



Rural Development

January 18, 2018

Curtis M. Anderson  
Acting Administrator  
Rural Housing Service

1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Room 5014-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250

TO: State Directors  
Rural Development

ATTN: Program Directors  
Single Family Housing

FROM: Curtis M. Anderson /s/ *Curtis M. Anderson*  
Acting Administrator  
Rural Housing Service

SUBJECT: Nationally Approved Online Homeownership Education Providers  
Section 502 Direct Loan Program

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to introduce a new online homeownership education provider, Utah State University Extension. The course provided by Utah State University Extension is approved for national use as a third preference format. There are now three online homeownership education providers approved for national use - eHome America with first preference; and Framework and Utah State University Extension with third preference.

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 26, 2017, a notice was published in the Federal Register soliciting applications from online homeownership education providers who wished to be considered for nationwide use in the program. After convening a review panel of internal and external partners and evaluating the submissions, the decision was made to add Utah State University Extension as a third preference provider. Utah State University Extension's online homeownership education course has a fee of \$60 for the applicant and \$5 for a co-applicant. Applicants can register at the following web address: <https://extension.usu.edu/hbe/homebuyer-course-certificate/index>. Please note that the free course offered by the university is not approved for nationwide use.

EXPIRATION DATE:  
January 31, 2019

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:  
Housing Programs

**IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Within 60 days of the date of this memorandum, all State Offices must:

- Issue a state supplement providing their field offices with an updated list of approved homeownership education providers. For each approved provider, their preference format and their cost, if any, must be listed. The updated list must include the three online homeownership education providers approved for national use. Be sure to include their preference format, cost, and link to the online course.
- Email the state supplement, along with Form RD 2006-3 requesting post approval, to the direct loan program mailbox ([SFHDIRECTPROGRAM@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:SFHDIRECTPROGRAM@wdc.usda.gov)). Please use a subject line of “Homeownership Education Providers” so that it can be easily identified. **A state should consider their issuance approved unless notified of disapproval or conditional approval.**

National Headquarters will take steps to update Handbook-1-3550, Paragraph 3.4 B. to add Utah State University Extension.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Jeremy Anderson in the Single Family Housing Direct Loan Division at (202) 690-3971.