



Foundations

# Home Improvement Agency Training Courses

2016 Bulletin

December 2015

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## About Foundations

Foundations is the National Body for Home Improvement Agencies and Handyperson Services in England as appointed by the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Foundations' remit is to:



Engage with providers and commissioners to monitor the sector and enhance the quality and reach of home improvement agency services



Arrange events and training



Develop tools and resources



News and publicity

For more information visit: [www.foundations.uk.com](http://www.foundations.uk.com)

### About Home Improvement Agencies

Home Improvement Agencies (HIAs), sometimes known as Care & Repair or Staying Put schemes, help vulnerable people maintain independence in their own homes. Their services include:

- visiting clients at home or providing detailed telephone advice;
- setting out housing options to help clients decide what type of housing is best suited to their changing needs;
- checking entitlement to any financial help, including grants and charitable funding;
- project management, drawing up plans, getting estimates and liaising with others involved in any building work/adaptations needed, such as council grants officers and occupational therapists;
- provision of handyperson services, to carry out small jobs around the home, help with gardening, or coming home from hospital; and
- helping to make homes more energy-efficient.

A searchable directory of accredited HIAs and handyperson services is available at: [www.findmyhia.org.uk](http://www.findmyhia.org.uk)



# Training courses

## Disabled Facilities Grants (TOR & Law)

**Course Overview:** This course will look at some of the law & policy issues in administering DFG, and an update/refresher on the means-test

The morning session will look at legislation relating to grants and bring it together with guidance from the DCLG and case law from broader social security law.

In the afternoon session this course will look at the means-test (TOR) and provide an update or “refresher”.

**Who should attend:** The course is suitable for those with an interest in these areas of policy and administration, either as front-line practitioners or as manager. This is not suitable for those with limited experience in this area.

If you are interested in an introduction to means testing for DFG’s (beginner), Means testing for Housing Grants (intermediate) and Means testing for DFG’s (advanced), please register your interest.

**Note:** these can only be run if numbers and venue allow. We will also organise ‘in-house’ sessions for those who can make up the numbers.

## Asbestos awareness

**Course Overview:** Asbestos awareness training is a legal requirement essential for employees whose work has the potential to expose them to asbestos. This will include anyone who may inadvertently disturb asbestos containing materials during any phase of building maintenance or refurbishment works; regardless of the activity frequency.

This course meets the requirements of the syllabus set out in Approved Code of Practice L143 Paragraph 126

Training, Supervision and information can allow asbestos containing materials to be managed safely and will limit the potential risk of exposure to asbestos.

**Who should attend:** Technical Officer, Surveyors, General Maintenance Staff, Construction & Demolition Workers, Contractors and Handyman.

This normally runs as a half day course, this means we can run an AM/PM course in a venue that will hold fifteen delegates in each session.

A more intensive training is also available for handypersons to allow them carry out non-licensed asbestos removal. Please contact us for details.

## **The Construction (Design and Management) CDM course**

**Course Overview:** The Construction Design and Management Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015) came into force on 6 April 2015, replacing CDM 2007. For the first time work in domestic dwellings comes fully under the remit of CDM. One of the main changes the new regulations bring is that for the first time any construction work, whether it's a new bathroom fit out or an extension, will need a written construction phase plan. In addition, there is a duty to ensure all persons involved in the construction work have the right skills, knowledge, training and experience.

To help the HIA sector understand and adhere to the new regulations. The training will provide delegates with sufficient information on their roles and responsibilities, so that by the end of the course they will be able to carry them out effectively.

**Who should attend:** These courses are aimed at Technical officers/surveyors who are responsible for the design and oversight of the building work.

## **The Housing Health and Safety Rating System: inspection and assessment**

**Course Overview:** To train delegates in the practical inspection and assessment of domestic premises using the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS), including the scoring and banding elements.

**Who should attend:** This training course is aimed at potential HHSRS assessors and technical officers.

## **The Housing Health and Safety Rating System: competency assessment**

**Course Overview:** This course provides a full assessment and certification for delegates who are developing their skills in Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) assessments.

**Who should attend:** This course is aimed at delegates who have attended the 'HHSRS: inspection and assessment' course and require a certificate of competence to prove they are able to carry out HHSRS assessments accurately and consistently.



The Centre for Housing and Support is at the forefront of national training provision for professionals working in housing-related support services

Their mission is to "Unlock your potential"

By delivering a framework of high quality support and development, professionals in the sector are better equipped to do what they do best - provide a highly effective service to people with differing needs and aspirations.

The following courses are available for staff working in accredited Home Improvement Agencies:

- City & Guilds Award in Awareness of Dementia (Level 2)
- City & Guilds Certificate in Dementia Care (Level 2)
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Business Administration (Level 2)
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Customer Service (Level 2)
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Housing Maintenance (Level 2)
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Health & Social Care (Level 2)
- CIH Certificate in Managing Responsive Repairs (Level 4)
- Foundation Degree in Housing

And from Spring 2016:

- NCFE Certificate in supporting users of Technology Enabled Care Services (Level 2)
- CIH Certificate in Telecare Services (Level 3)

To find out more and book a course, please email CHS at [foundations@chs.ac.uk](mailto:foundations@chs.ac.uk) .



Viva Access specialises in accessible housing and delivers training courses on a wide range of housing adaptation and design issues. It operates throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland and over the past ten years has developed a growing reputation as provider of housing training for occupational therapy and other services.

Their standard modules include:

- Reading Plans
- Ramps
- Access Lifts
- Bathrooms
- Kitchens
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Housing for Children with Disabilities
- Adaptations for users with challenging behaviours
- Housing for plus-size (bariatric) users
- Technical Considerations in adaptation work
- Accessible housing design
- Housing for users with visual impairments

Note: these courses are also available on an in-house basis. Please email [admin@viva-access.com](mailto:admin@viva-access.com) or call 07909-582491 for a discussion and quote.



# Foundations

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AND HANDYPERSON SERVICES

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