ADVOCACY

www.aap.org/stgovaffairs
http://FederalAdvocacy.aap.org (AAP member login required)

By working with and through your state AAP chapter, members can take full advantage of the resources and information available from the AAP, the state chapter, and its coalition partners. In addition, active chapter participation ensures that all pediatricians in your state will be using consistent information and messages about key advocacy issues. By speaking with one voice, pediatricians not only bolster their strength in numbers, but maximize their credibility with those they seek to influence. Your knowledge, expertise, and unique perspective will greatly enhance the effectiveness and reach of your state chapter.

At the federal level, AAP members have many opportunities to advocate for children and pediatricians, from meeting with members of Congress to writing to the media about child health priorities within federal policy. The Department of Federal Affairs operates a network of AAP members called Key Contacts. Key Contacts are AAP members who elect to receive important assignments, timely federal updates, and information on upcoming events related to federal advocacy. Become a Key Contact by emailing the Department of Federal Affairs at kids1st@aap.org today!

Advocacy education and training opportunities, direct consultation and technical assistance, and online advocacy resources such as the AAP Advocacy Guide, are available to AAP members and chapters from the Division of State Government Affairs and Department of Federal Affairs.

CHAPTERS

www.aap.org/member/chapters/chapserv.htm

Numerous opportunities for involvement and leadership development abound in the 66 AAP chapters. AAP members have a unique opportunity to shape the development and implementation of child health policy and advocate at the state and local levels through one of our 59 US chapters. Each chapter establishes its own legislative priorities and accomplishes them through the volunteer efforts of its members. Chapters also build coalitions by partnering with other organizations in the state to advance children’s health and well-being.

COMMITTEES

www.aap.org/visit/aapcomm.htm

National committees also provide a valuable venue for involvement. Committees are responsible for developing the majority of policy statements that are published by the AAP. In addition to working on policy statements, committees commonly author books based on the topic area of the respective committee. Once a year the membership is notified of any committee vacancies and given the opportunity to nominate Fellows (FAAPs), including themselves, for the positions. All committee members are board appointed.

SECTIONS & COUNCILS

Sections and councils offer a unique opportunity to become involved. Members are eligible to join multiple sections and/or councils that are of interest to them based on their member type and the membership criteria established by that group. Most sections and councils have established annual dues that range from $10–$105 in addition to national dues.

Sections
www.aap.org/sections

Sections are membership sub-organizations that present educational activities and advance their respective specialties/special interests through policy development, public education, and advocacy for children. The membership within each section constitutes a valuable reservoir of specialty and subspecialty expertise to be drawn upon for guidance in the development of AAP policies, clinical reports and practice standards, and to act as representatives of the AAP to other organizations. Each section has an elected executive committee and many appointed sub-committees, so leadership opportunities are bountiful.

Councils
www.aap.org/councils

In general, councils represent the primary source of expertise within the AAP for their topic areas, and are the destination for all internal and external queries on that topic. As holistic topical homes, councils have the ownership and responsibility to explore and expand upon issues that fall within their subject area through policy, education, advocacy and implementation in practice, as appropriate. Executive committees, as the leaders of councils, work to create synergy across these domains and among relevant issues, and take responsibility for learning about and, where needed, expanding the gamut of options available to them to achieve their goals.

COMMUNITY PEDIATRICS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

www.aap.org/commpeds/

Increasingly, the major threats to the health of America’s children arise from problems that cannot be addressed adequately within the practice setting alone. It is the goal of Community Pediatrics to improve child health within the context of family, school, and community, and to reduce health disparities, through collaborative use of community resources and synthesis of clinical practice and public health principles.

The Academy provides resources, technical assistance, and funding opportunities to assist pediatricians in addressing child health within their community.

Community Pediatrics Training Initiative
www.aap.org/commpeds/cpti
The Academy’s Community Pediatrics Training Initiative supports training pediatricians with the skills and knowledge needed to improve the health of all children in the community and offers several opportunities to those involved in training.

Catch
www.aap.org/catch/
Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) grants assist pediatricians to collaborate within their communities to remove barriers to care and increase access to medical homes. The program provides planning, implementation, and resident grants along with training and technical assistance.

Healthy Tomorrows
www.aap.org/htpcp
Through the Healthy Tomorrows Partnership for Children Program (HTPCP), the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) funds projects to improve the health status of mothers, infants, children, and adolescents by increasing their access to a medical home and promoting preventive services.