

Call for Nominations to the Health Equity Committee

The Health Equity Committee (HEC) is pleased to invite nominations for service on the committee. HEC anticipates two membership vacancies and requests qualified candidates to serve three-year terms commencing January 1, 2024. For the 2024-2026 term, to further its mission and effectively address priorities, HEC is seeking nominees with research, teaching, or practice-based expertise in one or more of the following areas:

APA-wide strategic priorities such as:

- Mitigating bias, stigma, and discrimination (BSD) to advance health equity
- Addressing racism as a key driver of health inequities
- Climate change
- Anti-racism
- Population health approaches to behavioral and mental health

Committee identified priorities such as

- Biological, psychological, behavioral, social, and instructional drivers of infectious disease, including but not limited to Covid-19 and HIV
- Communicating science to nonscientists
- Communicating behavioral and social science through media outlets
- Knowledge of healthcare systems and policy to advance health equity
- Expertise in lifespan and early childhood

HEC welcomes psychologists of diverse backgrounds and considers various factors that are relevant to our mission when selecting members, such as age, gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language, and socioeconomic status. In developing slates of nominees, the committee will also consider areas of expertise or specialization within psychology, stage of career (early, mid, late) and other aspects of diversity that are relevant to the committee's mission. Please note that this position is not open to active students.

Committee Summary

The Ad Hoc Committee's mission is to advance health equity and reduce disparities, with a particular focus on addressing the systems, policies, regulations, and institutions that promote and maintain inequities and the resulting adverse health conditions and outcomes among marginalized communities and populations. Within its purview, the committee will:

- Promote the application of psychological knowledge to the health and health equity of individuals, communities, organizations and institutions, with special attention to the influences and intersectionalities of discrimination, poverty, stigma, racism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, ageism, and xenophobia, and other marginalized populations, in science, practice and policy.
- Provide strong and visible advocacy for a scientific agenda on health equity issues and contribute to the formulation and support of public policies and associated regulations that promote optimal health and health equity, while expanding scientific understanding of health equity and populations experiencing health disparities/inequities.
- Promote access to and value of psychological practice by advocating for health equity policies that address the unmet needs for underserved and marginalized communities and populations.
- Promote inclusion of knowledge about health equity and social determinants of health in all levels of education, including Pre-K to 12, undergraduate, graduate, training programs, continuing education, and professional development of psychologists.

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- Develop and disseminate information concerning the scientific findings and practice implications of health equity issues.
- Serve as a visible focus for the coordination of information among groups within APA that address health equity issues and offer consultation to relevant APA Central Office, APA boards and committees, divisions, as well as state, provincial and territorial psychological associations.

APA Strategic Plan

APA is engaged in a process of transformation, placing a much greater emphasis on making an impact that clearly benefits society and improves lives. In February 2019, the governing body of APA, the Council of Representatives, adopted a new strategic plan that sets APA's organizational priorities for the next three to five years. Going forward, boards and committees will work in an integrated, collaborative, and multi-disciplinary manner since no single board or committee can achieve any of the plan's objectives on their own. Given the importance of this approach to the Association's strategic priorities, APA encourages nominees to the HEC to review the [strategic plan \(PDF, 722KB\)](#) to become familiar with the larger context in which their expertise and interests will contribute to APA's success.

The committee shall consist of six members. It shall report to council through the [Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest \(BAPPI\)](#).

As APA continues its transformative work of implementing the [APA Strategic Plan](#), BAPPI does so with a focus on Goal 1: Making an impact on critical societal issues. As a result, BAPPI has identified its primary strategic initiative: Mitigating Bias, Stigma, and Discrimination (BSD) to Advance Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion on which to focus its work, in coordination with Public Interest Committees.

Public Interest Committees will be instrumental in supporting a wide array of APA strategic initiatives, as it relates to the BSD Initiative including, but not limited to: State/Local Advocacy, Intersectional Racial Equity Issues, Health Inequities, and Climate Change.

A strong interest, passion, or expertise in any, or all of these topic areas is highly recommended.

Position Requirements

HEC members are required to attend one in-person meeting each year in Washington, D.C., with expenses reimbursed by APA (pending Coronavirus related travel restrictions). In 2024, the meeting is scheduled for March 22-24. Committee members also work on HEC priorities between in-person meetings and will be expected to participate in bi-monthly virtual meetings, a series of virtual meetings in the fall, and regular listserv discussions. In addition, HEC members are encouraged to attend HEC related symposia and events at the APA Annual Convention if possible, though expenses cannot be reimbursed.

Please note, a large amount of committee work is completed in Microsoft Teams. A proficiency or willingness to learn the platform is helpful in this position.

How to Apply

The nomination packet must include the following information:

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- CV
- Letter of intent that includes:
 - Willingness to serve on the committee for the three-year term
 - Description of the nominee's qualifications, specifically highlighting the nominee's interests and how they see themselves contributing to the mission of HEC

***Optional: up to 2 letters of support

Nomination applications must be received in their entirety by January 31st, 2023 and can be submitted [HERE](#) . All submissions must be completed by the individual who will sit on the committee, if accepted. If you wish to nominate someone else, please feel free to send them the application link above or this announcement, and they will be able to send any recommendation materials along with their submission.

An [APA membership](#) is not required for application, but is required to sit on the committee. If you are accepted for the role and not an APA member, you will be asked to start or renew your membership at that time.

For additional information about the application process, please contact the APA Portfolio on Health Equity by email shaber-sage@apa.org.