White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Through the White House Initiative on AAPIs, we are working to ensure ***equal access to federal programs*** *that meet the diverse needs of AAPI communities. We are standing up for* ***civil rights, economic opportunity,*** *and* ***better outcomes in health and education.***

President Barack Obama
April 30, 2013

On October 14, 2009, President Barack Obama signed Executive Order 13515 renewing the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The Executive Order establishes the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the Federal Interagency Working Group, and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The Initiative, chaired by U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan and led by Executive Director Kiran Ahuja, works to improve the quality of life and opportunities for AAPIs by facilitating increased access to and participation in federal programs where AAPIs remain underserved.

The Initiative focuses on several issue areas, including:

Civil Rights • Economic Growth • Education • Health • Immigration
Data Disaggregation • Language Access • Federal Workforce Diversity
Technical Assistance & Capacity Building

working to improve the quality of life for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

WHAT IS THE NEED?

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community is the fastest-growing racial group in the country. The community grew 46 percent from 2000 to 2010 and will more than double to over 47 million by 2060. With this rapid growth comes an urgent need to address the daily issues and challenges our community members face.

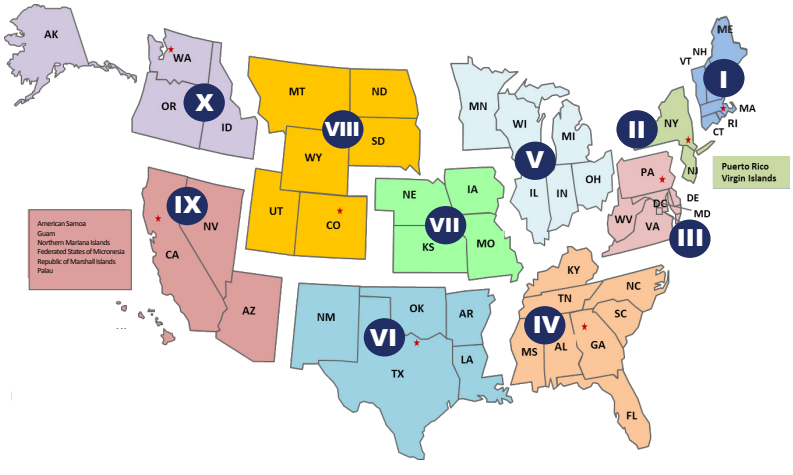
OUR STRUCTURE

The **President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs** is a group of 20 appointed business, community, nonprofit, and philanthropic leaders who serve as the eyes and ears of the community for the Administration

The **Interagency Working Group** comprises officials from more than 20 federal agencies tasked with developing and implementing agency plans to increase access to federal programs and services for the AAPI community.

The **Regional Interagency Working Group** comprises over 170 members in 10 regions, representing more than 30 federal agencies. This group works on the local level to engage the AAPI community.

Regional Interagency Working Group



"The more than 16 million AAPIs across our country have helped build a strong and vibrant America... While we acknowledge the many contributions of the AAPI communities to our Nation, we also recognize the challenges still faced by many AAPIs."

President Barack Obama
Executive Order 13515, October 14, 2009

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 2009, under President Obama, the Initiative has made major strides, including:

- Working with federal agencies to update, revise, and streamline strategic plans.
- Reaching over 30,000 people at more than 200 roundtables, stakeholder meeting, and summits in 25 states, the District of Columbia, and the Pacific Islands.
- Convening more than 200 foundation, federal, and community leaders at a National Philanthropic Briefing, resulting in a $1 million commitment to promote public/private partnerships to benefit AAPIs.
- Collecting data disaggregation practices from schools and hosting the iCount Symposium to highlight these systems across the nation.
- Improving access to healthcare for AAPIs by promoting new standards for data collection, engaging health centers to improve healthcare literacy, and developing educational tools about the Affordable Care Act.
- Collaborating with community and federal organizations to launch the Senior Executive Service Development Program to help AAPIs rise to new heights in the federal workforce.