

Since 1974, DHIC has demonstrated the importance of connecting people with safe, affordable, and desirable homes in the Triangle region of North Carolina. They provide the following services to ensure communities are diverse, economically vibrant, and affordable: development of rental apartments and homes for sale; homeownership counseling, education and down payment assistance; and resident services. DHIC's Homeownership Center (HOC) is an important part of DHIC's portfolio of services. As a HUD-approved counseling agency, HOC provides group homebuyer education classes, financial capability, one-on-one pre-purchase counseling, post-purchase counseling, and access to down payment assistance programs. HOC is proud that all three of their housing counselors have passed the HUD Housing Counseling Certification Exam. To help you prepare, here are a few tips:

Remember to *PREP!*

Prepare

- Create an effective study plan. Set aside specific, scheduled blocks of time in advance.
- Make it a priority to study continuously. Studying a little each day will help you identify tough concepts or weak areas in your knowledge in advance.
- Use all the tools on the HUD website including taking the practice test. Use additional study resources such as webinars, quizlet and past training booklets.

Review

- Take full advantage of in person trainings. Ask questions during class and network with counselors to find out what they are doing to prepare for the exam – maybe some of their tricks will work for you as well!
- Review your learning style, some love to use technology but others prefer pen and paper. Use the method that works for you!
- Practice! Practice! Practice!

Educate

- Learn any material that you don't know yet, and review what you already know.
- Ask for help. If you are unsure of an answer ask your supervisor, a colleague or reach out to HUD.
- Stay up to date by reading industry reports, news and articles.

Positive

- Stay positive!
- Remember it's okay to be anxious, but don't let that paralyze you, instead do all you can to prepare and maintain a positive outlook.
- Don't procrastinate, take the test sooner rather than later. Remember if you fail, you can take it again.
- BREATHE! You got this!

