



Project Abstract – Collaborating for Healthy Communities: Building Equity Through Partnerships and Planning

“Health starts at an individual level and progresses to a community level. We need to move the nation from a focus on sickness and disease to one based on prevention and wellness. This is a 21st century flag... and I call upon the APA to deputize planners for this mission.” – RADM Boris Lushniak, Keynote Speaker, APA 2014 National Planning Conference, Atlanta

The American Planning Association (APA), in partnership with the American Public Health Association (APHA), proposes to improve the capacity of planning and public health professionals to advance community-based strategies providing for equitable access to healthcare and nutritious food, increased opportunities for physical activities, and decreased exposure to and consumption of tobacco.

To achieve this goal, APA proposes a program to support existing and emerging coalitions anchored by members of APA chapters and APHA affiliates, with strong participation from other sectors. Details below outline the project steps.

1. Through an application process, APA will support two 2-year cohorts of 15–20 coalitions to implement and evaluate policy, systems, and environment (PSE) strategies that provide create greater opportunity for healthful choices in the short and long term.
2. APA and APHA will support sub-recipients with training, education, web and social media, and other technical assistance to develop and enhance cross-disciplinary initiatives, including:
 - national peer-to-peer networks;
 - coordinating state/regional convenings; and
 - fostering sustainability beyond project period
3. Examples of short-term outcomes include:
 - increased community capacity among sub-recipients to implement PSE improvements, including creation/enhancement of cross-sectoral coalitions, efforts to collect community data, and development of community action plans (CAP);
 - increased stakeholder awareness of how planning decisions are made and where to incorporate health issues into the planning process; and
 - increased messaging by APA, APHA, and sub-recipients on the importance of policy, systems, and environmental improvements specific to their initiatives.
4. Intermediate outcomes include increased access to physical activity opportunities, environments with healthy food or beverage options, preventive care, and smoke-free or tobacco-free environments.



5. Long term outcomes include the full integration of planning and public health work, leading to a reduced chronic disease burden among Americans of all ages and backgrounds with:
 - greater daily consumption of fruit, vegetables, and healthy beverages;
 - greater physical activity;
 - improved use of preventive care services; and
 - reduced rates of smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke.

Important features:

- APA has a strong history of working in partnership with federal agencies and NGOs, and has been actively working on planning for community health for over a decade.
- A number of informal APA/APHA partnerships exist at the chapter level currently – this project will allow those local partnerships to formalize and expand.
- The power of partnering APA's chapters with APHA's affiliates will increase both organizations' capacity to reach local practitioners, citizens, and decisions makers on built environment solutions to chronic disease throughout the country.
 - Together, the two associations have a combined reach of over 100,000 professionals working throughout the U.S., and have built strong connections to other sectors that impact public health.
 - This project will advance CDC's goal to implement evidence- and practice-based strategies to reduce chronic disease and related risk factors, and increase collaboration and capacity for long-term improvements in public health for all citizens.

Summary Details:

- APA approved for Year 1 funding of a 3 year grant, totaling \$9 million (\$3m/yr)
- 75% of funding will go to support sub-recipients, a total of 30-40 local/state coalitions over the 3 yr period
- The remaining 25% of funds will support APA and APHA to develop and disseminate technical assistance and manage grantees, including a robust communications program
- Sub-recipients will be selected from a RFP process; each coalition must include members from an APA chapter and an APHA affiliate
- Coalitions will implement policy, systems, and environment (PSE) strategies to address the 4 main determinants of chronic disease: inactivity, unhealthy diet, smoking/tobacco, and lack of access to care