

Greetings,

As many of you know the Montana Department of Commerce HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) is replacing the Housing Quality Standards (HQS) inspections with HUD's [Uniform Physical Conditions Standards \(UPCS\)](#) inspections to comply with new HUD habitability standards. The UPCS standards ensure HOME-assisted housing is decent, safe, sanitary, and in good repair, and UPCS inspections must be completed by a certified inspector.

There are two levels of UPCS Certifications:

Level I: UPCS Training Certification

Level II: HUD/REAC Certified Inspector

Montana Department of Commerce will require all UPCS inspectors to hold a Level I Certification and will provide **Level I Certification** training:

March 7-8 and April 7-8

The certification training will take place at:

301 S Park Avenue

Helena, MT 59601

Each Level I Certification Training includes two full days training by certified instructors with classroom sessions and ends with a certification exam. Class size is limited to 50 participants per course, so please **register by February 26**.

Organizations or local governments with open HOME grants or awards will be given priority because they must plan to have UPCS inspections on HOME-assisted units completed by a certified inspector.

A few things to remember:

- This training is intended for those who conduct HOME inspections. With limited space available, preference will be given to inspectors. However, all are welcome, space permitting.
- MDOC will cover the cost of the Level I training and certification. Travel, Hotel and other expenses are eligible administrative costs.
- Other training opportunities are available around the country, but Commerce will only reimburse MDOC-sponsored UPCS inspector trainings.
- Level II training is encouraged but not required. For more information on REAC Certification visit HUD/REAC Certified Inspector.

Please email DOCHOME@mt.gov or call (406) 841-2770 with questions or concerns.