



# community development partnership

*Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower Cape*

## Learning New Skills to Support the CDP's Mission

For nearly a decade, the Community Development Partnership (CDP) has been offering its First-Time Home Buyer (FTHB) Education program to prepare residents of the Lower and Outer Cape to become homeowners. Topics in the course include information on financing, home inspections, insurance, and finding the right realtor. To date, over 500 prospective homeowners have graduated from the program.

In 2019, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) updated their requirements to become a workshop facilitator and Pelinda Deegan, the CDP's Housing Advocacy Program Manager, was to begin the certification process in the Spring of 2020, but due to COVID-19, the workshop was canceled. To prevent a lapse in services, the CDP partnered with NeighborWorks Housing Solutions in Quincy Massachusetts to ensure Lower and Outer Cape residents still had access to the program.



In May of 2022, Pelinda was able to take her first steps to becoming certified. She traveled to Los Angeles to attend the NeighborWorks Training Institute. The Institute is a national nonprofit organization that supports organizations that provide communities with affordable housing, financial counseling and coaching, training, and resident engagement and collaboration in the areas of health, employment and education.

Pelinda completed an intensive five-day course on Post-Purchase Education. The workshop provided attendees with the skills and resources needed to support new homeowners including information on home upkeep and financial management. Pelinda shares, "I learned not only from the instructors, but from participants that came from all over the country. It was rewarding to be among peers and participate in the exercises together."

Pelinda will complete four additional courses for her certification including Lending Basics for Homeownership Counselors, Compliance with State and Federal Regulation, Homebuyer Education Methods - Training the Trainer, and Introduction to Housing Counseling.

Pelinda hopes to complete the training by the summer of 2023 and bring expanded homeowner support services to the residents of the Lower and Outer Cape.

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