

NATIONAL COMMITTEE AGAINST  
DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING  
35 West 32nd Street  
New York 1, New York

THE VOLUNTARY HOME MORTGAGE  
CREDIT PROGRAM

Members of minority groups are now eligible for assistance if they are unable to obtain FHA-insured or VA-guaranteed home loans under the same terms and conditions as are generally available to others in the same locality.

Under the Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program, established by the National Housing Act of 1954, minority group members who wish to buy or build a home and cannot obtain an FHA-insured or VA-guaranteed loan may ask for help. The Program is intended to serve as a clearing house to bring together eligible borrowers and willing lenders. No funds are advanced by the federal government.

Builders seeking commitments for FHA-insured or VA-guaranteed loans to finance the sale of houses they intend to make available to minority groups, and local lenders who are seeking assistance in finding mortgage investment firms willing to purchase FHA-insured or VA-guaranteed loans for minority groups, are also eligible.

The Program operates through sixteen regional committees, whose members serve on a voluntary basis. A small staff, headed by an executive secretary, serves each of the regional committees.

Anyone wishing to apply should write to or inquire at the regional office having jurisdiction over the area in which the property to be financed is located. In order to be eligible an applicant must have unsuccessfully applied for an FHA-insured or VA-guaranteed loan from at least two local mortgage lenders. Applicants must have a specific property in mind for purchase or construction.

If the applicant is eligible for assistance, the regional committee will circulate his application to lenders participating in the Program throughout the country.

To date, one Negro family from Washington, D. C. has been helped under the Program.

It is not yet possible to determine whether the Program will result in making available additional mortgage funds for minority families. In order for the Program to be evaluated, it is important that its existence be widely known and eligible minority families encouraged to make use of it.

Attached is a list of the addresses of the sixteen regional offices of the Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program.

Please advise the National Committee of your experiences under the Program. HHFA Administrator Albert Cole has reserve powers to release direct federal mortgage funds for housing available to minorities. He has stated that this would be done if the Voluntary Program proved unsuccessful. Documentation of the actual operation of the Program is important.