



Giving to Asian Pacific American Communities

According to the most recent publications by the Foundation Center, giving reached a record high of \$31.8 billion in 2004 and estimates for 2005 surpass this amount at \$33.6 billion.¹ Taking a closer look at these numbers, however, it is revealed that giving to Asian Pacific American (APA) communities has not kept pace with these trends.

Grants Designated for Asians & Pacific Islanders: 1992-2004²

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Dollar Amount ³	9,378	16,352	17,899	17,108	25,263	23,405	51,054	37,455	59,062	63,608	101,794	77,955	58,937
% of Total Dollars Given	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.4
Number of Grants	273	351	335	367	393	452	524	603	755	794	845	810	853
% of Total Grants Given	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7

Foundation Giving Trends to Asians Pacific American Communities

Asians & Pacific Islanders comprised only 0.4% of all foundation giving in 2004, *steadily decreasing* over the past two years from 0.5% in 2003 and 0.6% in 2002.⁵ This number is only fractions of a percentage higher than the 0.2% cited in AAPIP's publication *Invisible & In Need*, which tracked foundation giving to organizations working in Asian Pacific American Communities from 1983 to 1990.⁶

Though it is challenging to locate accurate information on the details of this funding to APA communities, some studies have attempted to analyze this further:

- A study from the Greenlining Institute found that grants to Asian/Pacific Islanders make up 0.9% of the amount of grants given by independent foundations and 0.28% of the number of grants given by community foundations.
- Findings from a report released in 1996 by the California Nonprofit Research Program estimated that in the San Francisco Bay Area, where Asian Pacific Americans make up over 20% of the population and 16% of the region's population living below poverty, only 0.5% of local foundation funding grants went to local Asian nonprofits.⁷
- Preliminary findings from AAPIP's study of giving by the Top 20 national foundations over 13 years reinforces existing research on giving

nationally. These leaders in the field gave out \$26.7 billion over this period, but APAs received only 0.4% of these total grant dollars. The largest grant made to APA-led⁸ groups over these years were each no more than \$2.5 million, and went only to 2 organizations.

Giving Trends in Communities of Color

These numbers are reflective of a gap in funding to communities of color in general.

- In 2004 African Americans received 1.6 percent of total giving; Latinos received 1.3 percent; and Native Americans received 0.4 percent of grant dollars. General

ethnic and other racial minorities received 3.9 percent of total grant dollars this year.⁹

- A study released by the Applied Research Center show that grants to communities of color fell from a peak of nearly 10 percent in 1998 to 7 percent in 2001, representing a potential loss of \$486 million *annually* to communities of color.

Why give to Asian Pacific Americans?

Asian Pacific Americans total over 12 million nationwide, and are a rapidly growing group. Census 2000 revealed that the Asian Pacific American population increased by 75% between 1990-2000.¹⁰

Since AAPIP's publication of *Invisible & In Need* in 1992, foundation giving to organizations working in Asian Pacific American communities has only slightly increased from 0.2% to 0.4% in 2004.⁴ Simultaneously the APA population in the US has grown 75% between 1990 and 2000.

However, because Asian Pacific Americans signify only about 4% of the total US population, this is often considered “statistically insignificant” for most national studies, and consequently critical issues in our communities are overlooked.¹¹ Even in California, where Asian Pacific Americans comprise 13% of the population,¹² a stereotype that Asian Pacific Americans benefit as a “model minority” cloaks our communities in an invisibility that keep groups genuinely in need from receiving necessary support.

In reality, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are comprise incredible diversity of 49 different ethnicities, speaking over 100 different languages and dialects.¹³ These communities face considerable social and economic barriers.

Language Access

- In the state of California, 20% of the population is categorized as limited English proficient (LEP), meaning they experience some difficulty speaking English. Of this percentage, 39% are Asian (over 1.5 million people). 15% are Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) (29,800 people).¹⁴ This leads to significant challenges in accessing health, legal and educational services for parents & families.

Poverty and Health

- While APA families are more likely than white families to have an income over \$75,000, they are also more likely than white families to have incomes of less than \$25,000.¹⁵ Asian American seniors and children were more likely than average to be poor. While 0.6% of non-Hispanic white seniors live below the poverty line, 12.3% of Asian American seniors were in this category. In addition, 14.3% of Asian American children live in poverty, compared to 9.3% of non-Hispanic white children.¹⁶
- Vietnamese Americans alone make up 37% of licensed nail salon technicians nationwide and represent 80% of the industry in California.¹⁷ Nail salon workers typically work long hours with prolonged exposure to occupational chemicals that can increase their risks for adverse health consequences. Such hazardous workplaces, which lead to significant health risks are concentrated within certain APA communities.
- Korean Americans are the most likely racial or ethnic group to be uninsured.¹⁸ 36% of APA women under age 65 lack any form of health insurance.¹⁹

These numbers give only a snapshot of the breadth and scope of issues facing APA communities. Numerous studies underline the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations led by people of color, who come from the communities that they serve and represent, empowering communities to build a pathway toward long term change. Gaps in funding to Asian Pacific American organizations impact their viability and ability to have a strong voice within public policy and the democratic process.

¹ The Foundation Center. (2006). Foundation Growth and Giving Estimates: Current Outlook. 2006 Edition. New York: The Foundation Center.

² The Foundation Center. (2000; 2001; 2002; 2003; 2004; 2005; 2006). Foundation Giving Trends: Update on Funding Priorities. New York: The Foundation Center. ; The Foundation Center. (1994; 1995) Foundation Giving: Yearbook of Facts & Figures on Private, Corporate and Community Foundations. New York: The Foundation Center.

³ Dollar Figures are in thousands.

⁴ The Foundation Center. (2006). Foundation Giving Trends: Update on Funding Priorities. 2006 Edition. New York: The Foundation Center.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy (AAPIP). (1992). Invisible and In Need: Philanthropic Giving to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. San Francisco: AAPIP.

⁷ Kong, Gail, Francis H, Pancho Chang and Stan Yogi. (1996). “Bay Area Asian Nonprofits: Perceptions and Realities.” San Francisco: California Nonprofit Research Program.

⁸ An “APA-led” group is an organization whose primary mission is to serve a particular or all Asian Pacific American communities.

⁹ The Foundation Center. (2006). Foundation Giving Trends: Update on Funding Priorities. 2006 Edition. New York: The Foundation Center.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). (2003). Demographic Profile of Asian and Pacific Islanders in Southern California: Census 2000. Los Angeles: APALC.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ AAPCHO. Factsheet on ‘Community Health Centers.’ Position Paper 2003.

¹⁴ Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC) and Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF). California Speaks: Language Diversity and English Proficiency by Legislative District. APALC, 2006.

¹⁵ Chappell, Courtney. (2005). Reclaiming Choice, Broadening the Movement: Sexual and Reproductive Justice and Asian Pacific American Women. Washington, DC: National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF).

¹⁶ Lai, Eric et al. (2003). The New Face of Asian Pacific America. San Francisco: Asian Week.

¹⁷ Chappell, Courtney. (2005). Reclaiming Choice, Broadening the Movement: Sexual and Reproductive Justice and Asian Pacific American Women. Washington, DC: National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF).

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¹⁹ Ibid.