

American Public Health Association

The American Public Health Association (APHA) has been a partner to the National Prevention Council since the Council was established. APHA is a global community of public health professionals and works to strengthen the profession of public health, share the latest research and information, and promote best practices. APHA was engaged in the development of the National Prevention Strategy (NPS) and, since the release of the NPS, has played a crucial role in promoting the Strategy framework and recommendations.

Cross-Sector Workforce Development

APHA has received funding from the CDC to advance an interdisciplinary workforce development initiative, titled “Building Bridges between Public Health and Community Design/Planning,” in partnership with the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) and the American Planning Association (APA). APHA is expanding on the first phase of this project that was led by the National Network of Public Health Institutes in partnership with Georgia Tech. The purpose of the Building Bridges initiative is to increase the capacity for collaboration between public health and planning and design professionals (urban planners, architects, and transportation engineers) and to strengthen cross-sector partnerships. The initiative focuses on NPS recommendations related to achieving Healthy and Safe Community Environments, Empowered People, and Elimination of Health Disparities. It also fulfills recommendations from both the Institute of Medicine and the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health’s Framing the Future: The Second 100 Years of Education for Public Health Initiative.

Workforce Development Resources and Materials:

The cornerstone of the Building Bridges initiative is the Built Environment and Public Health Clearinghouse (BEPHC), a web-based repository (<http://healthyplaces.gatech.edu>) developed by Georgia Tech that includes information and tools for instructors, students, and professionals in the public health and planning arena to consider, including model curricula; links primers, tools, webinars, and other online resources to facilitate self-directed learning; and informative videos, news, and topical conversations.



Professional Development and Learning Opportunities:

In 2014, the Building Bridges initiative has offered and will continue to offer multiple opportunities for professionals in planning and public health to directly network, collaborate, and engage in peer learning:

- A network of Champions for Change representing leaders in the fields of public health, medicine, planning, architecture, landscape architecture, and transportation has been identified and an inaugural in-person meeting was held at the APA conference. These champions continue to develop strategies for a new collaborative approach to improving health through built environment changes.
- Three days of training for planning and public health professionals at APA’s 2014 National Planning Conference in the areas of active living, food systems planning, social cohesion, and ethics, at all community scales (neighborhood, city, region).
- Opportunities for leaders in the fields of public health, medicine, planning, architecture, landscape architecture, and transportation to convene and develop strategies for promoting cross-sector work in their organizations and professional communities. ➔

By supporting the development of educational materials and learning opportunities related to community design, APHA, through its partnership with APA and Georgia Tech, is helping public health and planning/design professionals across the nation plan, build, and maintain healthy community environments.

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AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION