



Pennsylvania Planning Association

Statement in Response to the APA Proposal for Certification Maintenance

The Professional Development Committee of the Pennsylvania Planning Association (an APA chapter) supports the proposal currently before the AICP Commissioners that requires all AICP members to maintain their certification through continuing professional development. However, we have the following concerns/caveats.

- There should be enough professional development opportunities available annually within each chapter so that those who cannot attend the chapter's annual conference may still maintain their credentials.
- The distinction between APA courses, APA sponsored, and registered courses seems unnecessary to us.
- We are concerned about the time and/or financial burden of maintaining certification on some planners, local governments, and smaller consulting firms. To this end, perhaps we could begin by requiring less than the stated 48 hours, see how things work, and then gradually work our way up to 48 hours. Perhaps we should start at 15 hours per year. This amount should generally be available through the chapter annual conference.
- We feel that the amount and/or quality of professional development opportunities offered at the national, chapter, and sub-chapter levels will have to be improved in order to make this program meaningful, if not functional. As the Professional Development Committee of the PPA, we stand ready to do our part.
- Electronic means of providing professional development opportunities could be blocked by the IT policies of some municipalities.