

A CALL TO ACTION:

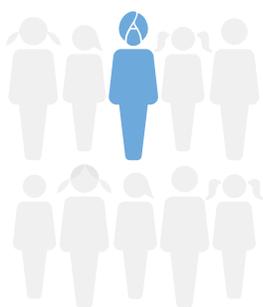
Aligning Public and Private Investments
in Asian American, Native Hawaiian and
Pacific Islander Communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

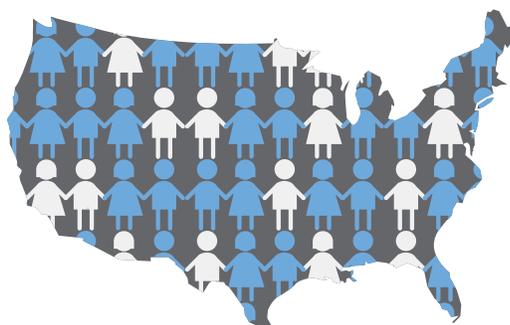
Executive Summary

Why Invest in AANHPIs, Why Now

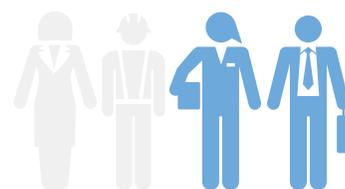
With a 46 percent growth rate between 2000 and 2010, Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in the country. There are currently about 19 million Asian Americans and 1.2 million Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, who make up 6% of the U.S. population.¹ By 2060, these numbers are projected to grow to 40 million, and one in ten Americans will be Asian American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (AANHPI).²



By 2060, one in ten Americans will be AANHPI.



In 2050 the nation's population of children is expected to be 62 percent children of color.³



By 2050 nearly half of the people in our workforce will be people of color.⁴

The growth of Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) populations is an opportunity to reframe the narrative about these diverse communities. It has many implications for social policy, social equity and overall community well-being, as growing AANHPI populations are reshaping communities in new geographic areas of the country.⁵

- 1 U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved from http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_13_1YR_DP05&prodType=table
- 2 Colby, Sandra L. and Jennifer M. Ortman, *Projections of the Size and Composition of the U.S. Population: 2014 to 2060*, Current Population Reports, P25-1143, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2014.
- 3 Cardena, Vanessa. "The Top 10 Facts About Children of Color in the United States." Center for American Progress, May 12, 2012. Available at: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2012/05/18/11581/the-top-10-facts-about-children-of-color-in-the-united-states/>
- 4 Colby and Ortman (2014).
- 5 Asian Pacific American Legal Center and Asian American Justice Center (2011). *Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans in the United States 2011*. Washington DC: Asian American Center for Advancing Justice.



AANHPIs are the fastest growing segment of the American electorate with a **128%** increase from 1996 to 2008

States With Highest Number of Asian Americans –United States 2010

U.S. States	Number	%
California	5,556,592	15%
New York	1,549,494	8%
Texas	1,110,666	4%
New Jersey	795,163	9%
Hawaii	780,968	57%
Illinois	668,694	5%
Washington	604,251	9%
Florida	573,083	3%
Virginia	522,199	7%
Pennsylvania	402,587	3%
Massachusetts	394,211	6%
Maryland	370,044	6%
Georgia	365,497	4%
Michigan	289,607	3%
North Carolina	252,585	3%

States With Highest Growth of Asian Americans –United States 2000-2010

U.S. States	% Growth
Nevada	116%
Arizona	95%
North Carolina	85%
North Dakota	85%
Georgia	83%
New Hampshire	80%
Delaware	78%
Arkansas	77%
Indiana	74%
Texas	72%
Florida	72%
Virginia	71%
Idaho	71%
South Dakota	70%
Alabama	70%

Source: Asian Pacific American Legal Center and Asian American Justice Center (2011). Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans in the United States 2011. Washington DC: Asian American Center for Advancing Justice.

For example, as the baby-boomer generation continues to age into retirement over the next two decades, a lower percentage of the working-age population will be White. The lack of investment in youth of color, including AANHPI youth, who are now the majority of children in public schools in the United States, undermines the future potential and competitiveness of the U.S. labor force. Whether today’s youth can restore the competitive edge of the American labor force in the global economy depends on retooling our education system in ways that support the needs of rapidly diversifying student populations.

AANHPIs are the fastest growing segment of the American electorate with a 128% increase from 1996–2008.⁶ As the AANHPI communities grow, they are becoming important constituencies to include in efforts to build the political will necessary to reform large-scale systems like public education and health care. Similar to other voters, AANHPIs are primarily concerned with improving

6 Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD), 2012 Asian American Election Eve Poll. Presentation, November 7, 2012.

the economy and creating more jobs – with 58% reporting this as their most important issue in a 2012 election eve poll.⁷ Other major priorities for AANHPIs include health care (20%), education (20%) and immigration (13%).

A closer look at poll data⁸ reveals that AANHPIs support a number of issues that reflect important policy change priorities. For example:

- **60%** of Asian American voters feel strongly that our government should ensure all Americans have access to health insurance.
- A combined **57%** of Asian American voters strongly or somewhat support comprehensive immigration reform, including a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.
- **59%** of Asian Americans strongly or somewhat support expanding the existing federal program that helps low-income people pay their rent, and **68%** support expanding a federal program to build or rehab existing homes that low-income people can afford to rent.
- **70%** of Asian Americans consider themselves environmentalists, compared to 41% of Americans overall; and **60%** of Asian-American prioritize environmental protection over economic growth, compared to 41% overall.

Recent election cycles have demonstrated that AANHPIs are an increasing force in presidential, congressional and gubernatorial races – particularly in areas undergoing rapid demographic change.⁹

Aligning Public and Private Funding for Greater Impact on AANHPI Communities

The rapid growth of AANHPI populations means that the diverse issues and needs of AANHPIs must become more visible to both government funding agencies and foundations. The AANHPI community is not a monolithic one. Certain AANHPI subgroups have high rates of poverty and linguistic isolation, and low levels of educational attainment.¹⁰ In fact, during the recent

7 AALDEF and National CAPACD (2012).

8 AALDEF & National CAPACD (2012); Ramakrishnan, Karthick and Lee, Taeku (2012). Public Opinion of a Growing Electorate: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in 2012. National Asian American Survey.

9 See Ishimatsu, Josh, “Asian Americans Key in Virginia Senate Race?” *Rooflines*, November 19, 2014. Available at: http://www.rooflines.org/3944/asian_americans_key_in_mark_warner_race/

10 Asian Pacific American Legal Center and Asian American Justice Center (2011).

“The demographic transformation happening in America, in part a result of the growth of AAPI communities, is creating new social dynamics that largely mirror the realities faced by AAPIs today. The transformation includes an increasingly multiracial and multi-ethnic population, where newly arriving immigrants and refugees create pockets of linguistically and culturally isolated communities scattered throughout the United States. It also involves issues of language and diversity factoring into disparate access to health care, education, and employment opportunities, depending on where one lives, works, or goes to school. Our hope is that the proactive strategies used to respond to the needs of AAPIs today may provide the basis for solutions used in the future to create opportunities for all Americans.”

—White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Building the American Mosaic: Report from the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, U.S. Department of Education: Washington, D.C., 2014.

recession, the number of poor AANHPIs increased by 38% to a total of over 2 million people, and the largest increases were among the American born.¹¹

Underinvestment in AANHPI communities has remained persistent, with foundation investments hovering around 0.3% for the past 25 years and ongoing barriers to accessing government grants. By aligning investments, we have an opportunity to change this condition.

President Barack Obama’s executive order reestablishing the White House Initiative on AAPIs (WHIAAPI) in 2009 both recognized the importance of the growing AANHPI communities to the nation’s future and called for the government to ensure that they are reached by federal programs. In the context of changing demographics, AANHPIs have a critical role to play in solving the nation’s most pressing problems. The Initiative has made significant progress building better relationships between AANHPI communities and the federal government, fostering cross-agency collaboration, advancing efforts to disaggregate federal data sets, and supporting AANHPI entrepreneurs.

Yet much remains to be done for government to be responsive to AANHPI communities. Early in his Administration, President Obama prioritized public/private partnerships (PPPs) and social innovation, with a strong belief that both government and private resources are critical to addressing social problems and that government should not do it alone. In that spirit, on April 2, 2012 the WHIAAPI convened its first-ever National Philanthropic Briefing to draw attention to the often overlooked needs of the fastest growing racial group in the country. The convening was historic, the first of its kind for any Presidential administration. Nearly 200 participants included leaders of the nation’s largest philanthropic institutions, senior officials from more than ten federal agencies, and community experts – all with the goal of building stronger ties and complementary strategies among government, philanthropy, and the private sectors.

The participation of so many high-ranking government officials from a Presidential Administration in addressing AANHPI issues was unprecedented. The Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Kresge Foundation together made an initial commitment of \$1 million, the first of its kind focused on PPPs to address the specific needs of AANHPI communities. Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in

¹¹ National CAPACD (2013). Spotlight on Asian American and Pacific Islander Poverty: A Demographic Profile. Washington DC: National CAPACD.

Philanthropy (AAPIP), with its long history of holding philanthropy accountable to AANHPI communities, was asked to implement a planning process identifying opportunities for partnerships among philanthropy, government and community that have potential for reducing disparities faced by AAPIs.

In many significant ways, PPPs are nothing new. Nonprofits have been the locus of bringing together public and private resources to form unified initiatives for decades. And in the current milieu of austerity and sequestration, governments have devolved more services to the private and nonprofit sectors, while foundations and nonprofit organizations have been asked to do more and more. In this context, community-based organizations (CBOs) have become even more adept at piecing together multiple sources and partnering with multiple entities for strategic initiatives. AANHPI nonprofits have been particularly motivated to launch special initiatives because mainstream service providers typically do not include AANHPI populations around the issue or crisis of the day, and AANHPI CBOs are left to scramble to fill in the gaps.

During the National Philanthropic Briefing, participants identified six critical issue areas in which larger scale, aligned public and private investments could have significant impact: *health, education, arts and culture, community and economic development, immigrant integration and civil and human rights*. It was an important first step in exploring opportunities for the federal government and philanthropy to increase investment in underserved AANHPI communities.

Reframing PPPs in the Context of AANHPI Communities

As the planning process unfolded, AAPIP saw the need to identify **both** short-term opportunities for PPPs that address particular disparities as well as longer-term strategies. We have challenged ourselves to resist the urge to recommend only PPPs that can be implemented now. To do so would deeply reflect the politics of scarcity and will not create the lasting change our communities need and deserve. Infrastructure-building in the AANHPI communities is needed to continually inform and align community-defined priorities with those of both government agencies and foundation funders. Growing recognition and use of disaggregated data about this community provides a pioneering opportunity to invest in actionable data that can strategically inform investment decisions. Over the long-term, better-informed approaches will create the partnership capacity to scale-up and address complex issues and disparities facing these communities.

The Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Kresge Foundation together made an initial commitment of \$1 million, the first of its kind focused on PPPs to address the specific needs of AANHPI communities.

Infrastructure-building in the AANHPI communities is needed to continually inform and align community-defined priorities with those of both government agencies and foundation funders.

AAPIP's approach to public/private partnerships in this publication recognizes that it often takes a great deal of organizing and advocacy to bring public agencies to the table as partners, and to create greater impact through policy change. Therefore, the recommendations contained in the report are expansive – intentionally going beyond the traditional understanding of PPPs and offering a broader vision for bringing communities, government and philanthropy to the table in ongoing, more impactful partnerships. AAPIP's reframing of PPPs means that everyone has “skin in the game.” It is an invitation to build the broadest tent to address institutional barriers to funding, and to create long-term societal change and cultural change in the AANHPI communities – and beyond. With a new approach that gets us out of scarcity or “zero sum” thinking about resources, PPPs in the AANHPI communities can be ways to test community-driven innovations – potentially leading to replication in other communities and broader societal benefit.

This publication is the culmination of AAPIP's planning process and discussions with key informants,¹² and a **call to action** for aligned and impactful public and private investments in AANHPI communities. AAPIP is solely responsible for its content. *It is important to note that these strategies represent AAPIP's best thinking from the vantage point of this public/private planning process – they are by no means exhaustive, nor have we been able to identify all the promising and innovative AANHPI efforts across the country.* While some examples of promising practices and organizations are provided, this publication is intended to serve as a departure point for more concrete discussions about community investments among government, philanthropy and AANHPI leadership organizations.

Investment Strategies and Recommendations

Building from the issue areas and capacity needs prioritized by AANHPI communities, AAPIP surfaced opportunities that are ripe for impact, and offers tangible ideas for public and private investment in the following areas.

¹² To supplement AAPIP's research and periodic conversations with WHIAAPI as the convener of the National Philanthropic Briefing, AAPIP conducted key informant interviews with Quyen Dinh, Southeast Asian Resource Action Center; Kathy Ko Chin, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum; Amardeep Singh, Open Society Foundation; and Robert Teranishi, UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.

Equitable and Affordable Education

- Create a national fund for Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) with significant ongoing investments from national and local foundations.
- Support partnerships among community-based organizations, school districts and other government agencies for the efficient provision of culturally and linguistically-competent services to low-income students, including AANHPIs.
- Invest in legal services and community organizing to ensure educational equity and access for English Learner students and Limited English Proficient parents.
- Expand the efforts of the AAPI DACA Collaborative to educate immigrant communities about opportunities for higher education, financial aid and work permits available to eligible undocumented youth.
- Invest in creative community-driven approaches to improve school climate and decrease bullying and harassment.
- Support and replicate successful youth organizing programs in the AANHPI communities to contribute to reform of laws, policies and practices that over-criminalize youth of color, destabilize families and contribute to high dropout rates.

Healthy Families

- Invest in the successful Action for Health Justice coalition to reach more AANHPIs eligible for the Affordable Care Act and ensure that once insured, they can access health care.
- Support advocacy and expansion of local AANHPI health centers.
- Fund and replicate programs that address the social determinants of health and incorporate cultural practices.
- Expand school-based preventive health services and programs, especially in high-poverty schools and districts.
- Help build a sector-based approach to increasing the availability of bilingual AANHPI health navigators.
- Support local and regional Hepatitis B prevention efforts.

Economic Mobility and Healthy Work Opportunities

- Provide additional start-up capital for AANHPI businesses.
- Invest in a national AANHPI small business technical assistance network, focusing on micro-entrepreneurs.
- Promote health care outreach through AANHPI small businesses.
- Improve AANHPIs' access to job training and retraining programs through AANAPISIs and AANHPI community centers.
- Replicate community-led collaborations that improve worker health and safety in small businesses.
- Replicate successful campaigns that join community organizing with legal advocacy to win back pay and change industry practices.
- Invest in national-scale AANHPI financial capability program networks.
- Support the movement for comprehensive immigration reform.

Culturally Vibrant and Sustainable Communities

- Support and replicate innovative AANHPI models and collaborations at the intersections of community development, health and sustainability.
- Invest in community control initiatives in AANHPI neighborhoods facing gentrification and displacement.
- Invest in national-scale AANHPI housing program networks.
- Support AANHPI community-driven creative placemaking and historic/cultural preservation.
- Support AANHPI efforts to create green zones and ecodistricts.

Democratically Engaged, Organized Communities

- Invest in civic participation networks in AANHPI communities, nationally and locally.
- Invest in issue-oriented civic engagement.
- Support regular AANHPI opinion polling and research.
- Support expanded AANHPI election administration and voting rights advocacy and education.

- Fund replication of the FlyRights app to increase reporting of incidents of discrimination to federal agencies.
- Make long-term investments in AANHPI civil rights organizations and in grassroots organizing groups to engage in multiracial coalitions and networks.
- Support the Asian American Immigration Table, a coalition working for comprehensive immigration reform.
- Invest in emerging leaders in AANHPI communities.

Cross-Cutting Strategies to Build Long-Term Capacity

- Invest in convening, seeding and bringing to scale existing efforts to expand community organizing efforts in AANHPI communities throughout the country. For example:
 - » Build upon existing, emerging AANHPI activist infrastructure.
 - » Support multi-dimensional and intersectional approaches to organizing.
 - » Support community organizing as distinct from traditional civic engagement.
- Invest in the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) to anchor and/or convene the relevant partnerships to design long-term AANHPI civic and communications infrastructure. This recommendation encompasses the following bodies of work:
 - » Coordinate capacity building strategies for AANHPI organizations in areas where AANHPI communities are both established and emerging.
 - » Plant the seeds for a national AANHPI non-partisan “action tank” that will catalyze research and community knowledge into concrete partnerships and initiatives.
 - » Continue collaboration with public and private entities on disaggregation of data sets and promulgation of innovative strategies for AANHPI data analysis.
 - » Facilitate public/private partnerships for social innovation in AANHPI communities.

“No community should be invisible to its government.”

—President Barack Obama

A Call to Action

Our nation’s first African American President’s statement that no community should be invisible to its government should not only ring true in our hearts – it should move the public sector and philanthropy to action. Just as no community should be invisible to its government, no community in need should be invisible to philanthropy. The needs of contributing, tax-paying AANHPI communities are growing, and government agencies and nonprofit philanthropic institutions have both a public trust and responsibility to ensure that “the public” they serve keeps pace with demographic change. This is especially true when it comes to investing in young people, the majority of whom will soon be of color, as we look to them to keep our nation strong, inclusive, competitive and sustainable in the future.

Since President Obama’s executive order reestablished the White House Initiative and President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in 2009, the Initiative has made real strides towards transforming relationships between AANHPI communities and the federal government. But just as in philanthropy, government responsiveness to the needs of this fastest growing segment of the nation’s population is an unfinished agenda.

Partnerships between federal agencies and private philanthropy have been critical to AANHPI-specific initiatives and efforts, such as the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, promotion of data disaggregation at *iCount* symposia, and partnerships on AANAPISI and other minority serving institution grant programs. These partnerships are very promising. But the diversity and growth of AANHPI communities, and the variety of challenges they face, require ongoing engagement efforts. Philanthropy can play an important role in leveraging federal funds to accelerate needed programs and policies that support AANHPI communities. As independent, non-partisan entities, foundations are also uniquely positioned to be flexible partners of community organizations working to change public policies and systems that perpetuate racial inequities and injustices.

The strategic directions contained in this document demonstrate to both government agencies and private funders that there are many entry points for including AANHPIs in funding strategies – programmatically and geographically. AAPIP encourages foundations and government agencies to:

- Collaborate more frequently and in ways that break through programmatic silos to reach AANHPI communities who experience interconnected barriers.
- Review grant portfolios and strategic plans with an overlay of disaggregated demographic data to determine whether funds are reaching vulnerable communities.
- Consider the degree to which place-based or geographically-focused funding links to established and emerging AANHPI hubs, and in particular, how the growth of AANHPI populations is reshaping communities more broadly in new regions of the country.
- Track and make available data on grantmaking to communities of color and people of color-led organizations.

Transforming the challenges our nation faces today requires thoughtful and strategic partnerships with AANHPI communities. Now is the time to invest in community-driven solutions and new leadership in our increasingly diverse society. The question before all of us is, “why not?”

ALIGNING INVESTMENTS IN AANHPI COMMUNITIES FOR GREATER IMPACT





Building Democratic
Philanthropy

2201 Broadway, Suite 210, Oakland, CA 94612 | 510-463-3155 tel | aapip.org