



Homebuyer Education Certification

Homebuyers receiving downpayment assistance through most governmental / non-profit homebuyer assistance programs, including the Winnebago Homebuyer Program, must complete a qualified 8-hour Homebuyer Education program. Certifications are generally valid for 12 months.

The Homebuyer Education Program will provide you with important information about the homebuyer process to help you make wise decisions as you move towards becoming a homeowner. Programs also provide information and resources to help you manage and maintain your home. The options presented here will help you qualify for most downpayment programs.

The 3-step Homebuyer Education process with the Winnebago Homebuyer Program, which should be completed by ALL HOUSEHOLD ADULTS, is detailed below:

Step 1: Understanding Homebuyer Financing and the Homebuyer Process

- The homebuyer household completes a 1 hour application intake meeting with the Winnebago Homebuyer Program Coordinator.

Step 2: Homebuyer Education Certification Course

- The homebuyer household completes the certified homebuyer education course, which typically takes 6-8 hours. The course is primarily offered online, and can be completed from your home. Specific topics must be covered for this course to qualify.

Step 3: Financial Readiness One on One Counseling Assessment

- The homebuyer household completes an in-person one on one meeting with a trained financial counselor to discuss your budget, home affordability, savings, and credit, and overall finances. This session typically lasts 90 minutes.

www.winnebagohomebuyer.org



Options for the Homebuyer Education Certification Course.



A. (preferred): FISC Homebuyer Education Course / “Make Your Move”

FISC has partnered with the Winnebago Homebuyer Program to serve as the County’s lead homebuyer education agency. To get started with FISC, call 1.800.366.8161 and register for their online course. The course – “**MAKE YOUR MOVE**” – is available online at www.financialeducationprograms.com/0306 (Directions -- scroll over “PRODUCTS” in the menu bar on the webpage and select Make Your Move).

The cost to complete this course and receive the certification is \$150, which includes the follow up 1 on 1 session.

B. Winnebago Homebuyer Program Alternate Language Programs

The Winnebago Homebuyer Program is committed to hosting annual in-person homebuyer education trainings delivered in non-English languages including Hmong, Arabic and others as demand arises. These 9-hour programs, delivered over 4 sessions, will satisfy Steps 1 and 2, and are paired with a certified counseling agency to deliver the step 3 financial counseling. *note: these sessions are not instructed in English*

The cost to complete this course and receive certification is \$150. Homebuyers completing a purchase through the Winnebago Homebuyer Program within 12 months will receive a \$50 downpayment credit. Visit www.winnebagohomebuyer.org/languages for dates.

C. Other Qualified Programs / Services

Homebuyers may complete other qualified homebuyer education programs, such as Neighborworks’ “Realizing the American Dream”. If you do complete a different course, be sure that the training covers each of the required topics, that it is a HUD-approved course, and that you can produce a certification of completion, a table of contents list of topics covered, and a homebuyer-specific budget worksheet completed during a 1 on 1 financial counseling session. If the course does not include a 1 on 1 session, you may need to complete it with FISC or another qualified party, and may incur additional costs.

If you require accommodations to enable completion of course requirements, please contact Justin at 920.424.1450 x 119 or mail / drop off the request at Winnebago County Housing Authority, 600 Merritt Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901.