COUNSELING SERVICES AUTHORIZATION

My personal information and counseling services

By signing this form I agree to share my personal financial and other private information. Signing this form also allows lenders and the Counseling Agency to discuss my accounts, credit, and finances, and to share my nonpublic personal information, described in the Privacy Policy provided with this authorization.

I understand that funders provide grants to make the counseling services possible, and that the Counseling Agency shares my information with these funders. These funders review Counseling Agency files, including my file, and may contact me to evaluate the counseling services that I receive.

I authorize my Counselor and the Counseling Agency to negotiate for me. The counseling services are offered free of charge, and neither the Counselor, nor the Counseling Agency, guarantees any result or outcome. I may be referred to other housing agencies for their services. I am not obligated to accept services or products from the Counseling Agency, its partners, or any organization I am referred to.

I understand that my Counselor cannot offer me legal or other professional advice or representation. If I need legal or other professional services I can ask my Counselor for information about referral services.

Counseling Services Checklist

Client must **initial** all items that are applicable

____ **I have been verbally advised of the fee schedule, if any, prior to services being provided**

____ I understand that the counselor will discuss my budget with me and I will receive a copy of my Budget

____ I understand that the counselor will discuss my Action Plan with me and I will receive a copy of my Action Plan

____ I understand the counselor will explain the next steps needed to reach my financial goal to my satisfaction

____ Homebuyer Counseling

____ Homeowner Counseling

____ Delinquency and Default Counseling

____ Reverse Mortgage Counseling

____ Tenant Counseling

____ Homebuyer Education

____ Homeowner Education

____ Delinquency and Default Education

____ Fair Housing Education

____ Homelessness and Displacement Counseling

____ I want to buy a home in the next six (6) months

____ I want to buy a home, but not in the next six (6) months

____ Other programs, services, or products:

For Pre-Purchase Clients only:

I have received the HUD forms:

____ "Ten Important Questions to Ask Your Home Inspector" & "For Your Protection: Get a Home Inspection"

Counseling Agency Information

Counselor Name: _____ Phone: _____

Counseling Agency: _____ Email: _____

HCO Client Number: _____ Fax: _____

PRIVACY POLICY

This Counseling Agency respects the privacy of the people that come to us for assistance. We understand that the matters you discuss with us are very personal. All spoken and written information shared with us will be managed with our legal and ethical obligations to you taken into consideration. We will not sell your personal information and we only share it to provide you with counseling services.

Your "nonpublic personal information" (including total debt information, income, living expenses, and personal information concerning your financial circumstances) will be shared with creditors, funders, and others only after you sign the Counseling Services Authorization. We may also collect, use, and share anonymous aggregated case file information to evaluate our services, to gather valuable research information, and to design future programs.

Types of Information That We Gather About You:

- Spoken or written information on applications and other documents, such as your name, address, social security number, assets, and income;
- Information about your transactions with us, your creditors, or others, such as your account balance, payment history, parties to transactions and credit card usage; and
- Information we receive from a credit reporting agency, such as your credit history.

You May Opt-Out If You Do Not Want Us to Share Your Information:

- You may "opt-out" to prevent the disclosure of your nonpublic personal information to third parties (such as your creditors).
- If you opt-out we cannot share your nonpublic information and we cannot answer questions from your creditors. We need to share your information to provide you with most services.
- You may opt-out at any time by calling the Counseling Agency at the phone number listed on the Counseling Services Authorization provided with this Privacy Policy.

How We Use Your Information:

- If you do not opt-out we may share information that we collect about you with your creditors or others if we think it would be helpful to you, would help us counsel you, or when required by funders that make our services possible.
- We may share information about you to anyone as permitted or as required by law (*e.g.*, if a Court requires us to provide it with documents).
- Within our organization, we restrict access to your information to those employees who need to know that information to provide services to you. We maintain physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to protect your information as required by federal and state law.

Client Authorization

By signing below I authorize my employers, lenders, creditors, servicers, and others to share personal and financial information with my Counselor and the Counseling Agency. I authorize my Counselor and the Counseling Agency to collect information about my accounts and to share this information with others, including funders, as needed to provide counseling services, to seek assistance from programs, or for related products and services. I authorize funders to contact me to evaluate programs that I participate in.

CLIENT NAME(S):	CLIENT SIGNATURE(S):	DATE:
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____