

FAQ for the Preferred Provider Program

- 1. Why is ICC creating a Preferred Provider Program?** The building construction industry is vast, involving many fields of science, technology, construction materials, building components, methods of construction, legal, management, finance, codes, standards, guidelines, best practices and more. Relevant training in these and other building construction-related topics are important to the entire construction industry and building safety community and should be encouraged, given due credit and allowed to count towards ICC CEUs. Since no one entity or industry, including the ICC, will be able to provide relevant and effective training in all of the building construction and code administration fields, ICC is creating partnerships with other reputable training providers to facilitate the availability of diverse training. These partnerships are being organized in the form of the Preferred Provider Program.
- 2. What are the main goals of the Preferred Provider Program?** The ICC Preferred Provider Program is intended to accomplish several goals:
 - Create an easily accessible network of extensive training opportunities from a variety of educational resources
 - Provide access to quality training on specialty topics and building products that are beyond the ICC core training programs
 - Provide increased quality and support for educational renewal requirements of the ICC Certification Program
 - Enhance the relationship between ICC and educational providers in support of building safety and innovation in building products and construction practices
- 3. Is this a mandatory program for all trainers?** No. The Preferred Provider Program is not mandatory for anyone. Those who desire to provide training that qualifies for ICC CEUs and receive the benefits of the program may sign up and become a Preferred Provider.
- 4. What is the benefit of the program for Preferred Providers?** There are many benefits to providers including:
 - Connecting Preferred Providers to ICC Members and constituencies to create a vast network of educational opportunities. ICC has a membership base of over 55,000 and a constituency database of over 450,000. ICC outreach to our Members and constituencies on the Preferred Provider Program will create an improved connection between Preferred Providers and ICC Members and constituencies.
 - Leveraging a partnership between the Provider and ICC, the Program exposes the services and products of education providers to ICC's broad audience through a Provider directory, listing of Provider educational offerings and links to Provider websites.
 - Support of ICC Certification Renewal Program by providing ICC CEUs.
 - Participation in ICC Chapter Education Benefit Program. Eligible ICC chapters are awarded education benefits that have historically been limited to ICC-provided training, but the benefit has now been expanded such that chapters can choose to use educational services from a Preferred Provider as the chapter benefit with a significant reimbursement from ICC.

- Capability of providing training on various products and methods of construction or installation to count towards ICC CEUs. Many in the industry have such training currently available and offered for free or nominal fee.
5. **What is the benefit of the program to those seeking training?** There are many benefits to those seeking training including:
 - A comprehensive listing of relevant educational programs and expanded access to educational offerings will be available. These will include available training both onsite and online, and will be identified through a live training schedule.
 - Users will have access to information about products and services of Preferred Providers.
 - Utilize Preferred Provider educational programs to gain ICC CEUs as required for renewal of ICC Certifications.
 - Access a vast training network onsite or online that might be available for free or very nominal fee and count towards certification renewal.
 6. **Can ICC Chapters become Preferred Providers?** Yes, ICC Chapters have been and will continue to be an important partner and major player in educational offerings to ICC members and others in the building construction and building safety arena.
 7. **Who else can become a Preferred Provider?** Categories of Preferred Providers available are:
 - ICC Chapters
 - Government and Nonprofit
 - For-Profit Educator
 - Industry
 8. **What is the process for becoming a Preferred Provider?** A Preferred Provider website is currently under development to facilitate an easy and user-friendly process for Preferred Providers to sign up and list their courses for approval. Once approved by ICC, the courses will automatically populate into a live calendar or schedule.
 9. **Is there a fee for becoming a Preferred Provider?** There will be a fee to fund the process, staffing, support, and website hosting, management and maintenance. There will NOT be any per course or other fees, only a fixed annual fee. The fee is very reasonable, slightly different for each Provider category, and it is very nominal for ICC Chapters. The fees will be announced once the program has gone through the feedback and input process.
 10. **Is there a fee to those who seek training as a result of Preferred Provider Program?** The Preferred Provider program has no fees for those seeking training.
 11. **Was there any input by ICC Chapters or others in the development of this program?** Yes, there was communication with and feedback from ICC Chapters. ICC Chapters had great comments, questions and suggestions. The feedback from Chapters was mostly positive and supportive. A Stakeholder Group was also formed from across the country from potential Preferred Providers in different categories of ICC Chapters, Government, Associations, For-Profit Educators and Industry. Ten ICC Chapters of various sizes and different parts of the country were represented in the Stakeholder Group. The Stakeholder Group reviewed the program details, addressed major issues, evaluated the feedback from ICC Chapters and helped ICC formulate a final draft of

the program. The ICC Professional Development Council that consists of the Education Committee and the Certification Committee will review and discuss the final draft of the Preferred Provider Program in its August meeting.

12. **What is the effective date for the Preferred Provider program?** The program is planned for roll-out in Quarter 4 of 2014. Additional information and details will be forthcoming in future editions of *ICC eNews*, *Building Safety Journal Online* and other specific communications.

UPDATES

13. **What is the ICC review turnaround time for Preferred Provider approval and Course approval?**
ICC will review Preferred Provider applications within 10 business days. Likewise, courses submitted for approval will be reviewed within 10 business days after submission.
14. **Will instructors for each Preferred Provider need to be approved?** No, ICC is approving courses but will not approve instructors.
15. **Will all training courses from Preferred Providers need to be included in the live calendar?** No. If a Preferred Provider does not want a particular training event to be on the live calendar, whether it's for a private group training contract or some other reason, the course does not need to appear in the live calendar.