

Dear AICP Member:

On January 1, AICP's Certification Maintenance program officially began. This is an exciting time. We have entered a new era in the evolution of the planning profession. We now take our place among the doctors, lawyers, architects, and other professionals who acknowledge the vital importance of continuing education to the advancement of their profession and the credibility of their work.

We want to create a program that meets your needs and is workable for a broad range of organizations that provide training for planners. Of course, as in any evolutionary process, we are sure to experience some growing pains. Over the past several months, we have refined this program in response to comments from members and training providers, and we will continue to do so. This process is similar to writing a zoning code — and, as you well know, rare is the code that needs no amendments.

Since the AICP Commission approved the Certification Maintenance program in April 2007, we have contacted and met with more than 700 organizations that provide training for planners. We have also had conversations with other professional organizations that have certification programs. Our goal is to create a program that encourages as many training providers as possible to become registered CM providers and offer training activities that will meet the needs of our members. We will continue to refine and adapt the program to meet that goal. [You can read more about our outreach to providers and find out how you can encourage your favorite training provider to become a registered CM provider here.](#)

We want the Certification Maintenance program to work well for you. That means making sure that you can find high-quality, accessible training activities and that logging those activities is as easy as possible. In October 2007, we launched [a new section of our website](#) that will help you find CM activities and log them. Since October, more than 4,000 AICP members have logged CM credits in their online CM logs. Recently, we surveyed all of the members who had logged CM credits to find out how we can improve the process. [You can read more about the survey and find out how to log your own credits here.](#)

This is our commitment to you: We will create a Certification Maintenance program that:

- Advances the planning profession,
- Increases the value of your certification,
- Attracts the best training providers, and
- Is as easy as possible to use.

Furthermore, we are committed to working with you and with training providers to ensure the Certification Maintenance program meets the above goals. We're here and we're listening. With your help, we will make this a successful program for AICP members, training providers, and the planning profession as a whole.

Sincerely,

W. Paul Farmer, FAICP Executive Director and CEO

Certification Maintenance

On April 13, 2007, the AICP Commission approved a measure requiring AICP members to engage in continuing education in order to maintain their certification beginning January 1, 2008.

How does it work?

AICP members must earn a total of 32 CM credits every two years. The first two-year reporting period for most AICP members began January 1, 2008. Reporting periods for new AICP members begin the January after they become AICP members.

How can I earn CM credits?

As of this writing more than 3,500 continuing education activities from more than 200 organizations have qualified for CM credit. [Search our website find activities that qualify for CM credit](#). And remember: many activities that took place between April 14, 2007, and December 31, 2007, have qualified for CM credit.

How can I log CM credits?

Every AICP member has a personal online CM log. Use your APA ID and password to log in, search for CM activities, rate them, and submit them to your CM log. If you have questions about how to do this, [e-mail us](#).

Other questions

To find out more about Certification Maintenance, [check out our frequently asked questions page](#) or [e-mail us](#). We are committed to making the Certification Maintenance program work for you and responding to your comments and feedback.