



African American Alliance for Homeownership

Housing Counselor Job Description

The African American Alliance for Homeownership is seeking a Housing Counselor to become part of the HOPE Project, a collaborative between AAAH and Bienestar. The partnership, Homeownership for Prosperity and Equity (HOPE) was formed in 2018 to build financial stability, open equitable access to housing, and cultivate generational wealth among African-American and Latinx families living throughout the area with a strategic focus on Washington County.

AAAH is a non-profit, 501c3 organization whose mission is to increase homeownership and economic stability for African Americans and other underserved individuals by improving access, ensuring advocacy and providing education. AAAH services include one-on-one pre-purchase and foreclosure/loss mitigation prevention counseling, homebuyer education, IDA program, credit cleansing, financial capabilities, home retention, and annual homeownership fairs.

Bienestar is the only affordable housing provider and Community Development Corporation in Washington County focused on populations of color. Bienestar has provided housing services since 1981, and has built a strong and trusted reputation among the local Latinx immigrant community. Bienestar focuses on strategies to reach Washington County Latinx, immigrant, and farmworker communities.

Position Description: This position is full time, with medical benefits. The Housing Counselor is responsible for providing pre-purchase counseling to first-time homebuyers, and facilitates homebuyer education classes, as needed. Additional counseling may include current homeowners who are in danger of losing their home. The Counselor evaluates the financial situation and homeownership goals for all program participants in order to provide the appropriate resources and support. The counselor will primarily work with Washington County residents and be primarily located at Bienestar's office in Hillsboro, however under the certification of AAAH.

Essential Functions:

- Provide short term to long term homeownership counseling to perspective homebuyers, and present relevant culturally accessible workshops and materials.
- Maintain current and accurate participant files with case notes, financial records and or income documentation; track demographic information and enter data into a web-based system.
- Provide one-on-one counseling to program participants on personal finance and credit issues. Assist participants in developing financial goals and a concise action plan that will support their goals; provide information and guidance on the home buying process.
- Actively identify and recruit participants and family households who are ready to begin the home buying process.
- Represent AAAH and the Partnership for HOPE at housing functions, neighborhood activities, and appropriate community meetings.
- Work with community partners in the housing & financial industries.
- Position requires coordinating and regular communication with both partners, Bienestar and AAAH, but will report directly to the AAAH Executive Director.



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Additional Requirements:

The HOPE Project will rely heavily on all members of the team participating and supporting one another. It is a requirement of this position to work as an active member of the team, as well as being self-motivated.

Qualifications and Skills:

- Knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of the home buying and the homeownership process. This will include credit, savings, and budgeting, along with an understanding of credit reports and credit reporting agencies. The person must have or will gain the knowledge of federal, state and local housing regulations, financial institutions, and community services which can be utilized to aid program participants.
- Must have strong communication skills in working with small and large groups.
- Bilingual in Spanish and English
- Ability to recognize and assess problems, provide financial assessments to program participants, and gather relevant information from a variety of sources that will bring resolve to identified problems.
- Ability to work with diverse populations.
- Proficient computer skills in programs such as MS Word, Power Point, Excel, and data base entry.

Education/Experience: A minimum of a high school diploma or GED is required. College degree and/or housing counseling certification is preferred. An equivalent of education and experience to successfully perform the essential duties of the job will be considered. The successful applicant must be educated and certified under HUD's new ruling by August, 2020.

Work Environment: 80% office/classroom, 20% outside office, including travel time.

Compensation: \$22-\$25/hour (depending upon experience). Medical and Dental provided after 3 months of successful employment

Send resume to cheryl@aaah.org or * AAAH, 825 NE 20th Avenue, Suite 225, Portland 97232 *
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