

**Ellen Abellera**  
**Executive Director**



**The State of Washington**  
**COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

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*Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans*

**Executive Director's Report**  
**Clark Public Utilities-Orchards Service Center**  
**8600 N. 117<sup>th</sup> Ave.**  
**Vancouver, WA 98662**  
**March 22, 2008**

1. **CAPAA's Financial Report prepared by the Small Agency Client Services (SACS).** Please refer to the attached document.
2. **Website Enhancement** – the application for the \$52,000 funding from DIS for website enhancement has finally been submitted to DIS, for a Certification outreach video and tutorial, in coordination with the Office of the Minority Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) , the Hispanic American Commission( CHA), and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA). The Certification translation is done in four major languages- Chinese mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean and Cambodian. These are efficiency measures that can be used effectively in the future.
2. **Legislative Session 2008 updates - Legislative session officially ended on March 13, 2008. More than 2,000 bills were introduced and more than 300 bills will be signed by Governor Chris Gregoire.**

Operating Budget –Policy Items:

- A. Naturalization funding - \$656k-Increased costs associated with additional application and fingerprint fees, training hours and disability waivers.
- B. New Americans Initiative - \$344k-for the Washington New Americans Program to provide naturalization assistance for legal permanent residents who are eligible to become citizens.
- C. Highline Community College partnership with BURSST for Gateway Center - \$76k-provides the final funding component for a high demand fields re-certification and accreditation center to assist immigrants and refugees with professional healthcare credentials from another country to gain licensing and certification in Washington State.
- D. EDUCATION - Achievement Gap - \$750k-directs the Center for the improvement of Student Learning in the OSPI to conduct a detailed analysis of and develop a strategic

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**Agency Overview**

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

plan to improve the achievement gap for African American, Native American, the Asian, the Pacific Islander, and the Hispanic/Latino students.

Supported Employment, DD High School graduates (\$785k) total \$325k- helps young adults with developmental disabilities to graduate from high school and to transition directly into jobs in the community. The additional funds recognize that more DD clients are prepared to graduate to employment than originally assumed in the 2007-09 Operating budget.

ELL teacher preparation budget proviso \$67k – directs the Professional Educators Standards Board to develop recommendations to address gaps and weaknesses in preparing all teachers to educate English Language Learners. This bill passed the House by a vote of 97-0.

HB 3212- monitoring and addressing the achievement of groups of students. Sponsored by Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos. Passed final passage on March 11, 2008.

SB 6673 – Creating extended learning opportunities. Sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Brandland, Hobbs, McDermott, Rasmussen, Weinstein, Oemig, Tom, Kauffman, Hargrove, Fairley, Franklin & Shin.  
This is all pending for approval from Governor Chris Gregoire.

4. New Americans Initiative – Governor Chris Gregoire signed an Executive Order On February 20, 2008 to approve the New Americans Initiative and the formation of the New Americans Initiative Council. This initiative is to ensure a comprehensive, strategic approach to integrating immigrants and their families in Washington State. This is one of CAPAA's legislative priorities.
5. APA Heritage Month – May 4, 2008 at the Seattle Center.  
I have requested for Governor Gregoire's proclamation for APA Heritage Month. We should plan to show presence there as we may launch our 2008 poster of updated APA firsts and APA highlights and history. CAPAA in the past always had an information table. Would be great to show support to our APA community by being there!
6. Boards & Commissions Orientation- I have included the letter from Kim Tanaka. Please confirm your attendance. It is also open to all commissioners who wish to attend the orientation again.
7. CENSUS 2010 – the Decennial Census 2010 is just about two years from now. The 2010 Language program will include the 2010 Census Questionnaire in Multiple languages. Since I sit on the Asian Advisory Committee for Asian population, I will update you on progress and recruiting potential for Census jobs. CAPAA should partner with the Regional Census partnership program.
8. Letter to Dr. Terry Bergeson- in follow up to the disaggregation of data as an Appropriation from SB 5843; and asking to meet with her on the new budget proviso for the study of the achievement gap.