

Harlem Economic Literacy Program (H.E.L.P.)

Homeownership



Program Description

Since 2000, Abyssinian Development Corporation has delivered high-quality housing counseling through its Harlem Economic Literacy Program (H.E.L.P.), one of the only programs in Harlem that effectively meet the needs of the community through its unique offering of pre and post purchase education, and ongoing individual counseling. ADC is a trusted resource for homeowners who are in need of sound financial advice and support. Homeownership is an effective method to assist families in building assets, achieving security and providing greater stability for their children. It continues to be a major driving force in the health of communities like Harlem and across the nation and greater self-sufficiency in their lives.

Methodology/Approach

ADC employs both group workshops and individual counseling to prepare NYC residents for homeownership. Participants receiving HELP education and counseling services will experience an increased knowledge of the importance of building assets while boosting income as through savings and homeownership, allowing them to play a significant role in the economic improvement of Harlem.

Services Provided

Pre-Purchase Services

- Home Buyers Educational Seminars
- Individual Counseling
- HPD-Homefirst Loan Grant / and other Grant Assistance Programs
- Section 8 Homeownership Counseling

Post-Purchase Services

- Foreclosure Prevention and Resolution Counseling
- Transitional Counseling
- Homes Affordable Loan Modification (HAMP) Application

Recent Outcomes

To date, H.E.L.P. has educated more than 2,500 people on financial literacy and the homeownership process.

Eligibility Criteria

Services are available to all NYC residents, but are targeted to those with low or low-moderate incomes. There are no income restrictions to the program.

All who complete the series will receive a Certificate of Completion.

Enrolment Process

Applications are available upon request by email, regular mail or direct pick up from ADC offices. Slots are filled on a “first come, first served” basis. There is a small registration fee.

Program Duration

January – December
(inclusive of individual counseling sessions)

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday from 10:00am – 6:00pm
Educational Seminars/Workshops: as scheduled
(typically 6:00pm – 9:00pm)

Location

Abyssinian Towers
50 West 131st Street
New York, NY 10027

Contact Information

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About Abyssinian Development Corporation

Since our inception, Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC) has accomplished a great deal through its mission to “rebuild Harlem, brick by brick, block by block.” As we continue our commitment to uplifting the Harlem community through ADC’s comprehensive programs and services, strengthening families is crucial to completely fulfilling this change. ADC addresses complex, interconnected challenges facing the Harlem community by way of five tenets:

- **Quality Housing**
- **Social Services/Advocacy**
- **Economic Revitalization**
- **Education**
- **Civic Engagement**