The Community Transformation Grant program is a $132 million nationwide initiative sponsored by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The program supports local communities in implementing evidence-based strategies to reduce chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, and diabetes, which are the leading causes of death in the United States. Community Transformation Grant funds are authorized under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 to improve community health through prevention, while reducing health disparities and lowering health care costs.

In October 2011, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) received a potentially five-year, $15 million Community Transformation Grant. The grant will support the County’s Live Well! San Diego initiative and strengthen its strategic partnership with SANDAG on health-related activities in the San Diego region. SANDAG and the county will build on what was accomplished under Healthy Works, the CDC-funded Communities Putting Prevention to Work program. In July 2012, HHSA contracted with SANDAG for $2.5 million in Community Transformation Grant funds to continue implementing a range of projects that increase physical activity and access to healthy food and nutrition throughout the region.

Program Schedule
The SANDAG Community Transformation Grant activities will be implemented from July 2012 through September 2016. Funds are anticipated to be allocated annually by the CDC.

Public Participation
Members of the public will have ample opportunities to participate in the Community Transformation Grant program. SANDAG will form a Public Health Stakeholder Group to develop recommendations for Community Transformation Grant activities and provide feedback and input. The group will include key stakeholders from across the region. All meetings will be open to the public. It is anticipated that the group will convene quarterly starting Thursday, October 25, 2012.

SANDAG also will participate in the Safe Routes to School Coalition which will meet bi-monthly. The role of the coalition is to identify strategies to address infrastructure, program, and policy-related barriers to walking and biking to school.

In addition, SANDAG will schedule public events, training workshops, and presentations, as needed, for specific projects throughout the grant period. For more information on meeting dates, agendas, and opportunities to provide input, visit the project website at sandag.org/healthyworks.

Grant-Funded Programs
SANDAG will implement the following four activities as part of the Community Transformation Grant program:

(Continued on reverse)
1. Public Health and Wellness Policies for Regional Land Use and Transportation Planning
   » Develop a regional public health and wellness policy framework and performance metrics
   » Develop guidance for incorporating health considerations into local and regional planning
   » Conduct health analysis on appropriate components of the next regional plan
   » Develop recommendations for implementing a regional monitoring and evaluation program for physical activity and public health indicators
   » Conduct outreach to promote active design guidelines in the region

2. Health Benefits and Impacts Analysis Program
   » Build capacity throughout the region to conduct health assessments on proposed projects, policies, and plans at the regional and local level
   » Develop a technical assistance program to support local agencies in implementing health assessments
   » Develop protocols for future institutionalization of the health benefit and impact analysis tool for assessing health and social equity benefits and impacts of proposed transportation plans and projects

3. Regional Complete Streets Policy and Implementation
   » Build capacity in the region to comply with the Complete Streets Act of 2008 and support projects that balance all modes of travel on public rights of way
   » Support the update of the Traffic Impact Study guidelines for the San Diego region
   » Support the development of a Regional Complete Streets Policy

4. Regional Safe Routes to School Strategic Plan Implementation
   » Conduct a needs analysis and prioritize the recommendations identified in the Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Strategic Plan
   » Develop a phasing and funding strategy to implement the Regional SRTS Strategic Plan
   » Identify and implement up to three high-priority actions in high-need areas

For More Information
Visit sandag.org/healthyworks or contact Stephan Vance, SANDAG community transformation grant program manager, at stephan.vance@sandag.org or (619) 699-1924.