



Active Design Verified (ADV) is a verification program aimed at inspiring the design of affordable housing that promotes resident health and wellbeing. Developers who commit to the ADV effort receive assistance in integrating Active Design into their residential portfolios and national recognition for successful implementation.

Active Design is an approach to development that uses architecture and urban planning to make physical activity and healthy foods more accessible and inviting.

ADV is a joint initiative, led by the Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA) and the Center for Active Design (CfAD).

Who can commit?

ADV is targeted at developers who are designing and building projects where a significant percentage of residential units are designated as affordable. By joining, a developer commits to incorporate Active Design strategies into a portion of their affordable housing portfolio. A commitment can be made at any phase of development, however it is recommended that Active Design strategies are integrated at the earliest stages of design to ensure efficient and cost-effective implementation.

By committing to the ADV effort, developers establish themselves as model businesses, aligned with a growing movement that supports healthy and active environments.

Why make the Active Design Verified commitment?



MARKET DIFFERENTIATION

Prioritizing Active Design positions your firm to align with funder priorities, which may positively impact funding prospects and RFP submissions.



SYNERGIES WITH ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Many Active Design strategies align with environmental sustainability certification systems such as LEED and Enterprise Green Communities.



EVIDENCE-BASED RESULTS

58% of residents of an affordable housing site with Active Design elements reported an increase in the number of flights of stairs climbed per week.



RESIDENT HEALTH

Today's children may be the first generation to be less healthy and have a shorter life expectancy than their parents.

Sample Active Design Verified strategies



FACILITIES THAT SUPPORT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND HEALTH

- *Dedicated indoor and/or outdoor spaces that are programmed for physical activity and recreation*
- *Secure, long-term bicycle storage for residents*



APPEALING STAIRS FOR EVERYDAY USE

- *Centrally located stairwells feature walls designed with colors, materials, and finishes equal to that of the building lobby*
- *A stair intended for everyday use is visible from the main corridor and has equal or greater visibility than the elevator*



INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT WALKING AND BIKING

- *Site offers pedestrian and bike access to transit facilities, parks, and grocery stores*
- *Sidewalks are wide enough to comfortably accommodate pedestrians, including those with disabilities*

Commitment and verification process

We work with each developer to determine a custom set of Active Design strategies that are specific to their portfolio. Once a set of strategies is agreed upon, the developer commits to integrating them into a portion, or all, of its affordable housing portfolio over a defined period of years.



Once the commitment has been made, the development and architectural teams receive training and technical assistance to ensure successful implementation of the Active Design strategies. Over the course of the commitment, the developer also receives verification of progress and public recognition of success.

For more information on making a commitment to Active Design Verified, please contact Andrea Muscadin at amuscadin@ahealthieramerica.org.