



How Healthy is Your HOME Program?

The Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program provides flexible financing for housing development. However, complying with the program's many rules and regulations is required for continued receipt of funds, and program compliance can be a challenge.

Are you sure that *your* program is in full compliance?

Why wait until a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) monitoring visit to find out what might be wrong with your HOME program? Why wait to read about program shortcomings in your local newspaper to improve program implementation? Why wait until HUD recaptures expired funds to discover that you could have used those funds to operate an innovative program you wanted to try?

How ICF Consulting Can Help

HOME Wellness Checkups

ICF Consulting's HOME Wellness Checkups will help identify risks in HOME program operations and implementation before they become serious problems. We will also recommend actions that can help you reduce future risks. Checkups can be comprehensive or focus on specific aspects of your program. The checkup can last a week or longer, depending on the complexity of your program.

During a HOME Wellness Checkup, ICF Consulting staff will work with you to:

- Assess your program's compliance with HOME and other federal regulations
- Review a sample of project files for completeness and compliance
- Explore ways to increase HOME-funded commitments and expenditures
- Identify risk-mitigation strategies that can allow you to operate more efficiently and effectively

Training and Other HOME-Related Services

Do you want to move beyond a Wellness Checkup to "treat" program problems? Consider some of the following HOME technical assistance and training services:

HOME Training

There is no excuse for not knowing the rules. Ensure that your staff, and subrecipients' staff, understand HOME requirements by providing customized training on related rules and regulations. Courses include:

Building HOME. The introductory course to basic HOME rules and regulations.

All the Right Moves. A "must" course if your HOME program is relocating residents.

HOME Foundations. Provides information on monitoring your HOME program.

Staying HOME. Presents the basics of HOME portfolio asset management.

Show Me the Money. Discusses financial management for Participating Jurisdictions.

On Solid Ground. Provides tools and tactics for managing construction projects.



HOME Checkup Restores Health

ICF Consulting conducted Wellness Checkups for ten communities under a contract with HUD. The checkups explored the following issues:

- Income eligibility
- Lead-based paint
- Rents and occupancy
- Record keeping
- Inspections

Each community received a program report card identifying program risks and suggesting risk-mitigation strategies. HUD then asked ICF Consulting staff to help implement recommendations through training and follow-up technical assistance.

How ICF Consulting Can Help (continued)

HOME Technical Assistance

ICF Consulting provides technical assistance to local communities nationwide on HOME program rules and implementation. Our technical assistance products include the following:

“The HOME Cookbook.” Our staff will develop customized procedures and operating guides tailored to your HOME program.

Program Design. Do you want to establish a new homeownership program or retool your existing rehab program? We can help design your program, create forms, prepare marketing materials, negotiate with lenders, and train your staff.

IDIS Assistance. For some grantees, fear of IDIS can be a barrier to rapid expenditure of funds. We can increase staff comfort with IDIS and ensure they know how to use the IDIS system to monitor program expenditures and process payment requests.

Program Marketing. Our communications professionals can help you promote your initiatives and stimulate demand for services.

Accessing Our Services

ICF Consulting can help government agencies work within existing procurement policies to obtain our services. If necessary, we can help you refine needs and issues, develop a scope of work, and provide a proposal to facilitate the process. ICF Consulting also may be able to leverage local funds by tapping into existing federal resources for training and technical assistance.

About Our Services

ICF Consulting’s Housing and Community Development Practice provides training, technical assistance, management consulting, and program evaluation for local, state, and federal organizations and government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Rural Housing Service. Our primary clients include local communities using the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and the Supportive Housing Program (SHP). We also work with many lenders, nonprofit organizations, and private business enterprises. ICF Consulting’s Housing and Community Development Practice can:

- **Prepare and deliver training.** We run HUD’s Community Development Training Institute, offering courses on HOME, CDBG, Financial Management, Asset Management, and more.
- **Design and redesign housing programs.** From designing innovative homebuyer programs to restructuring rehabilitation programs, we help communities spend their CDBG and HOME dollars effectively.
- **Develop marketing materials.** We help communities define their products and publicize their initiatives through brochures, Web site design, and promotional materials.
- **Prepare procedures manuals, handbooks, and publications.** We help keep grantees up-to-date and staff informed through clear, well-written program guidance.
- **Restructure management systems and financial procedures.** Our staff can assess your organization and help streamline operations and improve management to achieve performance objectives.

About ICF Consulting

ICF Consulting is a leading management, technology, and policy consulting firm. Drawing upon extensive industry knowledge, distinguished professionals, and innovative analytics, the firm develops solutions to complex energy, environment, emergency management, community development, and transportation issues. ICF Consulting’s approach to these issues is strengthened by its expertise in information technology, organizational improvement, program management, and communications. Since 1969, ICF Consulting has been serving major corporations, government at all levels, and multinational institutions. More than 1,000 employees serve these clients from key business centers in North America, Europe, and Asia.

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