

A State of Collaboration

*Submitted by Andrew Bernish of the Maryland Department of Planning
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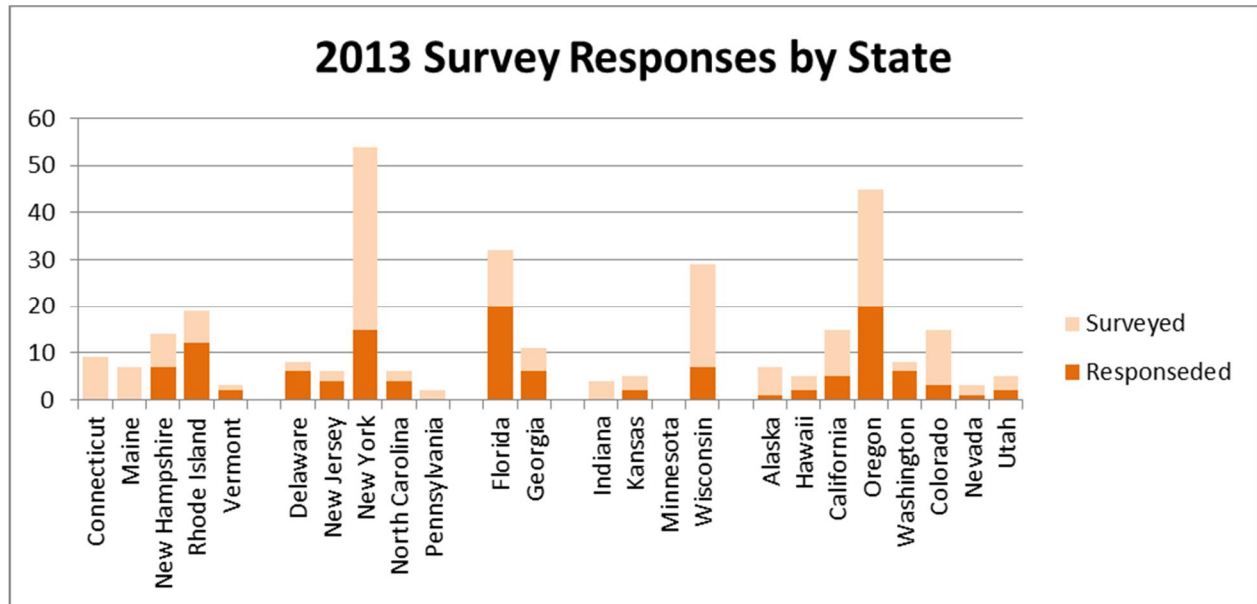
The new National Collaborative of State Planners kicks off with positive feedback
Contributed by Peter G. Conrad, AICP and Zachary Chissell of the [Maryland Department of Planning](#)

The [National Collaborative of State Planners](#), a new project of the [Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division](#), was launched in November to create a network within the American Planning Association for state planners in all 50 states. The Collaborative provides a venue to work together and advance effective state-level planning through sharing success stories and ideas.

A survey distributed to almost 350 state planners across the United States yielded an unexpectedly high response rate and a wealth of meaningful feedback that validates that state planners are indeed seeking a means for increased collaboration.

"Great idea for a state collaborative...It would be good to know what each state thinks it does best - this may be an entire program and not just a best practice." -- Rhode Island state planner

According to the survey, important issues facing state planners today include climate change, the need for outreach regarding the benefits of statewide planning and the integration of economic development with planning. Additionally, planning for public health is a growing area of interest that is not well addressed.



Survey results showed that with tight budgets, state planners prefer a free online platform to share best practices, seek and provide feedback, and connect with one another. State planners see the most value in tools such as periodic e-newsletters and webinars that address state-level planning issues.

Find more survey results shared on the Collaborative's website, www.stateplannersus.wordpress.com.

The Collaborative's website also features a growing set of best planning practices from across the country. Initiatives such as Massachusetts' [Ocean Management Plan](#) and Delaware's [Strategies for State Policies and Spending](#) are highlighted in addition to multi-state practices such as statewide growth/land use councils.

The National Collaborative is collecting information on state climate change initiatives to be the subject of a webinar this spring. The webinar will explore issues about integrating the related issues of disaster mitigation/response and sea level rise, additional issues identified by survey participants.

Join the National Collaborative at a facilitated discussion at the [APA national conference in Atlanta](#) to learn more. The discussion will be led by Richard E. Hall, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning, Armando Carbonell of the Lincoln Land Institute, Allison Joe of the California Strategic Growth Council, and Tim Chapin of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida State University. It is an exciting time for this new division initiative, and we encourage all state planners to get involved and add their voices to the collaboration.

How to get involved:

- Visit our [website](#)
- Submit [best practices](#)
- Take our [survey](#)
- Join our [mailing list](#)
- Attend our [facilitated discussion](#) at the APA National Conference

For more information: www.stateplannersus.wordpress.com

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