

# **Fannie Mae Counseling Initiatives**

Creating a Counseling Continuum for the Life of the Loan

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#### **Overview**

- Review of Fannie Mae's loss mitigation counseling initiatives
- Some thoughts on loss mitigation best practices
- New initiatives on pre- and post-purchase counseling



## **Post Modification Counseling**

- Target Population: Borrowers starting a trial modification plan
  - All modification types
- **Design:** Counseling available for up to 12 months
  - Counseling available by phone and Internet
  - Multi-tiered offerings vendors paid on level of service used during 12 months
- **Delivery:** Fee for service contracts with four providers:
  - Three nonprofit credit counseling agencies
- Servicer Participation: 26 servicers participating covering more than 94% of Fannie Mae mod production
  - Send borrowers "primer letter" at trial start
  - Provide contact information to counseling vendor
  - Educate SPOC and line staff on how to address borrower questions, as well as how to "sell" the initiative



## Results

- 365,000 referrals 45% RPC rate; 34% take rate to RPC
- Counseled borrowers are more likely to be current after 12 & 18 months in permanent mod
- Significantly lower SDQ rate (23%) for counseled borrowers nine months after trial start, after using statistical scoring to remove selection bias



#### **Mortgage Help Network Overview**

- Started in 2010 to help borrowers navigate the loss mit decisioning process
- Fannie Mae created a network with counselors in 25 of our hardest hit markets;
  17 partners still active
- Support included foreclosure prevention counseling, doc submission, and review of proposed solution
- With change to Streamlined and now Flex Mod, focus is more on foreclosure prevention counseling
- Nearly 60,000 borrowers counseled program-to-date



## **Reverse Mortgage Tax & Insurance Default Counseling**

- Partnership with 7 of our top RM servicers and 2 nonprofit PCLM counselors
- Added partnership with 4 Hardest Hit Fund states to assist with full reinstatement opportunities (5<sup>th</sup> state coming online in April)
- Nearly 9,000 borrowers completed counseling and 1,326 HHF fundings finalized



#### **Best Practices**

#### Servicers

- Senior management buy-in
- Dedicated project team
- SPOC engagement
  - Regular SPOC education and script testing
  - SPOC warm transfers >70% of warm transfers result in a counseling session

# **Counseling Agencies**

- "Lite" touch not all borrowers ready for intensive engagement during trial
- Action plans borrowers like to focus on actionable items
- Call servicer with borrower for other issues
- Borrower incentives
- Call recording for quality control and feedback



## **Going Forward**

- Mortgage Help Network
  - Borrowers access partners through Hope Hotline, Know Your Options, and targeted call campaigns, and focus on most at-risk borrowers
  - Fannie Mae pays standard fee to counselors
- Post Mod Counseling
  - Transition administration of program to servicers through directives
  - Fannie Mae will reimburse servicers for counseling costs
- Reverse Mortgage T&I Counseling
  - Continue focus, especially in HHF states, until our book of business winds down



# **Pre- and Post-Purchase Counseling**

- Incorporate homeownership education and housing counseling into our affordable lending products
  - HomeReady mortgage requires homeownership education or housing counseling provided by a HUD- approved nonprofit counseling agency
- Incentivize lender counselor partnerships by providing \$500 LLPA rebate to lenders when at least one borrower completed housing counseling prior to entering a contract to purchase a home
  - Looking at dual path: Organic and referrals for those declined
- Working with Framework, our education partner, to offer post-purchase messaging and resources
- Framework building out network of advisors across the nation