

APA CALIFORNIA Launches Planners4Health Six-Month Initiative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Planning Association California Chapter (APA-California) has been selected as one of 28 APA state chapters to participate in the \$1.5 million grant-funded Planners4Health initiative. The initiative will focus on building capacity at the chapter level to create stronger, healthier communities statewide by fostering greater coordination between planners and public health professionals. Chapters receiving funding were selected after participating in a peer-led application review process.

In collaboration with the California Planning Roundtable, APA California has put together a task force to oversee the project deliverables and ongoing activities. This task force will identify potential partners, leverage existing healthy community initiatives and efforts under way, share planning and public health information, bring together key stakeholders, and develop a strategic plan that will provide the necessary guidance to continue to build a health and planning movement in California beyond the six-month project timeframe.

"California planners have been leaders in making communities healthier places to live," noted APA California President Pete Parkinson, AICP. "The Planners4Health initiative provides a great opportunity to build an even stronger connection between planners and public health professionals."

Planners4Health is part of the American Planning Association's three-year \$9 million [Plan4Health](#) program that works to combat two determinants of chronic disease - lack of physical activity and lack of access to nutritious foods. Funding for the initiative is provided through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The first two years of Plan4Health focused on place-based initiatives. California participated in the second cohort through a project based in Sacramento called "Design 4 Active Sacramento (D4AS)" that brought together professional engineers, planners and public health professionals to create streets that are conducive to safely walking, biking and living through active design.

The Planners4Health initiative includes a dynamic Planners4Health Curriculum Series that is available to the public. The first webinar will be held on February 8. The "[Assessing the Healthy Communities Landscape](#)" discussion will evaluate the healthy communities movement, suggest options for promoting a healthy communities agenda, and explore how planning can help re-engineer systems to produce health equity for all. CM 11 (free)

For more information about Planners4Health or Plan4Health, visit www.planning.org/nationalcenters/health/planners4health and follow the hashtag #Plan4Health.

The American Planning Association California Chapter links planners statewide and nationwide through the National American Planning Association. Through this linkage, APA California members can obtain the latest information about planning, unite to influence legislative issues, and further professional expertise through conferences, meetings and workshops. APA California was chartered in 1948 and currently has over 4,500 members including practicing planners, elected and appointed planning officials, academicians, citizens and students. Elected state officers, and eight local Section officers, lead the Chapter. For more information, visit www.apacalifornia.org.

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