

# Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

**Highlights of 2015-2018 Strategic Plan Accomplishments**

*Updated June 18, 2018*

## About the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)

Launched by community activists in the early 1970s and formally created by the 43rd Washington State Legislature in 1974 to help all Asian Pacific Americans achieve full equality and inclusion ([43.117 RCW](#)).

### **Mission**

- 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.

## About the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)

### Primary Duties

- Examine and define issues pertaining to the rights and needs of Asian Pacific Americans.
- Make recommendations to the governor, legislature, and state agencies with respect to desirable changes in program and law.
- Advise 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.

Board of  
Commissioners  
*June 2018*

CAPAA has an advisory board consisting of 12 governor-appointed commissioners representing the state's diverse Asian Pacific American communities.



Ty Tufono-  
Chaussee, *Chair*



Lisa Dickinson,  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair*



Dr. Tam Dinh, *2<sup>nd</sup>  
Vice Chair*



Lynette Finau



Lori Wada



Mohan Gurung



Dr. Lakshmi Gaur



Dr. Ka'imi Sinclair



Roslyn Leon  
Guerrero



Nam Nguyen



Ekkarath Sisavatdy



Sina Sam

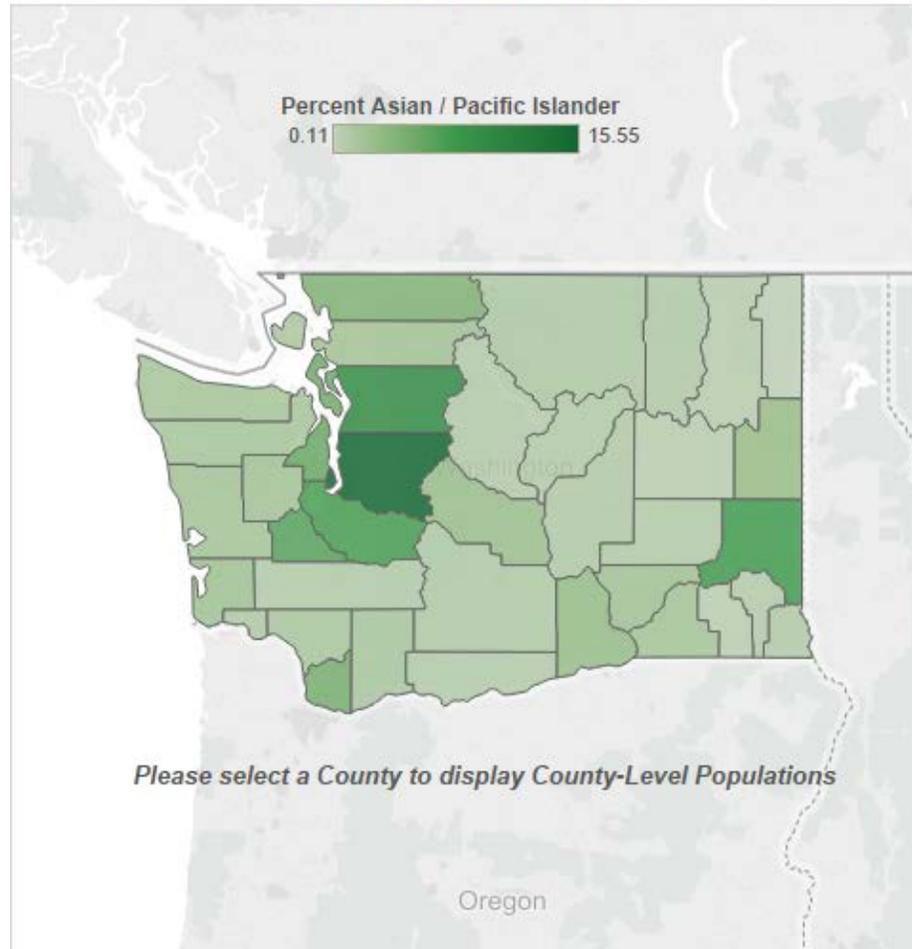
# Overview of WA AAPI Populations

AAPIs are comprised of more than 48 distinct ethnic groups.

Asian Americans: more than 600,000 (7<sup>th</sup> largest) and fastest growing in the state & nation

Pacific Islanders: more than 70,000 (3<sup>rd</sup> largest) and among the fastest growing in the state & nation

WA State Asian / Pacific Islander Population:  
2009-2013 Estimate



	Selected County	State
Asian Indian	65,911	65,911
Bangladeshi	191	191
Cambodian	20,078	20,078
Chinese (except Taiwan..	97,515	97,515
Fijian	1,845	1,845
Filipino	90,012	90,012
Guamanian or Chamorro	10,467	10,467
Hmong	2,343	2,343
Indonesian	2,821	2,821
Japanese	38,115	38,115
Korean	61,523	61,523
Laotian	10,042	10,042
Malaysian	294	294
Native Hawaiian	5,998	5,998
Other Asian	20,670	20,670
Other Melanesian	15	15
Other Micronesia	4,893	4,893
Other Pacific Islander	1,470	1,470
Pakistani	3,585	3,585
Samoa	13,319	13,319
Sri Lankan	717	717
Taiwanese	5,153	5,153
Thai	5,591	5,591
Tongan	1,308	1,308
Vietnamese	69,560	69,560

Data Source: US Census, 2009-2013 ACS 5-Year Estimates. Tables B02006 and B02007. <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/>

## About the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan

The Commission's [2015-2018 strategic plan](#) served as a key 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.

As we near the end of 2018, the Commission is assessing our progress and accomplishments over the last four years and beginning a new effort to develop a 2019-2022 strategic plan.

## About the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan

The following presentation represents **highlights of progress and accomplishments** over the last four years related to the Commission's goals:

- Close educational opportunity gaps
- Identify health disparities and promote solutions
- Support business owners with knowledge, tools, and resources required for success

For more information about other Commission priorities and accomplishments, view Commissioner reports, Executive Director reports, board meeting minutes, and committee information at [capaa.wa.gov](http://capaa.wa.gov).

## Education Goal

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

**Objective:** Examine and define the educational opportunity gaps as it impacts AAPI students

Board meeting presentations examined and/or defined:

- Recommendations from the state Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee
- Strategies to improve the quality and accountability of bilingual education programs
- Changes to state education standards and curriculum
- Ways to assist families through the Education Ombuds
- Race, equity, and inclusion at two and four-year colleges
- Strategies to improve Pacific Islander and SE Asian educational outcomes
- Expanding collection of AAPI disaggregated data

## Education Goal

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

**Objective:** Examine and define the educational opportunity gaps as it impacts AAPI students

Defined opportunity gaps through data and publications:

- Supported the National Commission on AAPI Research in Education's (CARE) efforts to produce their report, *The Hidden Academic Opportunity Gaps Among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: What Disaggregated Data Reveals in Washington State* ([WA iCount Report](#))
- Worked with State Board for Community & Technical Colleges to report Asian & Pacific Islander [student enrollment](#) separately and to produce an [issue brief](#) advising CTCs about AAPI opportunity gaps
- Posted WA State AAPI educational attainment data by ethnic groups on the CAPAA website

## Education Goal

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

**Objective:** Increase awareness about the opportunity gaps that impact AAPI students

Informed & engaged the public and/or policymakers through:

- Ethnic newspapers and Korean radio station
- Tabling and distribution of Washington State iCount Report at community events, including a forum co-hosted by CAPAA, CARE, Our Future Matters, and SE Asian Education Coalition
- Education roundtables in Seattle and Toppenish
- Nepalese community education roundtable on World Language Credit Program and Office of Education Ombuds
- Community focus groups for the Race & Ethnicity Student Data Task Force
- OSPI brochures on chronic absenteeism, which were translated in five Pacific Islander languages as requested by CAPAA

## Education Goal

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

**Objective:** Advocate for targeted strategies that will close the educational opportunity gaps for AAPI students

The Commission and its representatives advised:

- 10 education-related state committees, including the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight & Accountability Committee and Race & Ethnicity Student Data Task Force, to shape state policies
- Legislative committees by urging the passage of legislation to close opportunity gaps
- University of Washington to retain and increase faculty in Asian American Studies

## Health & Human Services Goal

Identify health disparity issues specific to AAPIs and support identification and promotion of solutions.

**Objective:** Examine and define health disparities that impact AAPIs

Board meeting presentations examined and/or defined:

- Health equity for COFA Islanders
- Mental health & well-being
- Youth marijuana & e-cigarette prevention efforts
- Community-based organizations working to improve the health & well-being of AAPIs
- Prevalence of diabetes among AAPIs

## Health & Human Services Goal

Identify health disparity issues specific to AAPIs and support identification and promotion of solutions.

**Objective:** Examine and define health disparities that impact AAPIs

Defined health disparities through data and publications:

- Expanded collection of disaggregated data on Healthy Youth Survey and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
- Convened community meetings with COFA Alliance National Network and COFA communities to learn about health disparities and access to health care
- Posted WA State AAPI health insurance coverage data by ethnic groups on the CAPAA website

## Health & Human Services Goal

Identify health disparity issues specific to AAPIs and support identification and promotion of solutions.

**Objectives:** Raise awareness of health disparities that impact AAPIs

Informed & engaged the public and/or policymakers through:

- Sharing data and experiences of AAPIs in accessing and navigating the health care system
- Increase awareness of health disparities via Korean radio station
- Promotion of mental health awareness through summit workshops and community conversations and ethnic newspapers, radio, and television
- Promotion of Mental Health Awareness in Communities of Color Month proclamation
- Summit on stomach cancer and community meeting on diabetes & high blood pressure with Korean Americans

## Health & Human Services Goal

Identify health disparity issues specific to AAPIs and support identification and promotion of solutions.

**Objectives:** Advocate for targeted strategies, including culturally-appropriate wellness and prevention approaches that will address health disparities for AAPIs

The Commission and its representatives advised:

- Seven state committees on issues related to health disparities and health equity
- Legislators, state agencies, and health care advocates about the urgent need to improve COFA Islander health equity
- Department of Health and Health Care Authority to collect and utilize AAPI disaggregated health data

## Health & Human Services Goal

Identify health disparity issues specific to AAPIs and support identification and promotion of solutions.

**Objectives:** Take prudent and proactive steps on reducing disparate impacts of marijuana legalization on AAPI communities.

CAPAA supported efforts to prevent underage use through:

- Monitoring Initiative 502 implementation
- Advocacy to collect disaggregated data on Healthy Youth Survey to improve understanding of impacts on AAPIs
- Advocacy to increase funding available for community grants to prevent underage use of marijuana
- Collaboration with Asian Pacific Islanders Advocating Together for Healthy Communities (APICAT) to learn about impacts and strategies
- Distribution of translated information cards about preventing underage use of recreational marijuana
- Raising awareness using ethnic media

## Economic Development Goal

Support AAPI business owners and those seeking to start & maintain a business with the knowledge, tools, and resources required to be successful.

**Objectives:** Examine and define economic development issues that impact AAPI businesses

Board meeting presentations examined and/or defined:

- State contracting and procurement
- Programs and services of Dept. of Enterprise Services
- Strategies to support small and immigrant-owned business
- Discussed new state policies on Korean radio station

Defined economic development issues through data:

- Posted WA State AAPI housing, income, poverty, and occupation data by ethnic groups on the CAPAA website

## Economic Development Goal

Support AAPI business owners and those seeking to start & maintain a business with the knowledge, tools, and resources required to be successful.

**Objectives:** Develop and advocate for targeted strategies that will promote economic development opportunities for AAPI businesses.

The Commission and its representatives advised:

- Dept. of Commerce's Minority Business Roundtable on strategies to grow and support small business
- Dept. of Labor & Industries on outreach strategies to engage with Korean American business owners
- Snohomish County business leaders at an economic roundtable
- Community members on opportunities to promote place-making and community-building

## Economic Development Goal

Support AAPI business owners and those seeking to start & maintain a business with the knowledge, tools, and resources required to be successful.

**Objectives:** Increase state agency and educational institution utilization of minority-owned businesses.

The Commission and its representatives:

- Advocated for strategies to increase procurement and contracting opportunities on the Governor's Business Diversity Sub-cabinet
- Met with the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) and Department of Transportation to discuss supplier diversity efforts
- Assisted OMWBE on outreach strategies to diverse businesses

# Contact

## Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Capitol Court Building  
Suite 220  
1110 Capitol Way South  
Olympia, WA 98501

Michael Itti, Executive Director  
Sam Le, Project Coordinator

(360) 725-5667

[www.capaa.wa.gov](http://www.capaa.wa.gov)