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National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development and NeighborWorks® America Launch New Alliance to Strengthen Communities

WASHINGTON – NeighborWorks® America and National Coalition for Asian Pacific Community Development (CAPACD) announced a new strategic alliance today aimed at increasing community economic development and homeownership in neighborhoods across the U.S. The agreement between the two national organizations leverages the strengths of each group to better serve Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities through expanded training opportunities, community-based financial literacy programs, access to affordable mortgage products and more.

“This is a major partnership between organizations who have worked together informally for many years,” said NeighborWorks® America CEO Ken Wade. “Asian and Pacific Islander communities are among the fastest growing in the country. The ability to provide economic and community development and education and training services in conjunction with National CAPACD broadens the impact that the NeighborWorks® network can have on the lives of thousands of families.”

“The housing and community development needs of AAPIs have often been overlooked by mainstream community development organizations,” said Lisa Hasegawa, Executive Director of National CAPACD. “This partnership is a significant milestone that will ensure that AAPI community-based organizations will have access to the tools and services to strengthen and revitalize their communities.”

A key aspect of the alliance is enhanced training. Under the agreement, NeighborWorks® America agrees to take steps to increase the presence of National CAPACD members at the NeighborWorks® Training Institutes, the premier community development education and training conferences in the country. In addition, National CAPACD and NeighborWorks® plan to collaborate on the development of homeownership education tools into Chinese and other agreed-upon Asian American languages. Finally, the two organizations will increase access to affordable mortgage products through the NeighborWorks® Homeownership Centers for the many local organizations that are part of National CAPACD’s network.

To develop these initiatives, NeighborWorks® America and National CAPACD will consider joint research projects and share relevant data to identify unmet AAPI community needs. National CAPACD and NeighborWorks® America aim to work together on joint development strategies to support these projects.

Ms. Hasegawa also announced that NeighborWorks America CEO Ken Wade will be a featured speaker at National CAPACD’s 8th Annual Convention: **Communities United: Our Passions, Our Strengths, Our Future** – to be held on August 22-24, 2007 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

National CAPACD is the first national advocacy organization dedicated to addressing the housing and community development needs of the diverse and rapidly growing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the United States. National CAPACD is a coalition of more than 40 community-based organizations that joined together in 1999 in order to impact public policy, leverage resources, and garner support for issues critical to AAPI communities.

NeighborWorks® America provides financial support, technical assistance and training for communities across the nation, including the NeighborWorks® network – a nationwide network of more than 235 community development organizations working in more than 2,700 urban, suburban and rural communities across America. These organizations engage in revitalization strategies that strengthen communities and transform lives. In the last five years alone, NeighborWorks® organizations have generated more than \$8.5 billion in reinvestment and helped more than 500,000 families of modest means purchase or improve their homes or secure safe, decent rental or mutual housing.