



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Member Financial Support Program

Dear APA California Members:

The foundation of any professional association is its members. Without a diverse and engaged membership, an association can no longer be relevant. Last year, for the first time in a decade, APA California experienced a significant drop in membership. This year is not very different and our membership numbers are still declining. The downturn in the economy is confronting many of our members with a difficult decision – either to renew their membership or to commit those funds for other needs. The APA California Board of Directors wants to continue to provide relief for those contemplating dropping their memberships.

The APA California Board is continuing its Membership Financial Support Program for the 2nd year, and has committed \$15,000 from its reserve account towards a membership/conference support program. \$10,000 will be established in a separate account to provide direct financial support towards membership fees. \$5,000 will be set aside in a fund to provide financial support for those members in need to attend this year's state conference at La Costa. If you are unemployed or if your household income has dropped substantially, then this program is designed for you.

If you are unemployed, membership in APA California can be your strongest link to future opportunities. Reports state that 80 percent of all jobs are attained through networking. APA California wants to help you maintain those networking opportunities. Your local sections will be providing increased opportunities for networking in the coming months. The conference this year will also provide you numerous opportunities to meet with planning professionals throughout the state. We want you to stay connected.

Please review the numerous options available to you on the attached APA California Member Financial Support Program chart. No request for proof of financial hardship will be required. We are a family. This program will be run on the honor system. APA California wants to offer as much support as possible in these unprecedented times. If you would like to take advantage of this new program, please review the options available and then contact the APA California offices at sgassoc@msn.com or (916) 736-2434.

Sincerely,
Kurt Christiansen, AICP
APA California President



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APA members who desire financial assistance can apply once towards membership fees assistance and once towards conference fees assistance. A simple e-mail stating which item(s) you want, with proof of membership and/or conference payment(s), can be e-mailed to sgassoc@msn.com or mailed to APA California, c/o Stefan George Associates, 1333 - 36th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816. Those who have questions may call (916) 736-2434.

\$10,000 ALLOCATED TO MEMBERSHIP FEES

1A Assist members by paying the unemployment membership fees

Reimburse the unemployment membership fees from members who request it:

- \$85 for AICP members
- \$60 for APA members
- \$25 for Chapter-only members

For AICP and APA members, the member must first pay invoice through APA National and then request a refund from the Chapter. APA National requires that membership be current. Every three past years of APA membership entitles one year at the unemployment rate, for a maximum of five years.

For Chapter-only members, requests can be made directly to the Chapter. Chapter-only members need only be current to be eligible for the unemployment rate.

1B Assist members by reimbursing \$100 of membership fees

For members who are experiencing financial hardships by earning 25 percent less in household income than in 2009, APA California would like to assist these members by reimbursing part of their membership fees. Requirements are that the member pay the membership and show proof of payment to request a refund of up to \$100.

1C Assist young professional members by reimbursing \$50 of membership fees

For young professional members who are experiencing financial hardships by earning 25 percent less in household income than in 2009, APA California would like to assist these members by reimbursing part of their membership fees. Requirements are that the member pay the membership and show proof of payment to request a refund of up to \$50.

1D Assist student members by reimbursing \$25 of membership fees

For student members who are experiencing financial hardships by earning 25 percent less in household income than in 2009, APA California would like to assist these members by reimbursing part of their membership fees. Requirements are that the member pay the membership and show proof of payment to request a refund of up to \$25.

\$5,000 ALLOCATED TO CONFERENCE FEES

2A Assist members by reimbursing \$100 of full conference fees

For members who are experiencing financial hardships by earning 25 percent less in household income than in 2009, APA California would like to assist these members by reimbursing part of their full conference fees. Requirements are that the member pay the full conference fees and then request a refund of up to \$100.

2B Assist young professional and student members by reimbursing \$50 of full conference fees

For young professional and student members who are experiencing financial hardships by earning 25 percent less in household income than in 2009, APA California would like to assist these members by reimbursing part of their full conference fees. Requirements are that the member pay the full conference fees and then request a refund of up to \$50.

Example of 25% less in household income

If your household made \$100,000 last year, then to be eligible for the financial assistance, your household needs to currently make less than \$75,000. We will not require personal financial records as this will be on an honor system.