

The graphic features a dark blue square background. In the center is a large white circle with a thick white border. Inside the circle, the text "American Planning Association" and "Guiding Principle:" is in a light blue font. Below this, the words "Interwoven" and "Equity" are written in a large, bold, dark blue font.

American Planning
Association
Guiding Principle:

Interwoven Equity

Ensure fairness and equity in providing for the housing, services, health, safety, and livelihood needs of all citizens and groups.

Equity in community decisions and services means fairly sharing the benefits and costs. This involves asking key questions to ensure that the needs of everyone in the community—rich and poor, young and old, native and immigrant—are met. Disadvantaged groups, such as young people and immigrants, often do not take part in discussions about community policies and programs, which can lead to their needs being overlooked. Poor and minority communities are often hit hardest by pollution and natural disasters. Because these groups may not have the skills or community connections necessary for access to jobs, resources, and healthcare, the community may need to create special programs to help them. Affordable housing is another important need that falls under this principle. By including equity considerations in the comprehensive plan, the community and its leaders can ensure they think about “who benefits” when developing policies, priorities, and spending.