

VHDA Homeownership Education Program

Since 1993, VHDA has been demystifying the home-buying process for thousands of Virginians through its Homeownership Education Program. This program offers free courses throughout the state that explain credit reports, the loan application process, budgeting and other topics related to purchasing a home.

Since the program's inception in 1993, more than 36,000 consumers have graduated from the six-hour course. The program has benefits beyond simply educating consumers about the process. In fact, VHDA loan recipients who have taken the course have a lower delinquency rate than those VHDA customers who did not have pre-purchase counseling.

The course, which explains the home-buying process and prepares consumers for the long-term responsibilities of homeownership, is taught more than 25 times a month at many locations throughout the state. VHDA also offers the course in Spanish and sign language.

VHDA recommends that anyone considering buying a home should consider taking this course. Many loans on the market today require some sort of pre-purchase counseling, including some of the loans VHDA offers. This course meets homeownership requirements regardless of whether or not a consumer obtains a VHDA loan.

Classes are free and open to anyone. The schedule is available at www.vhda.com/edu.



Strategic Partners in Education

Community and housing industry partners have contributed to the remarkable growth of VHDA's Homeownership Education Program over the past 10 years. This has helped VHDA develop a statewide network of more than 1,200 certified, trained instructors who teach the course. Each instructor has completed a one-day certification course and participates in VHDA's continuing education courses to keep their skills current.

VHDA's strategic partners sponsor and teach the Homeownership Education Program. VHDA's network of instructors, who teach on a volunteer basis on evenings and weekends, has grown out of these strategic partnerships.

Strategic corporate and community partners include: numerous mortgage banker associations, including the Richmond, Tidewater, Peninsula, Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Roanoke and Greater Washington mortgage banker associations; the U.S. Navy; Habitat for Humanity; REALTOR® associations; non-profit associations; consumer credit counseling services; local and state governments; public housing authorities; United Way agencies and Rural Development offices.

VHDA works closely with its partners to deliver quality homeownership education to Virginians interested in learning more about the process.

Recognized as a Leader

The Department of Housing and Urban Development honored VHDA's Homeownership Education Program as a benchmark in homeownership education when in 1998 the federal agency formally adopted VHDA's education program as its national curriculum.

VHDA has received recognition for its adaptability in working with strategic partners to customize its education program to meet the needs of diverse audiences. In a unique partnership that began in 1998, VHDA tailored its education program to the needs of U.S. Navy personnel in specially designed classes held on military bases throughout Virginia. This partnership continues in 2002 as VHDA offers courses each month to area Navy personnel in northern Virginia, southwest Virginia, the Eastern Shore and the Tidewater area.

VHDA also is working with the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority to design a homeownership education curriculum that will meet the parameters of NRHA's federally-funded HOPE VI program. This includes both homeownership and self-sufficiency education.

