R.E.P. Program Retirement and New Program Launch: FAQs

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Tactics

- **When will the new training partner program go into effect?** R.E.P.s can continue business as usual until 1 July 2020 as this is when the current program will retire. We will launch the application process for the new program on in March 2020.

- **Will an organization’s current R.E.P. status automatically transfer to the new training partner program?** No. The current R.E.P. program will be retired on 1 July 2020 and all organizations who are interested in joining the new program will be required to apply for and meet the requirements for the new program. We will provide more information about the requirements and application process in February 2020.

- **How long will organizations be able to market/advertise as a PMI R.E.P.?** We will be retiring the current R.E.P. program on 1 July 2020. Current R.E.P.s can market and advertise themselves as such until that date. Once the R.E.P. program retires, all organizations who are interested in joining the new program will be required to apply for and meet the requirements. We will provide more information about the requirements and application process in February 2020.

- **Will PMI make a public announcement regarding the retirement of the R.E.P. Program and the introduction of the new Education provider program?** Yes. R.E.P.s are the first external stakeholder to learn of this change as it directly impacts these training partners. We first alerted the R.E.P.s and chapters of this change via an email from Joe Cahill on 11 November 2019. We are still in the process of finalizing some details, including specific program features and benefits, fee structures, and the new application process. In February 2020, we will announce all of these details via email and will update our R.E.P.-related webpages in order to inform all training partners how they can move forward under the new program. We will also contact certification candidates in the pipeline to inform them of how to prepare for the exam, including the current PMP exam and the new PMP exam launching on 1 July 2020.

- **When are you communicating information about the new program to PMP candidates?** We will work to ensure our PMP candidates have the appropriate information needed to properly prepare for the exam, whether it’s the current version or the new version launching in July 2020.
- **What should current R.E.P.s do until the new education provider program is rolled out?** To prep candidates for the current PMP exam (the last day for the current exam is 30 June 2020), R.E.P.s can continue prepping candidates as usual. To prep candidates for the exam launching on 1 July 2020, education providers will have to apply for and be accepted into our new education provider program to reap the benefits of being affiliated with PMI. In our new program, training partners who deliver PMP exam prep will gain access to licensed PMP exam prep course materials, developed by PMI. Partners in the new program can augment this content to include case studies, industry specific materials, and more.

**Financial**

- **How much is the new annual membership fee? And the new per-participant fee?** We are still finalizing the fee structure for the new program, and will inform everyone in February 2020. We chose to announce the program retirement, despite not having all of the final details in place, because we knew we needed to communicate this change to R.E.P.s as soon as possible so they could immediately stop developing their course materials for the new PMP exam.

- **I am an organization that does not provide PMP exam prep training. In the new program, will I have to pay the same annual membership fee as training partners who offer exam prep?** Only companies that provide PMP exam prep training will be required to pay the annual membership fee AND the new per-participant fee. If your organization does not provide PMP exam prep training and instead provides exam prep training for other PMI exams or only issues PDUs, your organization will have to pay an annual membership fee, but will be exempt from paying the per-participant fee. The fee structure is still being developed and will be communicated in February 2020. To note, PMI chapters that issue PDUs can still offer credential maintenance training.

- **Will there be regional pricing for the new program?** We are still finalizing the fee structure for the new program, and will inform everyone in February 2020. We chose to announce the program retirement, despite not having all of the final details in place, because we knew we needed to communicate this change to R.E.P.s as soon as possible so they could immediately stop developing their course materials for the new PMP exam.

**Strategy - New Program**

- **What are the differences between the R.E.P. Program and the new program?** More specific information about the new education provider program will be made available in February 2020. However, the core differences are:
  - PMI will provide participating training partners with licensed PMP exam prep course material to teach instead of having to create their own.
  - Training partners’ instructors will be required to complete a train the trainer program to ensure they are PMI-certified.
  - PMI is adjusting the annual program membership fee and implementing a per-participant fee.
  - A new program platform enables a digital, instructor-led experience for training partners and their customers that transcends geographic limitations.
  - Training partners will have access to new support offerings to ensure a more robust partnership with PMI and to help scale their businesses.
Why join the new program? What’s in it for training partners? The new program has many benefits for training partners and candidates alike including:

- Since PMI is providing licensed PMP exam prep course material, training partners no longer have to invest time and money to update their materials when a new exam is published.
- Instructors will become PMI-certified through our train the trainer program. In our Voice of the Customer survey, more than 90% of customers agreed it is important for instructors to be certified by PMI.
- Participation in the program gives training partners access to a platform to facilitate a digital, instructor-led experience for their customers that transcends geographic limitations.
- Training partners will have access to new support offerings to ensure a more robust partnership with PMI and to help scale their businesses.

What can training partners expect during the train the trainer sessions? The train the trainer program is going to help instructors learn about the needs of modern learners, as well as educate them on what to expect on the new exam.

What if I am unable to make one of the scheduled on-site train the trainer sessions? Will the virtual train the trainer sessions be offered on a regular basis? When we share program details in February 2020, we will ask you for insight into your train the trainer needs. Based on the feedback we gather from this survey, we will schedule on-site and virtual train the trainer sessions based on demand.

Will the train the trainer sessions be available in languages other than English? When we share program details in February 2020, we will ask you for insight into your train the trainer needs, including language preference. We will use this to determine the demand.

In the new program, what will be done about training partners who misrepresent themselves as being affiliated with PMI? Efforts are being taken to safeguard the PMI brand, including the associated logos and intellectual property. Cases of misrepresentation and appropriation of the PMI brand will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

How do training partners apply for the new program? We will send information about program requirements and next steps for applying in March 2020.

Is there a deadline to apply to the new program? No. Once the application process opens in the March 2020 timeframe, it will remain open and accepting applications on an ongoing basis.

Content – Current Program

What will happen to training partners’ courses that are currently registered in the CCRS Directory? All R.E.P. courses will remain active in the CCRS Directory (excluding extenuating circumstances) until 30 June 2020.
- Will students still be able to make PMI pre-approved PDU claims against training partners’ courses after they have been retired in the CQRS Directory? Yes. Students will still be able to make PDU claims against courses that have been retired as long as they have completed the course prior to the course being retired. Please note, students can only make PDU claims against courses they have taken within the past three years. Also, it is important to note that chapters can still issue PDUs in the new program.

- Why didn’t PMI tell training partners about the program changes before they started updating their exam prep content for the new exam? We communicated this program change to R.E.P.s as soon as possible so they would immediately stop developing their new course materials for the new PMP exam. If training partners would like to incorporate some of the content they created into the provided licensed PMP Exam Prep Course material, such as case studies and supplemental learning activities, they are welcome to do so.

Content – New Program

- May an organization enrolled in the new education provider program create their own PMP exam prep course? No. One of the benefits of the new program is that training partners will receive licensed PMP exam prep course material. This will eliminate the need for training partners to update their materials for every exam change and it will create a more consistent and high-quality experience for customers.

- When will updated exam content be ready? Our third-party content provider has started creating the new course materials, and the project is on time. In mid- to late May, the content will be placed in the new online training partner store so all new partners who have been approved for the program can purchase the content.

- What can training partners do to differentiate themselves against other providers in the new program? We know you are concerned about how you can differentiate yourself from other training partner in the new program and that you’re wondering if you’ll have room to put your own unique stamp on the course materials.
  - This program DOES allow you to differentiate yourself from your main competitors, which are non-registered education providers who fraudulently present themselves as part of the network. Currently, providers from outside of the network are deceiving customers and providing low-quality experiences. Our Voice of the Customer data found that more than half of customers believed they were getting their required contact hours through our network when it was actually a course provider outside of the network. The new program will make it very difficult for these fraudulent providers to attract and deceive customers.
  - The new program DOES allow you to put your own unique stamp on the courses materials. You can add your own case studies, supplemental learning activities, and industry-specific training information, as long as these additions do not alter the provided material. For example, if you are a training partner embedded in a specific industry – construction for example – we encourage you to add case studies and content specific to this industry to best resonate with your customers.
  - Skill in facilitation is also a key differentiator for training partners. The program’s required train the trainer program WILL NOT strip your instructors of their proven
skills or methods. It’s meant to ensure they understand the new course content as the PMP has undergone a drastic change and instructors have not taken a comparable exam.

- Lastly, how you choose to promote yourselves is a differentiating factor. While PMP candidates will now find their in-network training provider via our new training provider hub on PMI.org, that’s not to say they won’t go to your website or social media channels to learn more about your offerings and successes and see what other types of learning materials you provide. How you choose to convey these aspects is up to you.

- **When will the licensed PMP exam prep content be available in languages other than English?** Our translation efforts are underway to have the content available in other languages as soon as possible.

- **Are we able to see or demo the licensed PMP exam prep content before applying for the new program?** Our intent is to ensure that our training partners have all the information they need to make their business decisions. We are exploring how we can offer a preview of the content so providers feel informed before making a decision.