 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle

[REGISTER...](#)

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→ [Developer sought for land in heart of Hilltop business district](#) TNT 12-05-2013

A vacant lot in the heart of Tacoma's Hilltop business district is up for grabs for a developer who has the right plan and the right price.

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→ [City of Tacoma TCRA issues RFP for Single Family Residential Blight Abatement Affordable Housing Request for Proposal - City of Tacoma](#)

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→ **HUD releases Notice of Funding Availability**

On Friday, November 22, 2013, HUD released the [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#) for the Continuum of Care Program Competition, launching the annual competition for \$1.7 billion in Federal funding for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. HUD has also made some important changes in this year's competition. HUD has made these changes in an effort to sustain and accelerate the progress our nation has made in ending homelessness, as reflected in last week's release of the [2013 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report to Congress](#). The 2013 Point-in-Time count data reflects an overall downward trend in homelessness and shows that with strategic investment in proven strategies, we can achieve the vision set forth in Opening Doors, that everyone should have a safe and stable place to call home.

**SAVE THE DATE:  
USICH NOFA Webinar**

**HUD's FY2013-FY2014 Continuum of Care Competition - Strategies for Success**  
**December 11, 2013**  
**3:00-4:30 p.m.**

USICH is holding a webinar for communities on strategies to succeed in this year's HUD Continuum of Care program competition. In this year's competition, HUD has made some important changes to the competition and NOFA-changes which will continue and accelerate progress on ending homelessness. This includes a requirement to complete a CoC Application that covers two years of CoC strategic planning and performance, new policy priorities and criteria, and new project selection priorities. Through the current Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), HUD will award \$1.7 billion in funds for FY2013. HUD will subsequently issue a streamlined NOFA to award its FY2014 funds in calendar year 2014. Join this webinar to learn more about these changes, to get more information on the policy priorities sought through the NOFA, and to hear tips and strategies for completing a successful application.

Presenters

- Lindsay Knotts, USICH
- Richard Cho, USICH
- Norm Suchar, National Alliance to End Homelessness

For more information about this webinar, [click here](#).

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**➔ The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) # CFP-14-R-00001 for Integrating Financial Coaching into Service Delivery for Transitioning Veterans and Economically Vulnerable Consumers:**

The purpose of this RFP is to acquire contractor support for the Division of Consumer Education and Engagement's Integrating Financial Coaching into Service Delivery for Transitioning Veterans and Economically Vulnerable Consumers project. The CFPB is requesting a proposal in compliance with the attached Statement of Work (SOW), detailing how the contractor will support the CFPB in this regard. All responses to this request must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, January 06, 2014.

**RFP Resources:**

- All of the information regarding this RFP, including the solicitation and its supporting documents can be found at the following link:  
<https://www.fbo.gov/notices/8979ace8ff0460139ba67ec42f33f6ef>
- Link to Original Draft Solicitation (CFP-13-R-00006):  
<https://www.fbo.gov/notices/b3d498da2c173beb2b08769892870d5a>
- More information regarding the Pre-Solicitation Conference can be found here:  
<http://www.cvent.com/d/ccqhkt/4W>
- Pre-Solicitation Conference Video Part 1:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wow0OZKk6sA>
- Pre-Solicitation Conference Video Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJPZe1mYV4>

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**➔ Pierce County Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for FY 2014 CDBG capital projects and FY 2014 & FY 2015 CDBG public service activities will be released on Monday, December 2, 2013, and due on Monday, January 13, 2014, by 4:30 pm.** Please note that the CDBG public services NOFA is a two-year funding cycle; agencies funded in 2014 will be funded in 2015 subject to performance and funding availability. The CDBG capital NOFA is only a one-year funding cycle.

Application workshops are highly recommended. Application workshops will be held at the Community Connections Building at 1305 Tacoma Avenue South, Suite 104, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room C. The following dates are subject to change; please confirm the date and time when the NOFA is released:

- 1) Public services application workshop – Thursday, December 12, 2013, at 2 pm, and
- 2) Capital projects application workshop – Friday, December 13, 2013, at 10 am.

The NOFAs will be posted on Community Connections website on Monday, December 2, 2013 at: [www.piercecountywa.org/cc](http://www.piercecountywa.org/cc).

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**➔ Updates from Mercy Housing Northwest**

- [Green Retrofit = Residents Save Big Bucks](#)
- [Shannon never thought she'd be homeless](#)

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**➔ Housing First Partners Conference**

"Housing First and Systems Change"

Pre-conference: March 11, 2014 Conference: March 12-14, 2014 Swissôtel, Chicago

register: [hfpartersconference.com](http://hfpartersconference.com)

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## ➔ CFPB Launches Tool to Help Consumers Find Housing Counselors:

On November 8, 2013, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) launched a tool to help consumers find local housing counseling agencies to answer their questions or address their concerns. The Bureau is releasing the tool in advance of the January 2014 effective dates for its mortgage rules. The Bureau also published guidance for lenders on how to provide mortgage applicants with a list of local homeownership counseling organizations. Read the press release at: <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/newsroom/cfpb-launches-tool-to-help-consumers-find-housing-counselors/>

Housing counselors throughout the country can provide advice on buying a home, renting, defaults, foreclosures, and credit issues. Housing counselors can offer independent advice, often at little or no cost to consumers. The CFPB's new mortgage rules require mortgage lenders to provide applicants with a list of local housing counselors. The tool:

- Shows consumers their closest options: The tool uses a search box and mapping function to show the consumer the ten closest counseling agencies to their zip code.
- Provides contact information for HUD-approved counselors: The tool only draws on information from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) official list of housing counselors.
- Displays services offered by counseling agencies: When counselors are listed, the tool shows the consumer which services are available there, such as rental housing counseling, pre-purchase counseling, or default resolution counseling.
- Lists the languages offered: For those consumers who would prefer to receive housing counseling in a language other than English, the tool lists the languages that each housing counseling agency offers.

The Bureau's 2013 final rule on the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act (HOEPA) implemented a requirement of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act that lenders provide consumers with a list of homeownership counseling organizations. Consumers should receive the list shortly after they apply for a mortgage so they know where to get help when deciding what loan is best for them. Lenders may fulfill that requirement by using CFPB-developed housing counseling lists, which are available through today's tool, or by generating their own lists using the same HUD data that the CFPB uses to build its lists.

Lenders choosing to build their own lists can look to today's interpretive rule for instructions. The Bureau recognizes that lenders may be unable to provide the lists in time for the rule's January 10, 2014 effective date. In those situations, today's bulletin suggests that lenders consider directing borrowers to the CFPB's new tool. If lenders take these steps in good faith while building their systems or are working with vendors to build systems, the CFPB would not raise supervisory or enforcement concerns.

- The tool can be accessed here: <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/find-a-housing-counselor/>
- The interpretive rule is available at: [http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201311\\_cfpb\\_interpretive-rule\\_homeownership-counseling-organizations-lists.pdf](http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201311_cfpb_interpretive-rule_homeownership-counseling-organizations-lists.pdf)

- A summary of the interpretive rule is available at: [http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201311\\_cfpb\\_summary\\_homeownership-counseling.pdf](http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201311_cfpb_summary_homeownership-counseling.pdf)  
The bulletin is available at: [http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201311\\_cfpb\\_bulletin\\_homeownership-counseling-list-requirements.pdf](http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201311_cfpb_bulletin_homeownership-counseling-list-requirements.pdf)

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➔ **“The Bridge” is HUD’s Office of Housing Counseling Newsletter**

for Housing Counselors. You can read the latest edition of “The Bridge” online at: [http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=OHC\\_BRIDGE112713.pdf](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=OHC_BRIDGE112713.pdf)

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➔ **Tacoma Council Member Ibsen on leave to become Marine Officer Candidate**

“Once commissioned as a reservist Second Lieutenant in the Marines, I will continue in my service as your Council representative, while also drilling with my new unit one weekend per month. Before I become a Lieutenant however, there will be a lengthy training process in Quantico, VA from January, 2014 until approximately the end of 2014. I depart on January 6th, next year. During this time, I will receive no pay, benefits, or compensation of any kind from the city. The Council will appoint an interim representative at the end of this year, who will serve for the duration of my leave, and who will work with me and my colleagues on District 1 issues. At the conclusion of my training, I will return to Tacoma and will resume the rest of my term. I will run for re-election that same year (2015).”

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➔ **[United Way of Pierce County hires new CEO](#) TNT 11-30-2013**

The major county nonprofit organization has hired Dona Ponepinto of Michigan to lead the organization beginning Jan. 6. The current CEO, Rick Allen...

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➔ **Associated Ministries is hiring**

Resident Coordinator of Youth Housing Female – updated 12-04-2013

<http://associatedministries.org/employment/resident-coordinator-youth-housing-female-2013-12-04>

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➔ **Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day**

[Registration for Housing & Homelessness Advocacy Day is now open!](#)

January 28<sup>th</sup>      Olympia