



WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION ON
**ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

Strategic Plan

2015-2018

Improving the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.

EDUCATION

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND DIRECTOR

January 2015

The Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs begins its 41st year with an appreciation of the community leaders who have served and responded to a broad range of changing issues over four decades. The Commission remains committed to its purpose to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans. We present our 2015-2018 strategic plan as our road map to address challenges and opportunities that continue to face our state's most diverse population group in the areas of education, health and human services, and economic development.

All Washingtonians deserve a state government that is efficient, effective, and accountable. As Commissioners, our responsibility is to be a bridge between decision-makers and our communities to ensure that state government is responsive to one of the fastest growing populations in our state. From 2010 to 2012, the Asian American population grew by 8.1 percent, the fastest in the state, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders grew by 6.2 percent. Nationally, Washington has the seventh largest population of Asian Americans and the third largest population of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

In the years ahead, our state's leaders will make policy and budgetary decisions that will determine the course of our state well into the next decade. We value the powers and duties the Legislature has given the Commission to examine and define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of Asian Pacific Americans and make recommendations to the governor and state agencies with respect to desirable changes in programs and laws.

We encourage participation from the youth, families, and elders we represent to join in our efforts to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in Washington State.

Sincerely,

Sofia Aragon
Chair

Michael Itti
Executive Director

OVERVIEW OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Commission has identified the following goals and objectives for its key priority areas in order to improve the lives of Asian Pacific Americans in Washington State.

Education

GOAL: Close the educational opportunity gaps that impact Asian Pacific American students.

Objectives

- Examine and define the educational opportunity gaps as it impacts Asian Pacific American students.
- Increase awareness about the opportunity gaps that impact APA students.
- Advocate for targeted strategies that will close the educational opportunity gaps for Asian Pacific American students.

Health and Human Services

GOAL: Identify health disparity issues specific to the Asian Pacific American community and support identification and promotion of solutions.

Objectives

- Examine and define health disparities that impact Asian Pacific Americans.
- Raise awareness of health disparities that impact Asian Pacific Americans.
- Advocate for targeted strategies, including culturally-appropriate wellness and prevention approaches that will address health disparities for Asian Pacific Americans.
- Take prudent and proactive steps on reducing disparate impacts of marijuana legalization on the Asian Pacific American community.

Economic Development

GOAL: Support Asian Pacific American business owners and those seeking to start and maintain a business with the knowledge, tools, and resources required to be successful.

Objectives

- Examine and define economic development issues that impact Asian Pacific American businesses.
- Develop and advocate for targeted strategies that will promote economic development opportunities for Asian Pacific American businesses.
- Increase state agency and educational institution utilization of minority-owned businesses.

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AGENCY OVERVIEW

History

Due to pervasive discrimination and barriers in accessing government services, a group of local Asian Pacific American community members met with the Governor in 1971 to examine a broad range of issues facing the Asian Pacific American population in the areas of employment, education, social services, community development, immigration, and civil rights. In January 1972, Governor Evans created The Governor's Asian Advisory Council by executive order. On February 26, 1974, the 43rd Washington State Legislature formally created The State of Washington Commission on Asian American Affairs as a state agency. On April 17, 1995, Governor Mike Lowry signed a bill to change the Commission's name to The State of Washington Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs to include Pacific Islanders.

The Commission was formed by the Legislature over concern with the plight of those Asian Pacific Americans who, for economic, linguistic, or cultural reasons, find themselves disadvantaged or isolated from American society and the benefits of equal opportunity. The Legislature deemed it necessary to create the commission to carry out the following purposes:

- Improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.
- Help all Asian Pacific Americans achieve full equality and inclusion in American society.
- Aid Asian Pacific Americans in obtaining governmental services in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of all the residents of this state.

Mission

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA) represents Washington State's Asian American and Pacific Islander community to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.

Vision

To create a culture where full participation and social equality of Asian American and Pacific Islanders are achievable.

Authority

CAPAA's statutory authority is established in RCW 43.117.010. Implementing regulations are contained in WAC 34-02.

Commission Powers and Duties

The Commission examines and defines issues pertaining to the rights and needs of Asian Pacific Americans and makes recommendations to the governor and state agencies with respect to desirable changes in program and law.

The Commission advises state government agencies on the development and implementation of comprehensive and coordinated policies, plans, and programs focusing on the special problems and needs of Asian Pacific Americans.

The Commission coordinates and assists with statewide celebrations during the fourth week of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month that recognize the contributions to the state by Asian Pacific Americans in the arts, sciences, commerce, and education.

The Commission coordinates and assists educational institutions, public entities, and private organizations with celebrations of Korean-American day that recognize the contributions to the state by Korean-Americans in the arts, sciences, commerce, and education.

The Commission recommends potential commissioner candidates to the Governor for review and appointment.

The Commission establishes relationships with local governments and private industry to promote equal opportunity and benefits to Asian Pacific Americans in government, education, economic development, employment, and services.

The Commission holds public hearings, takes testimony, receives evidence, as the commission deems advisable.

The Commission secures directly from any department or agency of the state information necessary to enable it to carry out its purpose. Upon request of the chair of the commission, the head of such department or agency shall furnish such information to the commission.

The Commission has authority to receive such gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private sources as may be made from time to time in trust or otherwise for the use and benefit of the purposes of the commission.

Primary Goal

To ensure the mission of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs is successfully achieved through Commission actions, and through effectively communicating on CAPAA matters and following up on Commission recommendations.

Objectives

Impact and Standards: Ensure the work of the Commission is responsive and useful to the Governor and state agencies by making timely and substantive recommendations based on research.

Accountability: Institute measures that allow for the agency to monitor its efforts so that the Commission's constituents and Governor are able to identify CAPAA's successes.

Communications: Increase participation of the Commission with the Governor, state agencies, and the community on policy recommendations.

Impact and Standards

- Identify and develop any relevant studies in the areas of education, health care and human services, or economic development that impact the Asian Pacific American community so that policy recommendations can be made to the Governor and state agencies.
- Ensure studies and recommendations are utilized.
- Meet with the Governor, legislators, and state agencies as appropriate within the scope of the recommendations.
- Educate the Asian Pacific American community about laws, programs, and policies that affect its well-being.
- Make government more accessible by serving as a liaison and consultant between Asian Pacific American communities and state agencies.
- Serve as a resource through research and educational materials, technical assistance, agency referrals, casework, community forums, and other venues of partnership and cooperation.

Accountability

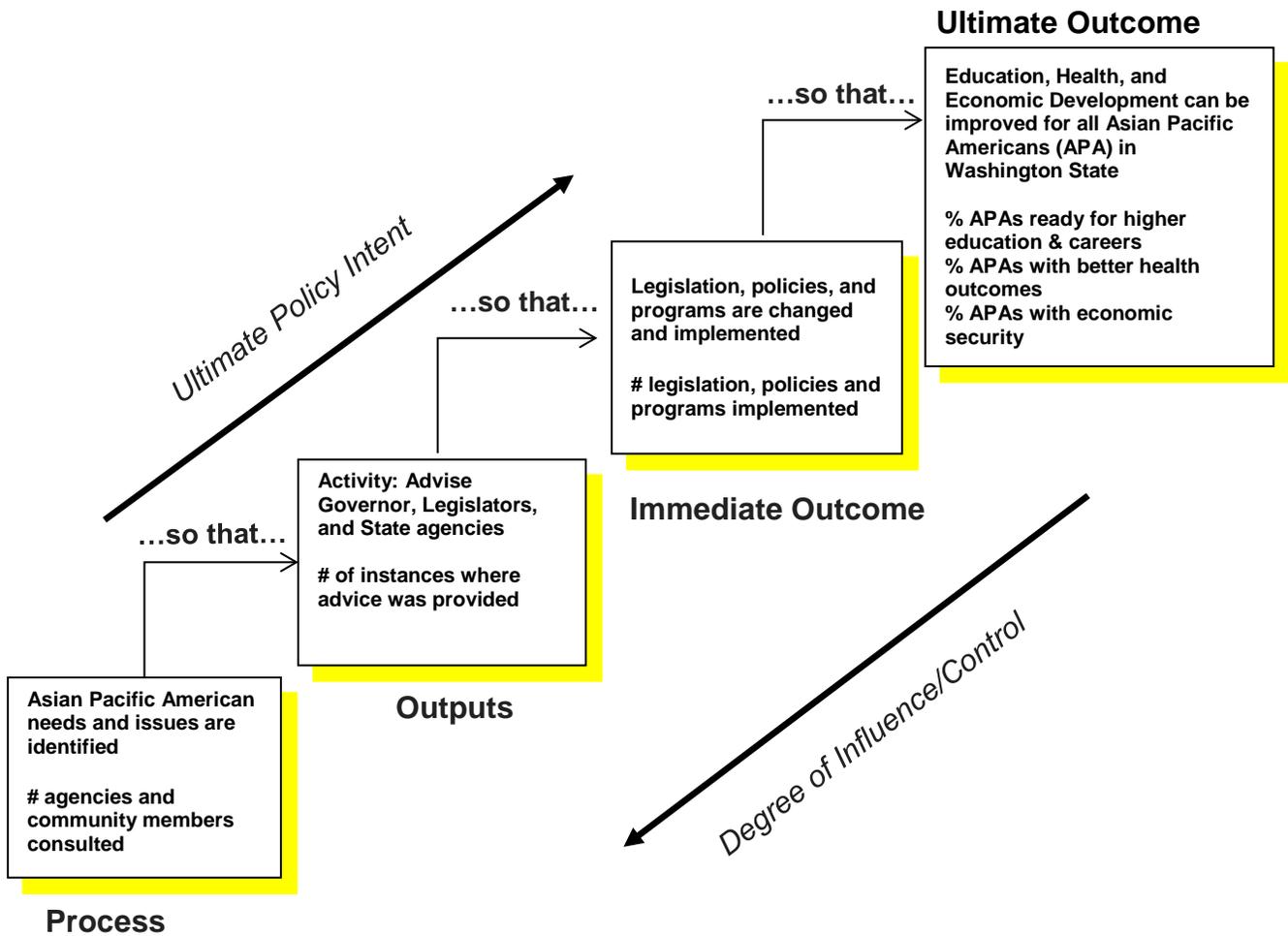
CAPAA policy recommendations adopted by the Governor and/or state agencies should have communication mechanisms (website, email, public forums, testimony, surveys, etc.) so that API communities from across the state will be able to communicate to CAPAA on the impacts of policy recommendations and/or initiatives.

Communications

- Present studies, reports, and recommendations to the Governor and state agencies.
- Encourage opportunities to share studies and results with other audiences.
- Assess value of publications, presentations, and other communications.

Logic model

The Commission works to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.



COMMISSIONERS

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs has an advisory board made up of twelve Governor-appointed Commissioners representing the state's rich Asian Pacific American diversity. Commissioners developed the 2015 – 2018 strategic plan over the course of several board meetings in 2014.



Sofia Aragon
Chair



Tyati Tufono
1st Vice Chair



Lisa Dickinson
2nd Vice Chair



Debadutta Dash



Jeannie Lee



Tashi Khamshitsang



Darren Pen



Gerardine Cabusao



Lynette Finau



Lori Wada



Mohan Gurung



Zer Vue

Committees

- Economic Development
- Education
- Health & Human Services

EDUCATION: GOAL & STRATEGIES

GOAL: CLOSE THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GAPS THAT IMPACT ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN STUDENTS.

Background

The 2012 state Supreme Court decision in the McCleary case will continue to be the primary driver behind education policy and funding decisions in the state through 2018 and beyond. The Legislature is obligated to fully fund basic education as defined in House Bill 2261 that passed in 2009. This is a once in a generation opportunity to reshape the state's education system to ensure that all students receive an education that prepares them for success in life. Participation by APA communities during this process is needed to ensure policymakers include targeted strategies to close the opportunity gaps that impact APA students.

Other drivers of change include: efforts to expand access to quality early childhood education programs; transition to the new Common Core standards; and recruitment and retention of underrepresented communities and affordability of college tuition.

1. Objective: Examine and define the educational opportunity gaps as it impacts Asian Pacific American students.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|---|--|
| A. Form partnerships to produce briefing papers and materials that examine and define the APA student populations that are impacted by the educational opportunity gaps. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report data about graduation rates, test scores, college going-rates, etc. for APA sub-ethnic groups.• Partner and coordinate with iCount researchers to update the 2008 opportunity gap reports with new data. |

2. Objective: Increase awareness about the opportunity gaps that impact Asian Pacific American students.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|---|--|
| A. Launch communications campaign around the APA opportunity gaps. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write op-eds about the APA opportunity gaps and the importance of the McCleary decision.• Talk about the APA opportunity gaps on ethnic radio stations. |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>B. Educate policymakers about the opportunity gaps among APA students.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with policymakers to inform and update them about the opportunity gaps among APA students. |
| <p>C. Increase the Asian Pacific American community's awareness of the opportunity gaps among APA students.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and distribute culturally and linguistically-appropriate informational materials about the APA opportunity gaps to APA education stakeholders. • Hold community forums about the APA opportunity gaps and McCleary decision. |

3. Objective: Advocate for targeted strategies that will close the educational opportunity gaps for Asian Pacific American students.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|--|---|
| <p>A. Monitor and advise the work of task forces and committees that are working to address the opportunity gaps.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Asian American and Pacific Islander representation on the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC). • Ensure Asian American and Pacific Islander representation on the Student Discipline Task Force. • Assist in the implementation of Results Washington World-class Education Goal Council measures to track and address the opportunity gaps. |
| <p>B. Partner with community-based organizations and think tanks that support or work directly with families to promote the academic success of students.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document and share recommendations and best practices from community partners. • Continue to support the work of the Southeast Asian American Access in Education Coalition, Our Future Matters, and the Asian Pacific Islander American Think Tank to include families and communities in the policymaking process. |
| <p>C. Support community and legislative efforts to close the educational opportunity gaps.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners advocate for legislation that will close the opportunity gaps, including disaggregation of data to better track APA educational outcomes. |

- Partner with agencies and community groups to increase the number of APAs in the teaching force.
- Meet with Governor's staff and policymakers to advocate for inclusion and passage of legislation and funding to close the gaps.
- Sponsor agency-requested legislation to implement key strategies to close the opportunity gaps.

Education Goal Measures

- Results Washington – Goal 1: World-class Education: Numerous leading indicators track student outcomes to determine if the gaps are closing.
- Number of CAPAA supported bills that pass the Legislature.
- Funding of programs that will close the opportunity gap.
- Number of earned media, materials, and forums achieved.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES: GOAL & STRATEGIES

GOAL: IDENTIFY HEALTH DISPARITY ISSUES SPECIFIC TO THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION OF SOLUTIONS.

Background

Health disparities are complex and specific to ethnic group, generation, and level of access to care. Addressing health disparities will require coordination among communities of color, state agencies, and the health care system. Several Results Washington goals present opportunities to make significant progress in addressing health disparities.

Policy changes at the state and national level have dramatically changed impacts to health and human services. The implementation of Initiative 502, which legalized recreational marijuana, will impact students and families due to increased access in the community and changes in perception of risk. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has improved affordability and access to health care. Washington's successful implementation of the ACA is a model for the nation. However, technical problems and cultural and linguistic barriers presented challenges for APAs in enrolling. APA-serving community health clinics and organizations were instrumental in overcoming the challenges, but more funding and coordination is needed to support their work.

1. Objective: Examine and define health disparities that impact Asian Pacific Americans.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|--|---|
| A. Form partnerships to produce briefing papers and materials that examine and define APA access to health care and health disparities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect and request data from agencies about access to care and health disparities that impact APA sub-ethnic groups. |
| B. Conduct community-based research to examine APA health disparities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partner with researchers and experts to conduct focus groups of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders on perceptions about diabetes and diabetes management. |

2. Objective: Raise awareness of health disparities that impact Asian Pacific Americans.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|--|---|
| <p>A. Launch communications campaign around APA mental health awareness month.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write op-eds about APA mental health awareness month. • Talk about APA mental health awareness month on ethnic radio. |
| <p>B. Increase the Asian Pacific American community’s awareness of diabetes epidemic.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute culturally and linguistically-appropriate informational materials about diabetes prevention. • Engage community organizations on providing culturally competent care to prevent diabetes. |
| <p>C. Make stomach cancer an APA health priority.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute informational materials about stomach cancer. • Partner with community-based organization to hold a summit on making stomach cancer an APA health priority. |
| <p>D. Educate policymakers about APA health disparities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with policymakers to inform and update them about APA health disparities. |

3. Objective: Advocate for targeted strategies, including culturally-appropriate wellness and prevention approaches that will address health disparities for Asian Pacific Americans.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|--|--|
| <p>A. Monitor and influence the work of task forces and committees that could address APA health disparities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure API representation on the Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities. • Assist in the implementation of Results Washington Healthy Communities Goal Council measures to track and address health disparities |
| <p>B. Support community, agency, and legislative efforts to address health disparities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners advocate for policies to promote a culturally competent health care system and workforce and prevent and test for disparate health impacts for APAs. |

- Meet with Governor’s staff and policymakers to advocate for passage of legislation.

4. Objective: Take prudent and proactive steps on reducing disparate impacts of marijuana legalization on the Asian Pacific American community.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|---|--|
| <p>A. Track data and information on impact of marijuana legalization on the Asian Pacific American community.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for collection of data by sub-ethnic groups. • Collect data on usage, law enforcement, and health impacts and make public. |
| <p>B. Launch communications efforts to raise public awareness.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earned media efforts through op-eds, radio shows, etc. • Print and distribute culturally and linguistically-appropriate materials. • On-going educational campaign to prevent youth marijuana usage. |
| <p>C. Educate policymakers about APA concerns around marijuana.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend discontinuation of “green card” terminology. • More information on product labeling and serving size. • Seek funding for youth peer to peer education. |
| <p>D. Hold decision-makers accountable to providing adequate resources for marijuana education, prevention, and treatment for youth and most vulnerable populations.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish key relationships with law enforcement, Liquor Control Board, Department of Health, DSHS, justice system, Legislature, and organizations that supported I-502. |

Health and Human Services Goal Measures

- Results Washington – Goal 4: Healthy and Safe Communities
 - 1.2.Y.e: Decrease percentage of 10th graders who report smoking marijuana in past 30 days from 19.3% in 2012 to 18% by 2017.
- Healthy Youth Survey data on marijuana usage among APAs.
- Number of CAPAA supported bills that pass the Legislature.
- Funding of programs that will address health disparities.
- Number of earned media, materials, and forums achieved.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: GOAL & STRATEGIES

GOAL: SUPPORT ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BUSINESS OWNERS AND THOSE SEEKING TO START AND MAINTAIN A BUSINESS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES REQUIRED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

Background

Asian Pacific Americans are generally among both the highest income and the lowest wage earners in Washington State. Immigrant entrepreneurship and the role of small businesses are particularly important for APA households and communities. However, many communities are unable to access mainstream resources offered by American financial institutions due to their lack of knowledge and experience with credit—making culturally and linguistically-appropriate technical assistance a critical need.

A key Results Washington goal is to increase opportunities for small business owners in Washington State by increasing state agency and educational institution utilization of minority, women, and veteran owned businesses. State agencies will be working to implement strategies to achieve this goal over the course of several years.

1. Objective: Examine and define economic development issues that impact Asian Pacific American businesses.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|--|---|
| A. Form partnerships to produce briefing papers and materials that examine and define the top issues of concern for APA business community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect and request economic development data from agencies.• Develop a culturally and linguistically-appropriate resource guide for business owners about access to capital, technical assistance, etc. |

2. Objective: Develop and advocate for targeted strategies that will promote economic development opportunities for Asian Pacific American businesses.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|--|---|
| <p>A. Develop statewide strategy plan to support APA and minority-owned businesses.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with ethnic chambers of commerce and owners from various industry sectors (agriculture, construction, etc.) to develop key strategies. • Create opportunities for business owners to attend community forums and agency roundtables. • Convene Minority Business Development Summit to develop coordinated policy recommendations. |
| <p>B. Educate policymakers about APA economic development issues.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate Small Business Liaison Team, a 26-member state agency panel, about APA concerns. |

3. Objective: Increase state agency and educational institution utilization of minority-owned businesses.

| Strategies | Tactics |
|---|---|
| <p>A. Simplify certification process for minority-owned business.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprise (OMWBE) to streamline certification process. • Examine feasibility of consolidating certification for local, state, and federal requirements. |
| <p>B. Educate reasons for and promote certification of minority-owned businesses.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with OMWBE to hold ethnic-specific workshops on certification. |
| <p>C. Train procurement officers at all state agencies on strategies to increase utilization of minority-owned businesses.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with directors and procurement officers to discuss strategies. • Conduct workshops on best practices. |

Economic Development Goal Measures

- Results Washington – Goal 2: Prosperous Economy
 - 4.1.a Increase state agency and educational institution utilization of state-certified small businesses in public works and other contracting and procurement by 2017 to 10% for minority-owned businesses, 6% for women-owned businesses, and 5% for veteran-owned businesses.
- Data on minority-owned businesses (number, revenue, etc.).
- Programs and services for minority-owned businesses.
- Number of earned media, materials, and forums achieved.

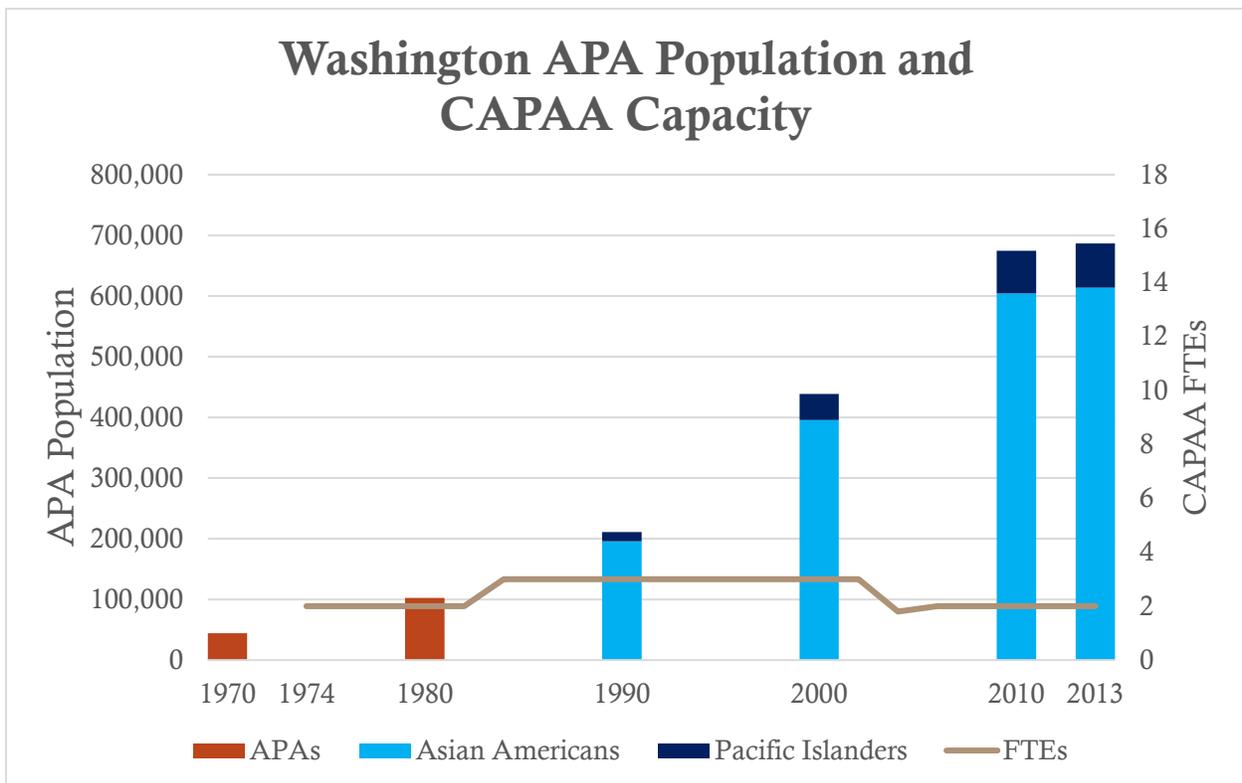
BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Commission examines issues pertaining to the rights and needs of the Asian Pacific American community and makes recommendations to the governor, state agencies and local governments for changes in programs, policies, plans, and laws.

Since the Commission was established in 1974, the APA population has increased from about 44,000 to more than 674,000 (2010 census). From 2010 to 2012, the Asian American population grew by 8.1 percent, the fastest in the state, and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders grew by 6.2 percent. APAs represent a diverse collection of more than 47 distinct ethnic groups with unique languages, dialects, culture, and immigration patterns.

The Commission is the only agency in state government performing the essential activity of ensuring the community has access to government and the services it provides. In order to define issues of importance to the community, the Commission holds public meetings, meets with the community, and develops networks with groups that serve the population. The Commission also conducts public information and outreach programs with particular emphasis on education, health, human services, economic development, as well as develops special studies and reports to address issues of concern to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Due to the population growth, the Commission is in need of additional resources and staffing to adequately serve the state’s most diverse population group.



These additional resources would provide:

- Access to translation services to develop linguistically-appropriate materials and webpages for limited English proficient populations;
- Access to interpretation services to receive community input from limited English proficient populations;
- Ability to convene community forums on emerging and pressing issues;
- Access to underrepresented and underserved APA communities in Eastern Washington;
- Ability to conduct, produce, and distribute research materials on APA issues;
- Professional training opportunities for Commissioners to gain more knowledge about policymaking; and
- Additional staff to adequately support the various and growing number of commission duties, projects, and outreach efforts.

CONTACT US

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