

February 4, 2013

For Immediate Release

**Asian-American Homeownership Counseling, Inc. (AAHC)
is now HUD Approved Housing Counseling Agency!!**

Asian-American Homeownership Counseling, Inc., AAHC, is now HUD approved. HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)'s mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes: utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business. The process of becoming HUD approved prescribes a yearlong process in which the applicant satisfies four major requirements: 1. Hold a Nonprofit Status, 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code; 2. Show successful administration of Housing Counseling for at least one year; 3. Serviced in proposed community for at least one year; and lastly, 4. Have sufficient resources and built capacity to implement its proposed counseling plan.

The approval by HUD not only testifies to AAHC's compliance to the requirements, but also attests to AAHC's knowledge, experience and ability to successfully administer counseling in the areas of Home Ownership Education, Foreclosure Intervention & Default Management, and Financial Literacy Education. Approval also provides additional funding opportunities, through grants provided by the Local, State and Federal government, and foundations and philanthropic channels, which permitting AAHC to counsel and reach more families than ever before. Though some of the programs offered by AAHC come with a small fee, many programs such as Foreclosure Intervention and Default Management, which enclose many sub-programs, are free of charges to the homeowners.

AAHC, more than ever before, is committed to empowering and inspiring immigrant communities to achieving and maintain the American dream of homeownership in the greater **Washington D.C. area.**

You can find us listed in HUD's home page, under HUD Approved Housing Counseling Agencies¹, in Maryland's Department of Housing and Community Development, under the Counseling tab², in Montgomery County's homepage under Foreclosure Assistance³ and lastly, you can find us on our website, www.AA-HC.org, which lists all of our services and available programs.

For immediate contact, please email us at Counseling@aa-hc.org or call our office, 301-760-7636, where you can speak with one of our Certified Housing Counselors. We offer bi-lingual services in Chinese Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese at this time. We also have volunteer translators are available per request on Burmese, Tagalog and Spanish.

¹ <http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm?webListAction=search&searchstate=MD>

² <http://mdhope.dhcd.maryland.gov/Counseling/Pages/CounselorsList.aspx>

³ <http://www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/Solutions.aspx?SolutionId=1-BR5QD>