

INVISIBLE AND IN NEED

*Philanthropic Giving to Asian Americans
and Pacific Islanders*



A Report of
Asian Americans
and Pacific
Islanders in
Philanthropy

AAPIP

*Invisible and in Need:
Philanthropic Giving to
Asian Americans and
Pacific Islanders*

A Report of
Asian Americans
and Pacific Islanders
in Philanthropy

December 1992

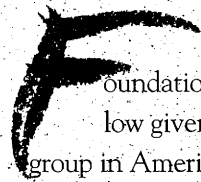
Table of Contents

- 1 Executive Summary
- 2 Foreword
- 3 Asian Pacific American Communities: Growth and Diversity
An overview of Asian and Pacific Islander presence in the United States and current demographics
- 7 Philanthropy's Relationship with Asian Pacific Americans: 1983-1990
An analysis of foundation grants between 1983 and 1990 to organizations that serve Asian-Pacific American communities
- 10 Issue Studies
Brief analyses of four issues that affect Asian Pacific Americans uniquely or disproportionately
 - Racially-Motivated Crimes
 - Health Care Needs
 - Labor Conditions
 - Domestic Violence
- 22 Conclusions and Recommendations
A summary of contributions philanthropic organizations can make to address the needs of Asian Pacific Americans
- 24 Appendix
Resource organizations that can assist foundations to analyze and respond to issues confronting Asian-Pacific Americans
- 27 Acknowledgements
- 28 About AAPIP

COVER PHOTOGRAPHS:

FRONT COVER, LEFT: FROM THE FILM BITTERSWEET SURVIVAL, WHICH EXAMINES THE TURBULENT RESETTLEMENT OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES IN AMERICA.
FRONT COVER, RIGHT: AN ELDERLY MAN SITS IN ISOLATION IN SAN FRANCISCO CHINATOWN. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS JENNINGS.
BACK COVER: A WOMAN SELLS VEGETABLES ON A STREET IN SAN FRANCISCO CHINATOWN. PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS JENNINGS.

Executive Summary



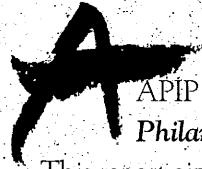
Foundation giving to Asian Pacific Americans is disproportionately low given the size, diversity and needs of the fastest growing racial group in America. Boosted by tremendous immigration, the Asian Pacific American population grew at a rate of 95 percent during the past decade. Asian Pacific Americans currently number 7.3 million or 2.9 percent of the total population.

Despite this significant growth, only 0.2 percent of philanthropic dollars between 1983 and 1990 went to organizations working in Asian Pacific American communities. Most of this funding came from five foundations, and the number of foundations providing support has not expanded. Direct service organizations received the bulk of grants during this seven-year period, with few grants awarded for legal rights, community development, advocacy, and public policy analysis.

Contemporary Asian Pacific Americans are extremely diverse. Although the media has portrayed Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups as a monolithic "model minority" that succeeds in spite of societal barriers, this stereotype obscures serious needs among Asian Pacific Americans. For example, Asian Pacific Americans frequently confront brutal racially-motivated hate crimes; face health problems compounded by cultural beliefs and practices; endure exploitation in the labor market; and suffer from domestic violence.

AAPIP recommends that foundations recognize the needs of various Asian Pacific American communities by:

- Providing resources to organizations that empower individuals within their communities.
- Acknowledging the importance of cultural sensitivity by providing grants to language-appropriate and culturally-appropriate programs.
- Funding documentation and research efforts in Asian Pacific American communities.
- Providing technical assistance to Asian Pacific American community organizations or including Asian Pacific Americans in foundation-generated research.
- Seeking actively to increase representation of Asian Pacific Americans on foundation boards and staffs to facilitate attention to community needs.



APIP is pleased to issue this report, *Invisible and in Need: Philanthropic Giving to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.*

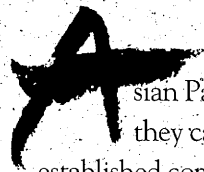
This report aims to provide grantmakers with a useful overview of Asian Pacific Americans, the country's fastest growing minority group but one little understood or addressed by philanthropic organizations. It is intended to acquaint funders with common issues Asian Pacific American communities face.

During the last decade, the Asian Pacific American population grew at a faster rate than any other racial group in the United States. Popular images of Asian Pacific Americans, however, have not portrayed the complexity and diversity of their communities. Foundation executives, public policy makers, and the public often uncritically accept the inaccurate notion that Asian Pacific Americans are a "model minority" that has successfully assimilated into American society. Consequently, Asian Pacific Americans are not perceived to have pressing needs that might be addressed by philanthropy. The reality, however, is that Asian Pacific Americans confront a variety of issues and problems to which the philanthropic community can direct its resources.

The term "Asian Pacific American" includes people with diverse histories, languages and cultures. Some Americans of Chinese, Japanese, Filipino and Korean descent, for example, trace their roots in the United States to immigrants who arrived in the late 1800s and early 1900s. New Americans from Vietnam, Thailand, and India may have only recently arrived. In this report, the term "Asian Pacific American" refers to individuals who trace their origins to the following countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam; and the island groups that form Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia.¹ The term "Asian American" will be used when the issues or experiences discussed do not apply to individuals from the Melanesian, Micronesian and Polynesian Islands.

1. William P. O'Hare and Judy C. Felt. "Asian Americans: America's Fastest Growing Minority Group." *Population Trends and Public Policy*. A publication of the Population Reference Bureau, Number 19, Feb. 1991.

Asian Pacific American Communities: Growth and Diversity



Asian Pacific Americans have a rich and varied history. Although they came from different countries, early Asian immigrants, who established communities in Hawaii and along the West Coast between the mid-1800s and early 1900s, endured similar experiences of discrimination, exclusion and violence.

The Chinese, the first Asians to settle in large numbers in America, arrived in the mid-1800s. Initially working on plantations in Hawaii, these immigrants—almost all of whom were male—were soon attracted to the West Coast where they mined for gold and silver, undertook the most dangerous jobs in building the transcontinental railroads, and pioneered in the manufacturing, fishing, and agricultural industries.

Despite their contributions to the economic development of the western states, Chinese immigrants were the targets of rampant racism. Throughout the late 1800's, the Chinese were harassed through laws and victimized by racial violence. This period of discrimination, lynchings and Chinatown burnings culminated in the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred the immigration of Chinese laborers and marked the first time in American history that members of a specific ethnic group were denied entry to the United States.

Japanese, Koreans, and Filipinos who immigrated in distinct waves following the Chinese also contributed to the economic development of the West, especially in agriculture. But they, too, were the focus of racial hostility and discrimination. Notable instances include the 1924 Immigration Act which banned further Japanese and Korean immigration, the Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934 that barred Filipino immigration, Supreme Court rulings that denied Asians naturalization rights, and the internment of over 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

Despite this history of mistreatment, Asian Americans have progressed within American society. By national standards, the aggregate accomplishments of Asian Americans are noteworthy. Asian Americans have the highest median family income, the highest percentage of college graduates, and the highest percentage of workers in professional and managerial jobs.²

These accomplishments have contributed to the popular image of Asian Americans as a "model minority" that is somehow immune to the problems that plague the rest of the nation. This stereotype masks significant differences among Asian Pacific Americans and obscures major problems confronting members of these communities.

The contemporary Asian Pacific American population is tremendously diverse. Although the median incomes of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino and Indian American households match or surpass the national average, those of Samoans, and Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian refugees lag far behind. While many early Southeast Asian refugees have

2. Stanley Karnow and Nancy Yoshihara. *Asian Americans in Transition*. New York: The Asia Society, 1992.

thrived, later arrivals often struggle on welfare. Some third- and fourth-generation Asian Americans reside in suburbs and find professional employment, yet many recent immigrants live in tenements and work as waiters or dishwashers in urban Chinatowns. Among Asian refugees and poor immigrant families, the necessity of having to work long hours and earn multiple incomes has had its impact: exploitation in sweat shops that rival turn-of-the-century conditions, inaccessibility to affordable and appropriate health

care, a rise in domestic violence and neglect of the elderly, and an increase of drug abuse and crime among adolescents.

Some issues, such as the struggle of Native Hawaiians to preserve their culture and regain land sovereignty, are particular to specific ethnic groups or regions. Other problems, such as racial violence, affect Asian Pacific Americans across ethnic, regional, and class lines.

In recent years, Asian Americans have been targeted as scapegoats in a nation grown tense about trade

relations with Japan and about relations among its own racial groups. The trade imbalance with Japan, exacerbated by the "buy American" campaign, has had serious ramifications for Asian Americans. Perhaps the most dramatic example is the 1982 death of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American who was beaten to death by two unemployed Detroit auto workers who mistook Chin for a Japanese national. More recently, the April 1992 Rodney King verdict sparked violence against Asian-owned businesses in Los Angeles. Just weeks before the United States Civil Rights Commission concluded that "Asian Americans face widespread prejudice, discrimination and denials of equal opportunity. In addition, many Asian Americans, particularly those

Figure 1 → United States Population, Race & Ethnicity, 1990 & 1980

Race / Ethnicity	Total United States Population		1980 to 1990	
	1990	1980	Number Increase	Percent Increase
Non-Hispanic White	188,128,296	180,602,838	7,525,458	4.2%
African American	29,986,060	26,482,349	3,503,711	13.2%
Native American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut	1,959,234	1,534,336	424,898	27.7%
Asian & Pacific Islander American	7,273,662	3,726,440	3,547,222	95.2%
Chinese	1,645,472	812,178	833,294	102.6%
Filipino	1,406,770	781,894	624,876	79.9%
Japanese	847,562	716,331	131,231	18.3%
Asian Indian	815,447	387,223	428,224	110.6%
Korean	798,849	357,393	441,456	123.5%
Vietnamese	614,547	245,025	369,522	150.8%
Cambodian	147,411	16,044	131,367	818.8%
Hmong	90,082	5,204	84,878	1631.0%
Laotian	149,014	47,683	101,331	212.5%
Thai	91,275	45,279	45,996	101.6%
Hawaiian	211,014	172,346	38,668	22.4%
Guamanian	62,964	39,520	23,444	59.3%
Samoan	49,345	30,695	18,650	60.8%
Other Asian & Pacific Islander	343,910	69,625	274,285	393.9%
Hispanic	21,113,528	13,935,827	7,177,701	51.5%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	249,093	264,015	(14,922)	-5.7%
Total U.S. Population	248,709,873	226,545,805	22,164,068	9.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 & 1990 Censuses; Asian/Pacific Islander Data Consortium-ACCIS

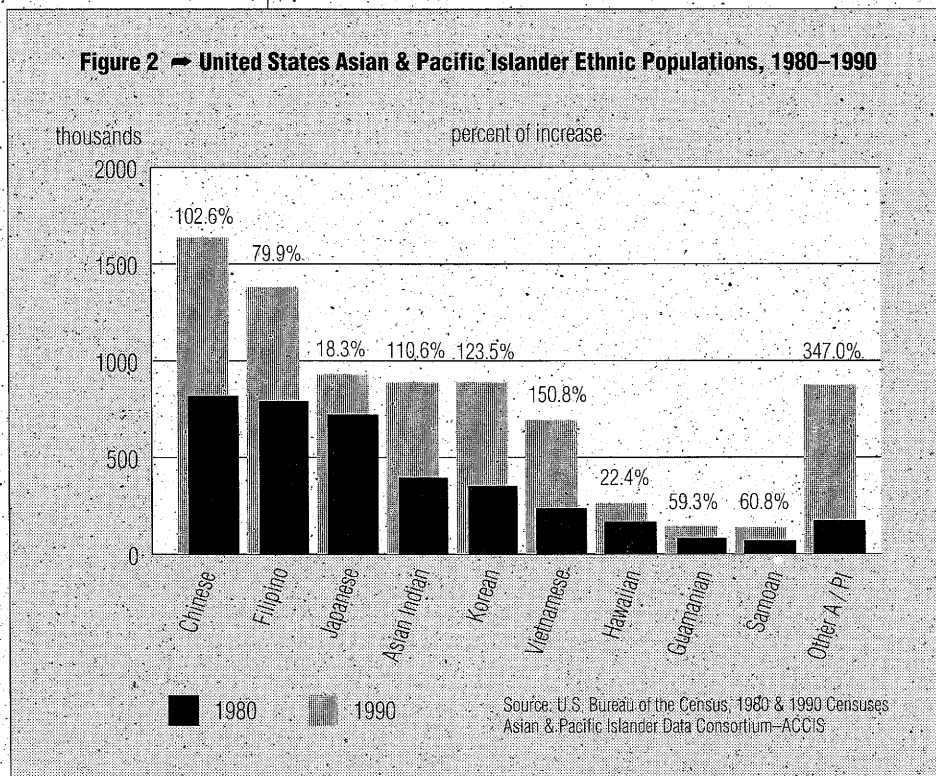
who are immigrants, are deprived of equal access to public services, including police protection, education, health care and the judicial system.”³

These realities challenge the widespread stereotype that Asian Pacific Americans are a monolithic “model minority” that has overcome past adversity to assimilate successfully into American society. On the contrary, Asian Pacific American communities confront many issues that the philanthropic community can address.

Contemporary Demographics

Since the relaxation of immigration laws in 1965, the number of immigrants from Asian and Pacific Island countries to the United States has increased dramatically. The growth of the Asian Pacific American population

has been phenomenal, as Figures 1 and 2 indicate. More than 2.4 million immigrants boosted the population from 3.8 million in 1980 to approximately 7.3 million in 1990, a 95.2 percent increase. This rate of growth far surpassed all other ethnic groups and is likely to continue into the next decade. During



the past decade, the majority of Asian immigrants have arrived from Vietnam, the Philippines, China (including Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau), and Korea. The majority of Pacific Islander immigrants have come from Samoa, Tonga, and Guam.

Recent Asian immigrants can be categorized into two groups. The first consists of individuals who immigrated for reasons of family reunification from countries with large populations already in the United States (China, Korea and the Philippines). Many of these immigrants were highly educated and entered the country under employment provisions of immigration laws. The second group consists largely of immigrants and refugees from Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia), who arrived in the United States following the Vietnam War.

In 1990, 58 percent of Asian Pacific Americans lived in the western

3. U.S. Civil Rights Commission. “Civil Rights Issues Facing Asian Americans in the 1990s.” Feb. 1992.

Figure 3 → States with the Largest Asian & Pacific Islander Populations, 1990

Rank	State	1990 Asian & Pac. Isl.	Percent of State Popul.	1980-90 % Popul. Increase	% Total Asian & Pac. Isl. Popul.
1	California	2,845,659	9.6%	127.0%	39.1%
2	New York	693,760	3.9%	123.4%	9.5%
3	Hawaii	685,236	61.8%	17.5%	9.4%
4	Texas	319,459	1.9%	165.5%	4.4%
5	Illinois	285,311	2.5%	78.7%	3.9%
6	New Jersey	272,521	3.5%	162.4%	3.7%
7	Washington	210,958	4.3%	105.7%	2.9%
8	Virginia	159,053	2.6%	140.2%	2.2%
9	Florida	154,302	1.2%	171.9%	2.1%
10	Massachusetts	143,392	2.4%	189.7%	2.0%
Total		5,769,651			79.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980 & 1990 Censuses
Asian & Pacific Islander Data Consortium-ACCIS

United States. As Figure 3 indicates, the two states with the largest Asian Pacific American populations are California and New York, but there are significant concentrations in other parts of the country. Several states witnessed dramatic increases in the rate of population growth of Asians. While the absolute number of Asian Americans remains low in these states, Rhode Island (with an increase of 245.6 percent), New Hampshire (219 percent), Georgia (208.6 percent), Wisconsin (195 percent) and Minnesota (193.5 percent) all saw tremendous growth in Asian American residents, largely from Southeast Asia.

Most Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders live in metropolitan areas. Because Asian and Pacific Islander immigration during the past decade represented 42 percent of all immigration to the United States, many cities have seen

a marked increase in Asian and Pacific Islander presence.

Figure 4 lists the metropolitan areas with the largest Asian Pacific American populations.

Figure 4 → Top Ten CMSA / MSAs with the Largest Asian & Pacific Islander Populations, 1990 Census

CMSA / MSA	Number of Asian & Pac. Isl.	% Total CMSA / MSA Population
Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside	1,339,048	9.2%
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose	926,961	14.8%
New York-No. New Jersey-Long Island	873,213	4.8%
Honolulu	526,459	63.0%
Chicago-Gary-Lake County	256,050	3.2%
Washington, D.C.	202,437	5.2%
San Diego	198,311	7.9%
Seattle-Tacoma	164,286	6.4%
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria	132,131	3.6%
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton	123,458	2.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census
Asian & Pacific Islander Data Consortium-ACCIS

Philanthropy's Relationship with Asian Pacific Americans: 1983-1990



Despite the tremendous growth of the Asian Pacific American population over the past decade, philanthropic giving to these communities remains dramatically low. AAPIP's analysis of data from the Foundation Center regarding philanthropic giving between 1983 and 1990 revealed the following *key findings*:

- Asian Pacific American communities receive an extremely small percentage of total foundation giving (0.2 percent out of \$19 billion given over seven years, or an average of \$5 million per year.)
- Foundation grantmaking to Asian Pacific Americans has not grown significantly over the past decade and has not kept pace with demographic trends.
- The number of foundations providing support to Asian Pacific Americans has not appreciably expanded and is concentrated in five foundations.
- The vast majority of the funding is directed to social services, with very little funding for legal rights, community development, advocacy and public policy analysis.

According to data from the Foundation Center in New York, approximately \$35 million of the more than \$19 billion in grants reported were identified as Asian Pacific American grants—0.18 (or 0.2 percent) of the total dollars (see Figure 5). In comparison, the Asian Pacific American population in the United States grew by more than 95 percent in the last decade and in 1990 represented 2.9 percent of the total population.

The majority of funding to Asian Pacific American projects was awarded by a few foundations: The Ford Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The Henry Luce Foundation, and The McKnight Foundation were the top five.⁴

A majority of the Asian Pacific American organizations receiving grants fall in three categories: social service organizations (20 percent), health organizations (18 percent), and employment and economic development organizations (13 percent).

These categories were followed by public affairs programs, such as civil rights, legal defense and public policy (10 percent), and arts/culture (10 percent) (see Figure 6). Considering the increase in racially-motivated violence against Asians Americans, there were only a few grants to organizations concerned with anti-Asian violence, discrimination and legal defense.

In terms of the geographic distribution of dollars, organizations in the

Figure 5 → Foundation Dollars to Asian Pacific American Organizations, 1983-1990

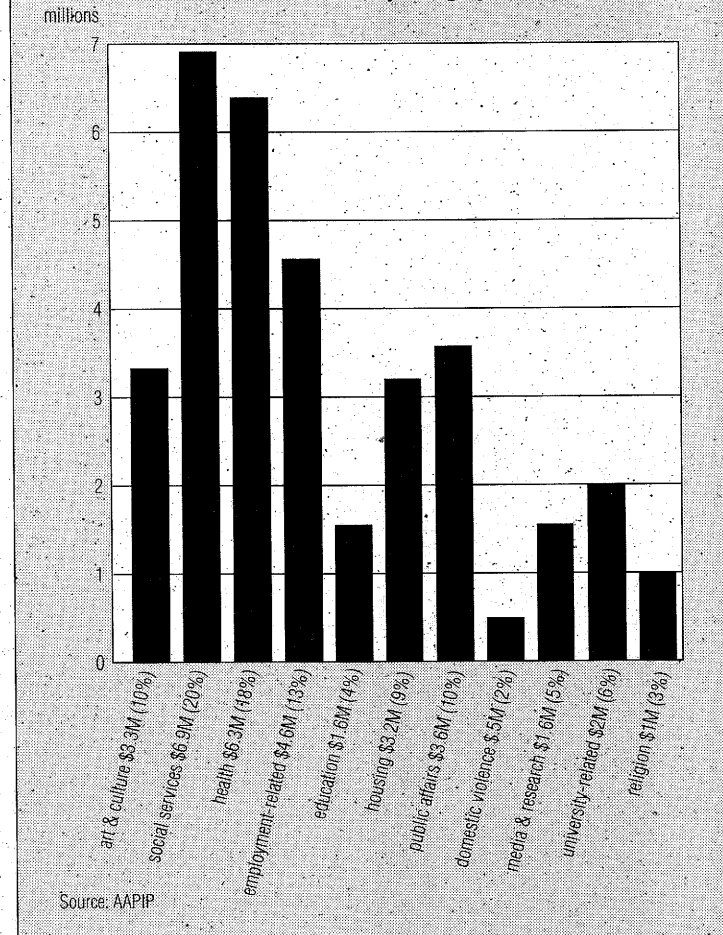
Of the \$19 billion dollars in foundation grants distributed between 1983-1990, only \$35 million were awarded to Asian Pacific American organizations.

Year	Total Dollars	Dollars to Asian/Pac. Isl.	% to Asian/Pac. Isl.
1983	\$1,649,802,914	\$3,304,868	2%
1984	1,849,262,981	3,967,695	2%
1985	2,089,997,956	4,213,710	2%
1986	2,556,418,549	4,051,610	16%
1987	2,619,089,688	5,434,677	2%
1988	2,834,844,663	5,210,572	18%
1989	3,676,692,835	4,371,982	12%
1990	2,157,232,662	4,104,926	19%
Total	19,433,342,253	34,660,040	18%

Source: AAPIP

4. It should be noted that the majority of funds given by the top five foundations was awarded for university research projects.

Figure 6 → Funding to Asian Pacific American Organizations, 1983–1990, by Category



West received the largest share of funding at 53 percent, followed by organizations in the Northeast at 26 percent. Figure 7 indicates the five states that received most of the grants—85 percent of the total giving to Asian Pacific American organizations. By comparison, Figure 8 shows the top states from which most of the money to Asian communities was granted. Foundations in these five states gave 83 percent of the total grants to Asian Pacific American organizations.

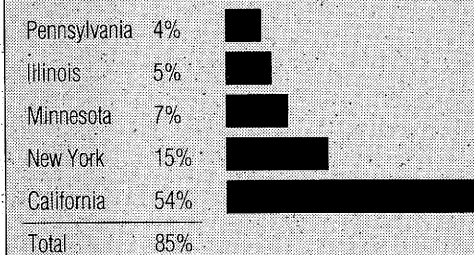
In terms of the ethnic and constituent distribution of dollars, organizations serving the Chinese community received the largest share at 25 percent, followed by mixed Asian organizations at 24 percent (those serving more than one ethnic community), and mixed Southeast Asian organizations

(those serving more than one Southeast Asian ethnic group) at 21 percent. However, the total amount to all Southeast Asian projects, including mixed Southeast Asian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, and Hmong, is \$11.6 million or 34 percent. Organizations providing services to refugees totaled roughly \$9 million or 26 percent; the elderly received \$4.6 million or 13 percent; youth organizations were given \$2.5 million or 7 percent; and women similarly received \$2.5 million or 7 percent (see Figure 9). Grants to Asian Pacific American women's organizations represent a modest improvement over national philanthropic trends which are currently at 4.5 percent.

There were some notable funding trends crossing

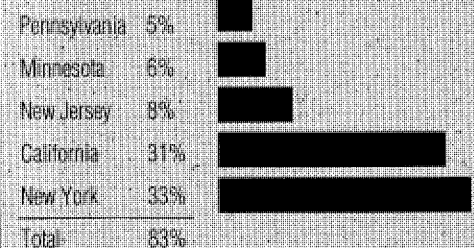
ethnicity and issue: Japanese American organizations received the bulk of art and culture grants; a majority of the health grants were to organizations serving the Chinese American community,

Figure 7 → The Five States that Received the Most Money



Source: AAPIP

Table 8 → The Five States that Granted the Most Money



Source: AAPIP

primarily for the care of elderly Chinese Americans; grants to refugee organizations were primarily for employment training and economic development; and grants to housing and community development projects were mainly directed to Chinatown communities.

Methods and Analysis

The data on foundation funding in this report was obtained from the Foundation Center, which classifies every grant over \$5,000 reported to the Center. All major grantmaking institutions are included in this analysis.⁵

The definition of a grant to “Asian Pacific Americans” as used by the Foundation Center is broad. A grant classified as “Asian Pacific American” does not necessarily mean that the grantee serves or is governed solely by Asian Pacific Americans. A grant is classified as funding for Asian Pacific Americans when it meets any one of four criteria:

- Asian Pacific Americans make up a substantial majority of either the members or clients of the agency or program.
- The agency or program aims to increase participation by or extend services to Asian Pacific Americans.
- The agency or program addresses an issue or discipline as it affects Asian Pacific Americans.
- The agency or program addresses an issue or discipline whose impact is primarily upon Asian Pacific Americans.

For purposes of this report, grants to mainstream art museums, grants to organizations overseas, and scholarships for international study were removed since they did not relate directly to Asian Pacific American communities. Sixteen percent of grants were thus removed from further analysis. The grants remaining are primarily to

community-based organizations, both local or national, that address the needs of Asian Pacific American populations in the United States. Church-based, university-based and other research projects are included.

Each grant was also reclassified by primary subject category, (see Figure 6) and population group served (see Figure 9).

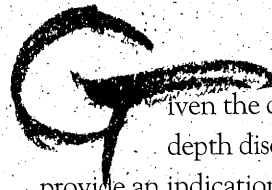
Figure 9 → Foundation Dollars to Asian Pacific American Organizations, 1983–1990, by Population Group

Population Group	Dollar Amount	% of Total Dollars
Mixed Asian	8,410,886	24.3%
Chinese	8,687,256	25.1%
Japanese	3,102,399	9.0%
Korean	2,062,602	6.0%
Filipino	285,482	.8%
Mixed Southeast Asian	7,304,144	21.1%
Vietnamese	399,137	1.2%
Cambodian	1,205,397	3.4%
Laotian	1,306,436	3.8%
Hmong	1,429,362	4.1%
Pacific Islander	142,000	.4%
Samoa	17,000	0.0%
Hawaiian	292,939	.8%
Indian	15,000	0.0%
Total	34,660,040	100.0%

Source: AAPIP

5. It is important to note that some changes have been made in the Foundation Center's data collection and analysis system. In 1989, the Center adopted the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities (NTEE), which was developed by the National Center for Charitable Statistics. The Center adopted NTEE because it established for the first time a unified nationwide standard for classifying nonprofit activities.

Another caveat to keep in mind: The years under which grants are recorded are the years in which the grants were made, not the years the grants were reported to the Foundation Center through an annual report or press release. Consequently, data for grants awarded in 1990 is incomplete, which would account for the apparent decline in giving.



Given the diversity of Asian Pacific American communities, an in-depth discussion of needs is beyond the scope of this report. To provide an indication of the kinds of problems that confront Asian Pacific Americans, AAPIP has selected four issues for brief analysis: racially-motivated crimes, health care needs, labor conditions, and domestic violence. These issues were selected either because they impact Asian Pacific Americans disproportionately or because factors particular to Asian Pacific Americans, such as culture or recent immigration, affect an understanding of the issues and their significance to these communities.

- *Racially-Motivated Crimes*

As the Asian Pacific American population has increased, so has violence against these groups. In New York City alone, the number of hate crimes classified by the Police Department's Bias Incident Investigating Unit grew by 660 percent from 1985 to 1990, with anti-Asian incidents representing an increasing percentage of the total. These figures, although alarmingly high, reflect a serious undercount. Police admit that Asian Pacific Americans often do not report crimes committed against them because of language problems, fear of reprisals, and lack of familiarity with or trust of the criminal justice system. Nationally, the number of reported incidents has also jumped over the last decade. In 1986, the United States Department of Justice reported a 62 percent increase in incidents of anti-Asian violence from the previous year.⁶

Since the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit, racially-motivated violence has become a widespread and complex threat facing Asian Pacific Americans. While Asian Pacific Americans recognized the racial hatred behind the attack on Chin, the judicial system did not, and imposed only probation and a \$3,780 fine on the two men who killed Chin. The legacy of Vincent Chin, multiplied by hundreds of subsequent attacks all over the country, indicates no easy or imminent solutions to deeply rooted anti-Asian bias in America and the difficulty of prosecuting perpetrators of hate crimes. (Difficulties include questions of admissible evidence and the need for witnesses who have heard explicitly racist statements.)

Underlying Reasons for Hate Crimes Against Asian Pacific Americans

Contemporary hate crimes against Asian Pacific Americans are based in two notions deeply ingrained in the American psyche: first, the perception that Asians undercut wages and take jobs away from "Americans" and, second, that Asians are foreigners. These ideas have been manifest historically. During the late 19th century, a virulent anti-Chinese movement was fueled by nativist fears that Chinese laborers took jobs away from white workers. Later, during World War II, Japanese Americans were branded as

6. U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. "Recent Activities Against Citizens & Residents of Asian Descent." Clearinghouse Pub. Number 88, 1986.

“enemy aliens” (i.e., foreign) on the basis of race alone and held in concentration camps.

These two factors—resentment of Asians as economic competitors and distrust of them as perpetual foreigners—are again present in the contemporary resurgence of hostility towards Asian Pacific Americans. The current phenomenon of “Japan-bashing” follows the tradition of blaming Asians for the nation’s economic ills and encourages people to consider Asian Pacific Americans as foreign.

These ideas resist new economic structural realities of American life and the social challenges they pose. We no longer live in a monocultural society with an ever-expanding economy. During the past two decades, Asian Pacific American communities have grown in size and diversity. The increased visibility of Asian Pacific Americans—multiple-generation residents as well as newly-arrived immigrants and refugees—has coincided with an increasingly competitive global economy. Major industries in the United States that were slow to anticipate the shift have abruptly laid off thousands of skilled workers and relocated plants to other countries.

Unfortunately, the legitimate frustration of American workers over the economy has been misdirected at Asian Pacific Americans by officials at the highest levels of government, corporations, and the media. Rather than invest in education, skills, and global perspectives that Americans will need in the 21st century, these leaders have encouraged scapegoating and belligerence with comments such as those of Senator Ernest Hollings in a recent visit to an ammunition factory. Hollings told workers, “You should adopt a new logo of a mushroom cloud with a message, ‘Made by lazy Americans; tested in Japan.’”

Add to this the popular myth that Asian Americans are a “model minority” that excels in spite of discrimination or that refugees receive generous government assistance, and the result is a dangerous invitation to attack Asian Americans rather than address the serious social problems facing this country, such as poverty, unemployment, racism, and violence.

Six Types of Violence Against Asian Pacific Americans

Violence against Asian Pacific Americans can be linked to a specific region, target, and/or time, such as the rash of “Japan-bashing” directed at Japanese Americans and other Asian Pacific Americans on the West Coast during the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. More generally, however, anti-Asian and Pacific Islander violence falls into six major types and locations.

The first are attacks on individuals, usually by multiple assailants whose prejudice is evident in slurs such as “Go back where you came from. You don’t belong here!” The victim is typically an immigrant with limited English, but can be of any Asian ethnicity, class, or generation because of the tendency not to distinguish between Asian and Pacific Islander groups. Bias assaults of this type often escalate from verbal threats to a dehumanizing level of brutality. A well-known case is the 1989 murder of Jim Loo, a 24-year-old Chinese American, who was attacked and killed by two white brothers in North Carolina as a reprisal for American losses in Vietnam.

A second type of violence befalls Asian Pacific Americans moving into previously segregated neighborhoods. These families or groups of families may be targets of "move-in violence." The violence may take the form of repeated vandalism and menacing slurs, to pipe bombings and arson, to highly organized campaigns to drive all Asian Pacific Americans out of the area. Many other non-white or non-Protestant people have encountered similar hostility in new neighborhoods, indicating the depth and persistence of housing segregation in our society.

A surprisingly large number of Asian Pacific Americans have been brutalized by police officers, particularly in major metropolitan areas. The Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence has documented at least 19 cases of police brutality against Asian Americans in New York City between 1987 and 1991. Police officers often bear the same ignorance and contempt for Asian Pacific Americans as other members of society, but are less acknowledged as a source of violence by government agencies.

Asian Pacific American students as a group are subject to pervasive harassment and violence on or near campuses. At least six Asian Pacific American children and teenagers were murdered on school grounds between 1980 and 1990 in the United States. And an undetermined number of others suffered serious beatings and sustained harassment.

One of the most ominous developments in the increasing violence against Asian Pacific Americans has been the involvement of "skinheads" or other white supremacists, as occurred in the deaths of both Thong Hy Hunyh in Davis, California in 1983 and Hung Truong in Houston in 1990. According to the Center for Democratic Renewal, a national organization that monitors hate group activity, such activity grew dramatically during the 1980s, and Asian Pacific Americans represent an increasing number of the targets.

Finally, conflicts between Asian American small business owners and their customers, often African American or Latino, have contributed to what is now an explosive relationship between communities of color in many major cities. Shootings on both sides, as well as highly visible boycotts and, most recently, the targeting of Asian-owned stores during the Los Angeles uprising, have focused attention on the desperate conditions of new immigrants as well as existing communities that are struggling for survival.

• *Health Care Needs*

Inadequate data hinders an examination of Asian Pacific American health status. Because Asian Pacific Americans comprise a relatively small percentage of the population, national and local health surveys have not, until recently, identified Asian Pacific Americans separately, let alone by various ethnic subgroups. Even when national surveys include Asian Pacific Americans, uneven geographic distribution of the population or samples that include only a few ethnic groups (usually American born) make data difficult to interpret.⁷ Since data regarding Asian Pacific Americans' health status has been virtually nonexistent, public policymakers and foundation

7. Jane S. Lin-Fu, M.D. "Population Characteristics and Health Care Needs of Asian Pacific Americans." *Public Health Reports* 103.1 (Jan.-Feb. 1988): 22.

and health care professionals have largely ignored or misunderstood the important needs of this population.

Existing health data on Asian Pacific Americans discloses significant problems. Conditions such as tuberculosis, hepatitis B, thalassemia and parasitism that have been relatively rare nationwide plague Asian Pacific immigrants in significant numbers.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis is growing among Asian Pacific Americans at a rate five times that of the population in general. Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the Philippines, Korea, India and China—the Asian countries with high levels of immigration—are also the countries where TB rates are highest.⁸ Because immigration from these countries is likely to continue at a significant rate, the high incidence of TB is likely to remain a problem in Asian Pacific American immigrant communities.

Hepatitis B

Only 1 percent of the general population is chronically infected with hepatitis B in contrast to 4 to 15 percent among Asian Pacific Americans. Infection rates are highest among refugees from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, followed by immigrants from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines, and Japan.⁹ Infected individuals are 300 times more likely than noninfected persons to develop liver cancer and more likely to develop cirrhosis and hepatoma. Ninety percent of infants infected perinatally will become chronic carriers.¹⁰

Thalassemia

Thalassemia, a congenital blood disorder similar to sickle cell anemia, disproportionately affects Asian Pacific Americans. Approximately 3 to 7 percent of Chinese Americans and up to 36 percent of Southeast Asian immigrants carry the genetic trait in asymptomatic forms. By comparison, the sickle cell trait is carried in approximately 8 to 10 percent of African Americans. Although a genetic disorder that can affect American-born Asians, thalassemia is most pronounced among immigrants.

Parasitism

Up to 50 percent of Asian immigrants and refugees continue to carry some type of parasite long after they have arrived in the United States. Most often these are intestinal infestations. The most serious infections cause considerable discomfort and may pose public health risks.

8. See the testimony of Stewart Coulter, communicable disease specialist, State of California Department of Health Services, TB Control and Refugee Health Program, in *California Asian Health Issues in the 1990s*. Transcripts of a public hearing, April 20, 1990, conducted by the California Commission for Economic Development, Asian Pacific Islander Health Coalition.

9. L. Easterlin. "Health of Asian Immigrants, Hepatitis B a Major Concern." *Urban Medicine* 3.1 (1988): 10-12.

10. Steve Chin. "Asian Health: A Special Prescription." *San Francisco Examiner* 7 July 1991. See also Lin-Fu, p.22.

Access to Health Care

Like other immigrants who take low-wage jobs, low-income Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants encounter difficulty in obtaining affordable health care. Many recent immigrants work in service industries and receive little or no medical insurance. Securing affordable health care for Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants is further complicated by language and cultural barriers.

Dealing with cultural as well as linguistic barriers can be painful and sometimes life threatening. Knowledge, practices and attitudes about health care vary widely among Asian Pacific Americans. Factors such as socioeconomic status, educational level, country of birth and English-language ability contribute to the differential health treatment that Asian Pacific Americans receive.

Although certain health problems are more prevalent among the Asian and Pacific Islander immigrant population, other health issues affect immigrants as well as American-born Asians and Pacific Islanders. We highlight three in this report: mental health, cancer, and AIDS.

Mental Health

Mental health concerns cross ethnic, class, and generational lines within Asian Pacific American communities. Statistics regarding the mental health status of Asian Pacific Americans are startling: Elderly Chinese and Japanese American women have the highest suicide rate of all racial and ethnic groups, including European Americans. A 1987 study of 2,800 Southeast Asians conducted by the California State Department of Mental Health revealed that 95 percent of them needed psychological help, compared with 33 percent of the population in general. Recent federal studies reveal as much as a 300 percent increase in the suicide rate among Asian American children.¹¹

For immigrants, especially the elderly, acculturation is sometimes an extremely difficult process and can result in social isolation and depression. For refugees, acculturation is complicated by the traumas of war, forced separation from family, resettlement, and the lack of opportunities to grieve for losses in the home country.

With both immigrants and American-born populations, there is often a stigma associated with mental health issues and discomfort in discussing emotional problems. Thus, the high suicide rate among elderly Chinese and Japanese American women has been attributed to anxiety, depression and the "displaced homemaker syndrome" that might have been resolved if these women could have sought culturally appropriate therapy for their emotional distress.¹²

High suicide rates among Asian Pacific American children have been attributed to pervasive racism, pressures to live up to stereotypes and expectations of high academic achievement, and for immigrant children, acculturation. One report found that children of immigrants are at high risk for

11. See Chin.

12. See Chin.

developing mental health problems, as they must relate to two cultures often at odds, one at home and one in the broader society.¹³

Cancer

As with the population in general, cancer is a major health problem among Asian Pacific Americans, but for certain Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups the problem is more pronounced. One study indicated that Native Hawaiians have higher cancer rates (in all sites) than European Americans. Chinese and Filipino Americans have a higher rate of esophagus cancer than European Americans, while the lung cancer rate is higher among Chinese American women and Southeast Asian men than their European American counterparts. Cancer of the cervix is higher among Chinese and Southeast Asian American women than for European American women.¹⁴

These high rates are complicated by a relative lack of knowledge about cancer prevention and early detection among Asian Pacific Americans, especially immigrants. A California study of 167 Chinese American women revealed that 68 percent had no knowledge of the purpose of a pap smear and 69 percent reported no understanding of mammograms. Even though Asian Pacific American women are the most likely to have health insurance among women of color in this country, according to a 1991 reproductive health poll, they are the least likely to have an annual physical (59 percent compared to an overall 82 percent), the least likely to have ever had a pap smear (71 percent compared to an overall 90 percent), and the least likely along with Native American women to have ever had a mammogram (40 percent compared to an overall 52 percent).¹⁵

The case of Mrs. Muen (a fictitious name) illustrates some of the complications in treating Asian Pacific Americans for cancer. Mrs. Muen received a positive test for colo-rectal cancer and a follow-up test revealed a small suspicious mass in her large intestine. Her physician at an Asian Pacific American health clinic recommended a colonoscopy to biopsy the mass. She refused, complaining of language difficulties during the initial tests; she also cited cost, the lack of health insurance and her ineligibility for MediCare.¹⁶ Language and financial factors such as those cited by Mrs. Muen, as well as cultural factors may contribute to the relatively late diagnosis of cancer among Asian Pacific Americans.

AIDS

As of June 1992, there were 1,426 reported AIDS cases among Asian Pacific Americans.¹⁷ While the absolute number of AIDS cases among Asian Pacific Americans is low relative to other racial groups, the increase

13. Asian American Health Forum, "Fact Sheet: Mental Health Among Asians & Pacific Islanders."

14. Asian American Health Forum, "Fact Sheet: Cancer Among Asians & Pacific Islanders."

15. Communications Consortium and National Council of Negro Women. "Women of Color Reproductive Health Poll." New York, 1991.

16. See testimony of Arthur Chen, M.D. *California Asian Health Issues in the 1990s*.

17. *HIV/AIDS Surveillance*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, July 1992.

in reported cases is dramatic—over 150 percent between 1989 and 1991, one of the highest rates for any racial or ethnic group.¹⁸ Reporting of AIDS cases among Asian Pacific Americans may be conservative, as many Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants may return to a home country for treatment and care once diagnosed.

The high rate of increase in HIV infection and AIDS cases can be attributed to a lack of knowledge about AIDS among Asian Pacific Americans. A recent San Francisco survey among Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino Americans revealed that members of these communities were seriously misinformed about AIDS. Almost 75 percent of the Chinese Americans questioned were uncertain whether AIDS can be contracted through kissing, mosquito bites or drinking from a glass used by a person infected with HIV.

Misinformation or ignorance about AIDS is compounded in Asian Pacific American communities by cultural taboos that prevent discussion of sexuality. Reluctance to discuss sexual matters reinforced by a fear of rejection by family and friends keep many Asian Pacific Americans infected with HIV silent about their condition until they become critically ill.

• Labor Conditions

The economic status of Asian Pacific Americans is as disparate as the communities themselves. Many Asian Pacific American professionals complain of a “glass ceiling” through which they cannot penetrate into

upper level management positions. Others, especially recent immigrants, work at subminimum wage levels. While the median family income of Asian Pacific Americans in 1989 was \$35,900, higher than that of non-Hispanic whites, the poverty rate for Asian Pacific Americans rose to 14 percent, nearly twice that of

Figure 10 — Comparison of Economic Status of Asian Pacific Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites

	Median Family Income	Average # of Earners per Family	Unemployment Rate	Poverty Rate
Asian Pacific Americans	35,900	1.8	3.5	14%
Non-Hispanic Whites	35,000	1.7	4.2	8%

non-Hispanic whites (see Figure 10).¹⁹ A 1990 study revealed that 18 percent of Asian Pacific American families have three or more workers, while only 14 percent of non-Hispanic white families had that number of workers in the family.²⁰ Therefore, high median family income for Asian Pacific Americans masks the fact that multiple wage earners per household is greater than the national average.

During the 1980s, structural shifts in the economy occurred simultaneously with a large influx of new Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants. Manufacturing jobs declined while “white collar” service jobs requiring specialized skills and education grew. Although some new Asian and Pacific

18. Asian American Health Forum, “Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS Among Asians and Pacific Islanders.”

19. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Population Reference Bureau data for years 1989 (columns 1, 2, and 4) and 1990 (column 3).

20. See O’Hare and Felt.

Islander immigrants arrived in the United States with talents that fit into the changing American economy, many others came and continue to come with few, if any, marketable skills. Consequently, these immigrants must often take jobs within their own ethnic communities and are often subject to exploitation and abuse.

Working Conditions for Low-Skilled Asian Immigrants

The country's recession has seriously affected the working conditions of Asian Pacific American workers. With the availability of industrial and unskilled jobs in the United States shrinking drastically, non-English speaking immigrants are often forced to work in exploitative underground economies that have mushroomed in Asian American communities throughout the country. To an unprecedented degree, jobs in New York's Chinatown, for example, are scarce; wages are low; work hours are long, and, with increasing frequency, workers are not getting paid. When job openings are announced at a construction site, hundreds of applicants show up within a few hours. Wages in the restaurant and garment industries have experienced a 20 to 30 percent drop in the last year. A few years ago, garment workers would commonly work about eight to nine hours a day. To make up for low wages, they now often work 12 to 14 hours.

In the restaurants of New York's Chinatown, most waiters and waitresses work 12 hours a day, six days a week, and receive only several hundred dollars a month, depending on tips to survive. They are not covered by health insurance, have no paid holidays and work under unsafe conditions. Mainstream unions have not responded to the conditions Chinese restaurant workers face and claim that these workers are difficult to organize because the restaurants are scattered and the workers so alien. As a result, only 10 of 1,400 Chinese restaurants in New York City are unionized, and half of those have been organized by Chinese workers themselves through independent unions.²¹

The Garment Industry: A Case Study

While Chinese waiters have been frustrated in their attempts to form or work with unions, their counterparts in the garment industry, although organized, encounter egregious working conditions. The garment industry, the economic backbone of Chinatown, is labor-intensive. It relies on a large, low-cost work force. Recently arrived women from China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong constitute a large part of the labor pool. Eighty-one percent of the workforce is women, the highest percentage of women in any manufacturing industry.²² Using a system of small subcontractors with the accompanying competition and low profit margin, clothing manufacturers auction off sewing contracts to the lowest bidding independent contractors (usually garment factory owners). To insure a profit, contractors often violate labor laws by paying at rates below minimum wage, withholding benefits, and operating unsafe and crowded sweatshops.

21. Statistics provided by Chinese Staff and Workers Association (New York).

22. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industrial Economics. *U.S. Industrial Outlook*, 1981, Ch.35, "Apparel" Jan. 1981, GPO, p.411.

Most seamstresses are paid by piece rate (each piece of a garment constructed is valued at a certain amount). Under this system, garment workers may work well over 40 hours a week yet only earn from \$3,000 to \$6,000 annually, despite federal regulations guaranteeing minimum wage.²³ When piece rates drop below union minimums or minimum wage, it is not uncommon for workers to attempt to recover lost wages by working longer hours.

The conditions under which these women work rival those of 19th century sweatshops and often result in long-term health problems, which can be compounded by lack of health insurance. Repetitive sewing movements often result in muscular-skeletal conditions, such as carpal tunnel syndrome or shoulder and back problems. Exposure to unsafe levels of airborne contaminants, such as cotton and synthetic dust from formaldehyde, is exacerbated by poor ventilation. This frequently leads to lung ailments.

Child labor, a clear violation of federal labor laws, is becoming an increasingly common occurrence in the garment industry. Not only does child labor increase the amount of piecework a woman can complete, it also solves the problem of child care while both parents work. Employers benefit as children supply even cheaper labor, keeping everyone's wages low; and unions are hesitant to enforce child labor prohibitions because workers fear that if their children were not at the workplace, they might fall into gang activity.

Another common violation in the garment industry is nonpayment of wages. Factory owners, citing the recession and the flight of garment production overseas, often withhold wages. Nonpayment is frequently coupled with a failure to maintain true payroll records of workers' hours. It is not unusual for workers to be owed thousands of dollars in back wages.

Such severe exploitation is possible because new immigrants are easily intimidated. Unaware of labor laws, workers often fail to realize that they are being abused or that regulations are being broken. Since they lack marketable skills, they are dependent on these jobs, which ironically leave little or no time to learn English and other skills. In addition, if workers complain about conditions, they are often blacklisted. A New York Chinatown worker who took her employer to arbitration found that her employer had published her picture in a community newspaper warning people not to hire her.²⁴

These conditions also result from lax enforcement of labor laws. Federal agencies inspect few sewing factories and restaurants. For example, from 1984 to 1988, only 2 percent of the approximately 17,000 apparel and restaurant establishments in New York City were inspected by either the Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.²⁵

If conditions for legal residents are poor, they are even worse for undocumented workers. The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of

23. Statistics provided by Asian Law Caucus.

24. Gwen Kinkead, "A Reporter at Large—Chinatown I," *The New Yorker*, June 10, 1991.

25. U.S. General Accounting Office. "Sweatshops in New York City: A Local Example of a Nationwide Problem." 1989.

1986 offered naturalization rights to thousands of undocumented workers, but one of its main provisions was the institution of monetary and criminal penalties on employers who hire undocumented workers. Employers must now require proof of work authorization. Workers hired prior to the passage of IRCA are “grandfathered” and do not have to provide documentation of work authority. IRCA basically institutionalized the disenfranchisement of an already powerless undocumented community. “Grandfathered” employees may not benefit either, as they are often trapped in exploitative jobs because they cannot work elsewhere without having to provide proper documentation.

• *Domestic Violence*

Each year, countless numbers of Asian Pacific American women are beaten, threatened and attacked with weapons. They are denied food and money, raped, verbally abused and murdered by their husbands, boyfriends and other family members. The vast majority of these cases are not reported, leaving victims trapped in physically and psychologically abusive relationships. The “silent crisis” of battered Asian Pacific American women goes largely unrecognized. While statistics on the number of abused Asian Pacific American women are not easily available, social workers say the problem is at least as common as in the general population (some estimate the rate of incidents to be as high as one out of every three households). The stresses of immigrant life, cultural “taboos,” language barriers and legal restrictions make Asian Pacific American women especially vulnerable to domestic violence.

The case histories of abused Asian Pacific American women illustrate the intersection of culture, legal barriers, racism and sexism. Mrs. Chin (a fictitious name) immigrated from Hong Kong as a conditional resident, meaning that her legal status was dependent on her husband.²⁶ Upon her arrival in New York, Mrs. Chin’s husband and in-laws locked her in a room and deprived her of food, often for days at a time. Like many abused women, Mrs. Chin hoped that her situation would improve and remained with her husband and his family. After several months of deprivation and isolation, however, she decided to leave. In her attempt to escape, she fell out of a second story window and was hospitalized.

Upon her recovery, Mrs. Chin left her husband, but was forced to become an “illegal” because of her conditional residency status. Although she was counseled to file for an immigration waiver, she refused, fearing deportation. Mrs. Chin’s fear highlights a dilemma many battered immigrant women confront: dependency on an abusive husband for legal residency. Current immigration law allows for battered immigrant women to leave their husbands and still retain legal status in this country. The law, however, requires battered women to document their abuse with affidavits from police, judges, medical personnel, school officials and social workers. If an abused immigrant woman claims extreme mental cruelty, she must supply immigration officials with an evaluation from a licensed clinical social worker, psychologist or psychiatrist.

Advocates for battered Asian Pacific immigrant women argue that it is unrealistic to expect recent Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants, many of whom may not utilize public services and are hesitant to acknowledge publicly their abuse, to produce such evidence. Fear of deportation is compounded by Immigration Naturalization Service work authorization laws, which make it difficult for battered immigrant women to obtain work legally if they leave an abusive husband. Difficulty in finding employment is further exacerbated by the lack of marketable skills and limited English ability among many Asian immigrant women.²⁷

In the course of leaving her abusive situation, Mrs. Chin suffered from extreme depression rooted in her "shame" over a failed marriage. She could not bring herself to return to her family in Hong Kong. Mrs. Chin's reaction reflects a pervasive belief among many Asians and Pacific Islanders, especially recent immigrants, that the actions of one family member affect all family members; in Mrs. Chin's case, an acknowledgement of abuse would reflect badly on her entire family.

These standards cross ethnic lines. Among South Asians, for example, the stigma of divorce is so great that many women endure abuse, not only from spouses but from in-laws as well. If a South Asian woman divorces, it could jeopardize the marriage prospects of her unmarried sisters. Typical of many cases is the story of a Bengali woman, who silently put up with verbal and physical abuse for 30 years. She was recently hospitalized with a severe head injury which she sustained when her husband tried to kill her with a club. When she finally left her husband, her family blamed her for the break-up and severed all ties with her.²⁸ Family and community standards and expectations thus conspire to keep Asian and Pacific Islander immigrant women silent about their abuse.

The experience of Mrs. Woo (a fictitious name) illustrates other culturally-specific problems of battered Asian Pacific American women.²⁹ A conditional resident who immigrated from China, Mrs. Woo was scalped by her husband with a meat cleaver. When the police arrived, her husband was able to convince them that she was mentally disturbed and had self-inflicted her wound. Mrs. Woo, a non-English speaker, was unable to defend herself against these false claims. Although she was later encouraged to press charges against her husband, Mrs. Woo initially refused to do so because she believed her husband was not at fault and that he could be "cured."

Mrs. Woo's experience with the police and her reluctance to press charges mirror that of many other battered Asian women. Negative associations with law enforcement officials in their native countries, as well as in this country, cause many recent immigrants to consider the police and the criminal justice system as adversaries rather than protectors. Indeed, abused Asian women often do not call the police during violent episodes.

Perhaps no case reveals the problems confronting battered Asian Pacific American women in the criminal justice system than that of Dong Lu Chen, who beat his wife to death with a claw hammer after she allegedly

27. See Deanna L. Jang, "Asian Immigrant Battered Women and United States Immigration Policy," *Asian American Policy Review* (Spring 1991): 33-42.

28. This case history provided by Sakhi.

29. This case history provided by the New York Asian Women's Center.

admitted to having an affair. Chen, in a "cultural defense," successfully claimed that he had been driven to violence by traditional Chinese values about adultery and was sentenced to five years probation.

Battered Asian women are often reluctant to press charges or leave an abusive situation for fear of upsetting the patriarchal status quo characteristic of many Asian families. Because of a strong cultural belief in the dominance of the male in the household, many Asian immigrants do not perceive battering as a problem and are often unaware that it is illegal. Many abused Asian American women assume responsibility for the violence and feel that they somehow deserved the abuse.

The rigors of immigrant life place an added stress on traditional family structures. Frequently in Asian and Pacific Islander immigrant families, a wife is able to find employment more easily than her husband; or typically, both husband and wife are working long hours for similar wages. The husband may feel that his power has been eroded with the loss in status as the primary family breadwinner. New roles and freedoms conflict with traditional expectations and often spark violent episodes.

Because of psychological, cultural, linguistic, and financial dilemmas that confront battered Asian Pacific American women, it is a considerable act of courage for an abused woman to leave her abuser. This act, however, is not generally a long-term resolution to a woman's problems. A recent immigrant may not be aware of shelters, or available shelters may not have staff with language skills and cultural competence to meet the woman's needs. She may also have to negotiate an alien world without language or job skills. All of these problems and conflicts often contribute to a battered Asian Pacific American woman returning to a violent relationship.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Asian Pacific Americans have been in the United States for 150 years. Their numbers and ethnic diversity have swelled in the last decade, making Asian Pacific Americans the fastest growing segment of the population. This high rate of growth, expected to continue into the 1990s and 21st century, coincides with an increasingly competitive economy in which the numbers of jobs and the value of real wages have dramatically declined. In this difficult environment, Asian Pacific Americans, the vast majority of whom are immigrants, are experiencing increased discrimination, exploitation, poverty and violence. However, the "model minority" stereotype minimizes this reality, and philanthropic organizations have neglected Asian Pacific American communities.

Over the last 20 years, a range of organizations have developed programs to respond to many of the critical issues facing Asian Pacific Americans. They are community-based organizations—local, regional and, more recently, national in scope. Collectively, their efforts present a wide menu of funding opportunities to support direct service, community organizing, advocacy, research and education, and technical assistance. Given the enormous language and cultural diversity of Asian Pacific American communities in the United States, it is essential that organizers have the resources to reach specific communities with appropriate services and education.

This report has sought to highlight some critical needs in Asian Pacific American communities and point out some of the gaps in funding to these communities. We conclude with recommendations for foundation and corporate grantmaking to Asian Pacific American communities.

- *Recognize the needs of Asian Pacific American communities and direct more resources to organizations that empower communities.*

Currently, only 0.2 percent of total foundation giving is directed to Asian Pacific American organizations. Although a few foundations have been responsive to Asian Pacific American communities, many others have ignored or "excluded" them from their funding criteria. Funding criteria should recognize those community organizations that empower individuals within their communities.

- *Fund language-appropriate and culturally-appropriate programs.*

Language and cultural barriers prevent many low-income Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants from seeking needed assistance. Programs must be appropriate for specific ethnic and cultural groups within Asian Pacific American communities.

- *Fund problem-identification and documentation efforts.*

Community-based programs have begun to provide their own documentation on the status of Asian Pacific Americans. These efforts need to continue, as they will demonstrate the needs of various communities.

- *Provide technical assistance to Asian Pacific American community organizations.*

Grantmakers should recognize that many community organizations serving Asian Pacific Americans could benefit from non-monetary support such as technical assistance or inclusion in research efforts.

- *Increase representation of Asian Pacific Americans on boards of trustees and staffs of philanthropic organizations.*

As of 1991, Asian Pacific Americans represented less than one percent of the trustees for 25 top private, community, and corporate foundations. Asian Pacific American presence is necessary on boards and staffs to facilitate attention to community needs.

The following resource list of Asian Pacific American organizations is subdivided by the four issue areas covered in this report: Racially-Motivated Crimes, Health Care Needs, Labor Conditions, and Domestic Violence. This resource list, far from being complete, is provided for informational and referral purposes.

• *Anti-Asian Violence
Local/Regional*

American Citizens for Justice
15777 West Ten Mile Road,
Suite 108
Southfield, MI 48075
Contact: Nati Jenks
(313) 557-2772

**Asian American Resource
Workshop**
34 Oak Street
Boston, MA 02111
Contact: Michael Liu
(617) 426-5313

Asian Americans United
801 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Contact: John Fong
(215) 925-1538

Break the Silence
2319 Grant Street, #7
Berkeley, CA 94703
Contact: Mike Wong
(510) 568-7721

Chinese for Affirmative Action
17 Walter Lum Place
San Francisco, CA 94108
Contact: Henry Der
(415) 274-6750

**Committee Against Anti-Asian
Violence**
191 East 3rd Street
New York, NY 10009
Contact: Monona Yin
(212) 473-6485

• *Anti-Asian Violence
National*

**Chinese American Citizens
Alliance**
1044 Stockton Street
San Francisco, CA 94108
Contact: Yvonne Lee
(415) 982-4618

**Japanese American Citizens
League**
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
Contact: Dennis Hayashi
(415) 921-5225

**National Network Against
Anti-Asian Violence**
c/o JAACL
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
Contact: Dennis Hayashi
(415) 921-5225

**Organization of Chinese
Americans**
1001 Connecticut Avenue-NW,
Suite 707
Washington, DC 20036
Contact: Daphne Kwok
(202) 223-5500

• *Anti-Asian Violence
Legal*

**Asian American Legal Defense
and Education Fund**
99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10013
Contact: Stan Mark
(212) 966-5932

Asian Law Caucus
468 Bush Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108
Contact: Paul Igasaki
(415) 391-1655

**Asian Pacific American Legal
Center of Southern California**
1010 South Flower Street, Room 302
Los Angeles, CA 90015
Contact: Stuart Kwoh
(213) 748-2022

**National Asian Pacific American
Bar Association**
c/o Law Offices of William C. Hou
888 16th Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006
Contact: Bill Hou
(202) 416-0653

**National Asian Pacific American
Legal Consortium**
468 Bush Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108
Contact: Joe Lucero
(415) 391-4133

• *Health*

Asian American Health Forum
116 New Montgomery Street,
Suite 531
San Francisco, CA 94105
Contact: Tessie Guillermo
(415) 541-0866

Asian Pacific Health Care Venture
300 West Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Contact: Kazue Shibata
(213) 346-0370

Asian Health Services
310 - 8th Street, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94607
Contact: Sherry Hirota
(510) 465-3271

**Association of Asian/Pacific
Community Health Organizations**
1212 Broadway, Suite 730
Oakland, CA 94612-1825
Contact: Lauria Mayeno
(510) 272-9536

Chinatown Health Clinic
89 Baxter Street
New York, NY 10013
Contact: Harold Lui
(212) 233-5066

**International District Commu-
nity Health Center**
416 Maynard Avenue, South
Seattle, WA 98104
T: (206) 447-3235
M,W,F: (206) 322-0080

**Kakua Kalihi Valley Health
Center**
1846 Gulick Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96819
Contact: Jory Watland
(808) 848-0976

North East Medical Services
1520 Stockton Street
San Francisco, CA 94133
Contact: Sohpie Wong
(415) 391-9686

**South Cove Community Health
Center**
885 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
Contact: Jean Lau Chin
(617) 482-7555

**Union of Pan Asian
Communities**
1031 - 25th Street
San Diego, CA 92102
Contact: Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose
(619) 232-6454

**Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive
Health Center**
86-260 Farrington Highway
Wai'anae, HI 96792-3199
Contact: Airleen Lucero
(808) 696-7081

• **Labor Rights**

**Asian American Legal Defense
and Education Fund**
99 Hudson Street, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10013
Contact: Stan Mark
(212) 966-5932

**Asian Immigrant Women
Advocates**
310 Eighth Street, #310
Oakland, CA 94607
Contact: Young Shin
(415) 268-0192

**Asian Law Caucus
Garment Worker's Project**
468 Bush Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108
Contact: Lora Foo
(415) 391-1655

**Chinese Staff and Workers
Association**
15 Catherine Street, 2nd Floor Rear
New York, NY 10038
Contact: Wing Lam
(212) 619-7979

**Korean Immigrant Worker
Advocates**
2426 West 8th Street, Suite 222
Los Angeles, CA 90057
Contact: Roy Hong
(213) 738-9050

**National Asian Pacific Labor
Alliance**
1444 T Street NW, Suite 702
Washington, D.C. 20005
Contact: Matthew Finucane
(202) 842-1263

**Santa Clara Center on
Occupational Safety and Health
Asian Workers' Project**
760 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95112
Contact: Flora Chu
(408) 998-4050

• **Domestic Violence**

Apna Ghar
4753 North Broadway, Suite 605
Chicago, IL 60640
Contact: Ranjana Bhargava
(312) 334-0173

Asian Women's Project
110 Arlington Street
Boston, MA 02116
Contact: Cheng Imm
(617) 542-6233

Asian Women's Shelter
3543 18th Street, #19
San Francisco, CA 94110
Contact: Beckie Masaki
(415) 731-7100

**Center for the Pacific-Asian
Family**
543 North Fairfax, #108
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Contact: Linda Ikeda-Vogel
(213) 653-4045

Manavi
P.O. Box 614
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
Contact: Shamita Das-Dasgupta
(908) 687-2662

Narika
P.O. Box 7326
Berkeley, CA 94707
Contact: Inderpal Grewal
(510) 215-7308

**New York Asian Women's
Center**
39 Bowery, Box 375
New York, NY 10002
Contact: Pat Eng
(212) 732-5230

Sakhi
P.O. Box 1428, Cathedral Station
New York, NY 10025
Contact: Annanya Bhattacharjee
(212) 866-6591

Acknowledgements

This publication was researched, written, and edited by: Tani Takagi, East Coast Editor, *Ms. Foundation for Women (New York)*; Stan Yogi, West Coast Editor, *California Council for the Humanities (San Francisco)*; Shona Chakravartty, *Women and Foundations/Corporate Philanthropy (New York)*; Miyoko Oshima, *The Tides Foundation (San Francisco)*; and Monona Yin, *Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (New York)*.

Printing of this report was made possible by a generous grant from Pacific Bell, A Pacific Telesis Company.

AAPIP gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by Peggy Saika, *National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (San Francisco)* and Ruby Takanishi, *Carnegie Council on Adolescent Development (Washington, D.C.)* towards the completion of this report.

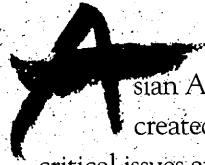
AAPIP also thanks the following individuals for their assistance:

Annanya Bhattacharjee, *Sakhi (New York)*
Arthur Chen, M.D., *Asian Health Services (Oakland)*
Pat Eng, *New York Asian Women's Shelter*
Genny Esposito, *Foundation Center (New York)*
Rosemary Fei, *Silk, Adler & Colwin (San Francisco)*
Kevin Fong, *Asian Health Services (Oakland)*
Tessie Guillermo, *Asian American Health Forum (San Francisco)*
Dennis Hayashi, *Japanese American Citizens League (San Francisco)*
Linda Ikeda-Vogel, *Center for the Pacific-Asian Family (Los Angeles)*
Hana Irfani, *Ms. Foundation for Women (New York)*
Wing Lam, *Chinese Staff & Workers Association (New York)*
Marjorie Lee, *UCLA Asian American Studies Center (Los Angeles)*
Rod Lew, *Asian Health Services (Oakland)*
JoAnn Lum, *Chinese Staff & Workers Association (New York)*
Daryl Maeda, *San Francisco State University*
Beckie Masaki, *Asian Women's Shelter (San Francisco)*
Shinji Morokuma, *The Freedom Forum (Washington, D.C.)*
Brian Niiya, *UCLA Asian American Studies Center (Los Angeles)*
Michael Omi, *Asian American Studies Program, UC Berkeley*
Adrienne Pon, *Pacific Bell (San Francisco)*
Ninez Ponce, *Asian American Health Forum (San Francisco)*
Young Shin, *Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (Oakland)*
Bill Tamayo, *Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco)*
Clarissa Tom, *Asian American Health Forum (San Francisco)*
Nita Whaley, *(Ojai, CA)*

... and the staffs of:

California Council for the Humanities
Ms. Foundation for Women
The Tides Foundation
Women and Foundations/Corporate Philanthropy

About AAPIP



Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP) was created in October 1990 to meet the need for a forum to highlight critical issues affecting growing Asian Pacific American communities. AAPIP provides opportunities for networking among Asian Pacific Americans employed in philanthropic organizations. AAPIP aims to:

- Promote understanding among grantmakers and mainstream institutions of major issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans;
- Share information about grantseeking strategies with non-profit groups which serve Asian Pacific American communities;
- Support the development of organized philanthropic giving by Asian Pacific American communities;
- Promote the achievement of a multicultural society that respects the histories and cultures of different ethnic and racial groups;
- Strive for significantly increased Asian Pacific American representation on boards of trustees and staffs of private and public philanthropic organizations;
- Enhance the professional development of Asian Pacific Americans in philanthropy.

Board of Directors

James Jeung
San Francisco Foundation

Irene Lee
Eugene & Agnes Meyer Foundation

Kavita Ramdas, Co-Chair
John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

Russell Sakaguchi
ARCO Corporation

Stella Shao, Co-Chair
Marin Community Foundation

Andrew Sun
Anheuser-Busch Companies

Tani Takagi
Ms. Foundation for Women

Dianne Yamashiro-Omi
Koret Foundation

AAPIP

P.O. Box 591389
San Francisco
Calif. 94159-1389
telephone 415 772 4388



*Publication of this report
was made possible by a
generous grant from*

PACIFIC  BELL.

A Pacific Telesis Company