

# MOVING FORWARD

*rising together*

A REPORT ON THE FIRST 15 YEARS OF NATIONAL CAPACD



national **CAPACD**





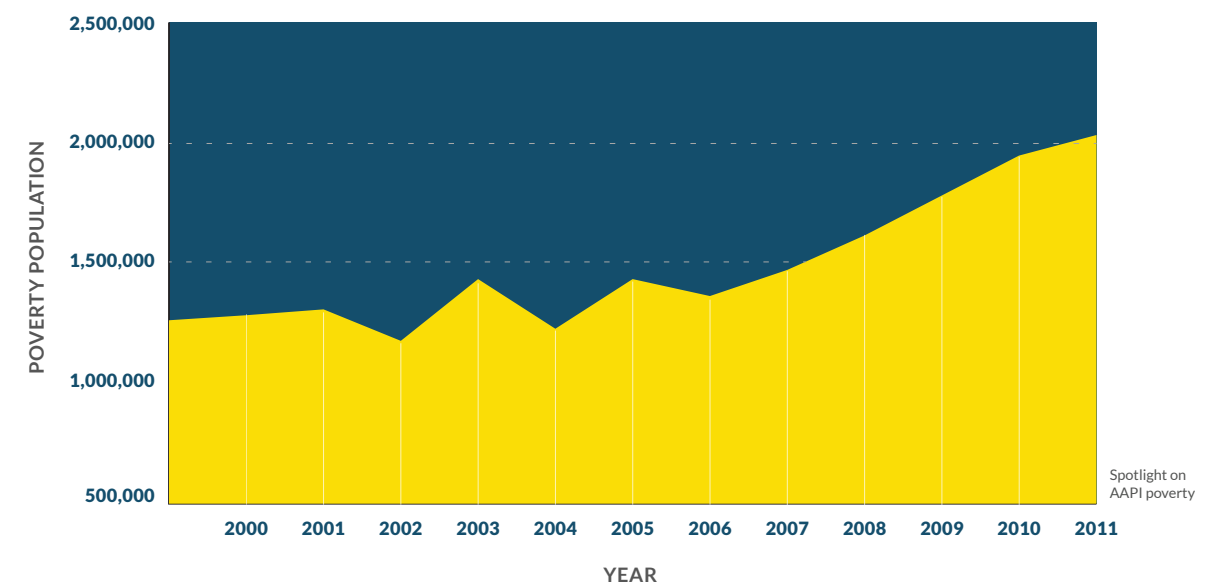
# CONTENTS

	INTRODUCTION						
	5						
OUR CHRONOLOGY	2001	2003	2006	2007	2008	2009	2012
	NATIONAL CAPACD & SEPT 11 <sup>TH</sup>	INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES & NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS	INFLUENCING THE NATIONAL AAPI POLICY AGENDA	BUILDING A PIPELINE	THE FINANCIAL, HOUSING & FORECLOSURE CRISIS	PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITIES OF COLOR	DATA & RESEARCH
	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS	St. Paul, MN	Los Angeles, CA	Chicago, IL	Honolulu, Hawaii	Queens, NY		
	ASIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION	LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER & KOREAN RESOURCE CENTER	CHINESE AMERICAN SERVICE LEAGUE	HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY ASSETS	CHHAYA CDC		
	<u>19</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>27</u>		
	IMPACT		LOOKING FORWARD				
	<u>29</u>		<u>30</u>				

# INTRODUCTION



## AAPI POVERTY POPULATION GROWTH



## The AAPI Community

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community is the fastest growing racial group in the United States, with a growth rate over four times higher than that of the nation as a whole. The community has an enormous diversity of ethnicities, languages, and cultures and is spread out across the entire country. For centuries, AAPIs have made important contributions to America. Perhaps as a result of this, public attention on AAPIs focuses mostly on the success stories, perpetuating the “model minority” myth that all AAPIs are well educated and upwardly mobile.

This perception of our communities is both misguided and deeply harmful to those AAPIs in need. In fact, since 2000, the number of AAPIs living below the federal poverty line has increased by more than 500,000, bringing the total number to over 2 million in 2012. Asian-American households lost over half their net worth in the wake of the recession, a vast majority of which was due to the loss of home equity. Yet public perception persists that AAPIs have little economic need. Moreover, the needs of low-income AAPI communities are rarely discussed at a local or national level.

**“AAPI poor disproportionately live in areas with high costs of living, more than any other ethnic poverty population.”**

## How National CAPACD Began

The AAPI movement building began in the late 1960s against the backdrop of civil rights, civil rights mobilizations, protests against the Vietnam War, and increased political participation. AAPIs began to build community development institutions in the 1970s as the field emerged. Grassroots organizers mobilized residents of AAPI neighborhoods, eventually forming community development corporations such as San Francisco’s Chinatown Community Development Center, Los Angeles’ Chinatown Service Center, and New York’s Asian Americans for Equal Employment (later, Asian Americans for Equality).

By the late 1990s, community development corporations and community-based organizations serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

had established themselves in cities across the country. In March 1999, Asian Americans for Equality in New York City organized an initial conversation that included the leadership of Chinatown Community Development Center in San Francisco, Little Tokyo Service Center in Los Angeles, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation in Oakland, and InterIm Community Development Association in Seattle. These activists and organizers recognized the need for a national organization that could be a vehicle for advocacy and policy analysis related to issues facing low-income AAPI communities. In June of the same year, representatives of 16 organizations met in Seattle to plan the coalition. Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center, who has a knack for clever acronyms,





came up with the name National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, or National CAPACD, pronounced “National Capacity.” Our first convention was held in 2000 in conjunction with a celebration of President Clinton’s new White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. More than 250 members attended the convention in the nation’s capital.

## National CAPACD Today

We have grown and changed since those early days. Our membership has increased from 15 organizations to over 100. Over the course of the last 15 years, we’ve learned a lot about how best to help our members advance the interests of their communities. We have forged strong partnerships with other civil rights and advocacy groups. We have built a strong reputation in Washington, building relationships in Congress, the White

House, and key federal agencies. And we have worked to effectively shift the national discourse on AAPIs and community development issues.

The current political moment is unique. While communities of color and the under-represented have never stopped fighting for equality and justice, today, the wealth gap, racial injustice, police brutality and inequality have garnered national attention and debate for the first time in decades. Our communities have rich histories of organization and resistance in solidarity with other communities of color, and we have a pivotal role to play in the national debate on racial and economic justice. AAPI organizations and individuals in our network have been staunch allies in the Black Lives Matter movement and have promoted robust dialogue within our communities. We have also been an outspoken voice advocating for legislation protecting people in need in the wake of the recession.



National CAPACD has learned much in the last 15 years, and we have countless victories to be proud of. Many are detailed in these pages. But there is much work to be done.

***We are just getting started.***

## Organizations that participated in National CAPACD’s inaugural meeting in June 1999:

Asian Americans for Equality  
Asian Community Development Corporation  
Asian Economic Development Association (formerly ADC)  
Asian Neighborhood Design  
Chinatown Community Development Center  
Chinatown Service Center  
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation  
Indo Chinese Housing Project  
InterIm Community Development Association  
Lao Family Community Development  
Little Tokyo Service Center  
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment  
Philadelphia Community Development Corporation  
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans  
Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority  
Thai Community Development Corporation

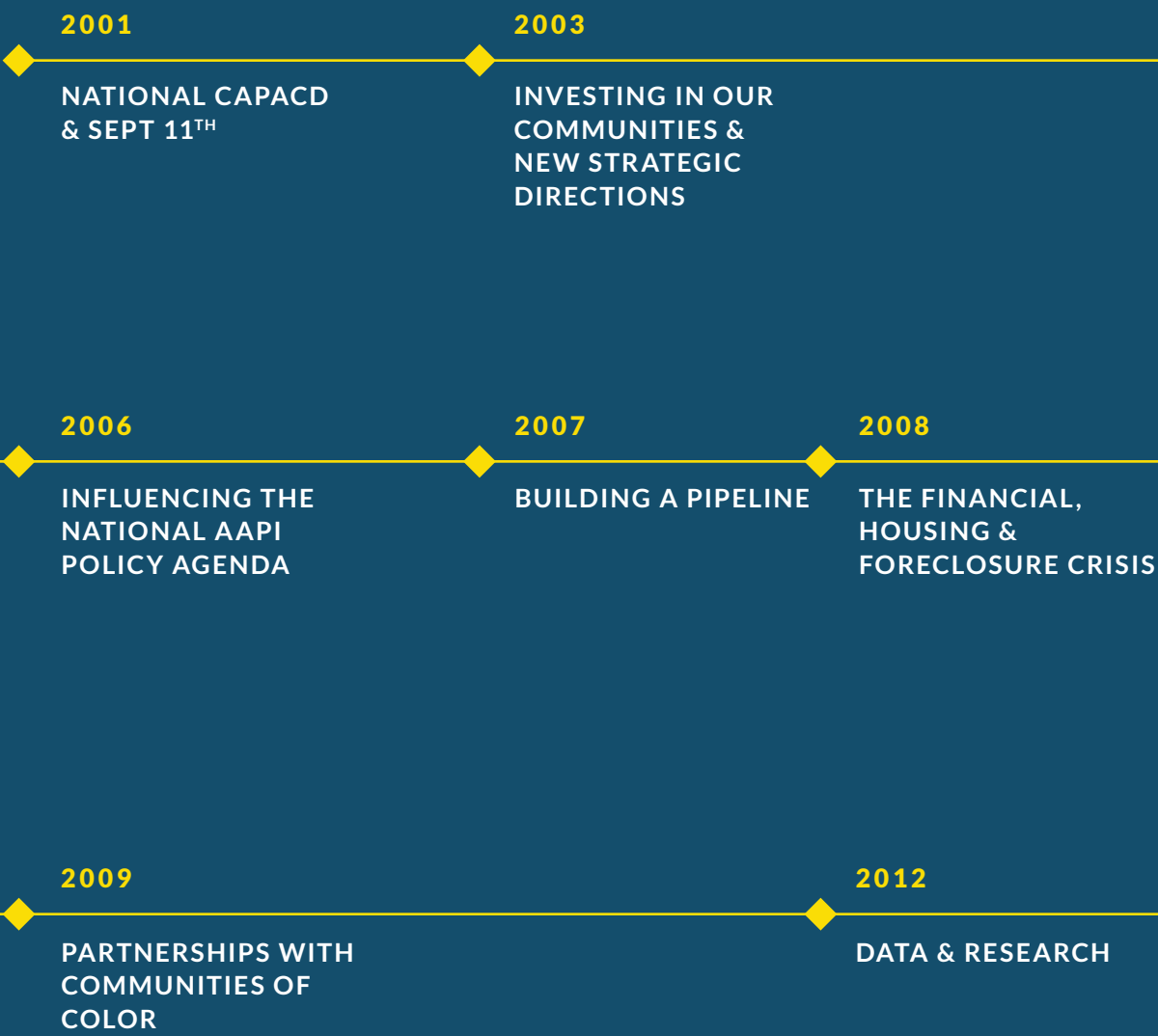
## Mission & Vision

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for low-income Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) by promoting economic vitality, civic and political participation, and racial equity. We envision a future in which AAPI communities and all communities of color have the economic resources they need to thrive.



# OUR CHRONOLOGY

National CAPACD has achieved a number of things over the past 15 years.



2001

## NATIONAL CAPACD & SEPT. 11<sup>TH</sup>

Among the tragic byproducts of the attacks of September 11, 2001, was the sudden increase in discrimination that many Asian Americans faced nationwide. Six-hundred forty five hate crimes were committed within a week of the attacks against those perceived to be Arab, Muslim, or South Asian. Muslim communities were policed with suspicion and hostility, and in addition to the injustices of the Patriot Act, the Bush administration began the “Special Registration Program,” which required male citizens of a list of predominantly Muslim countries residing in the U.S. to register with a federal government, resulting in alarming rates of unfair deportations and racial profiling.

In this climate of fear and xenophobia, National CAPACD, still a nascent organization, courageously took a position against Special Registration, co-signing a letter to the White House arguing passionately against the program and fighting discrimination on other fronts. We were uniquely vocal in our support of South Asian and Muslim communities in a moment when speaking out on this issue was widely perceived as unpatriotic.

The 9/11 attacks shaped our commitment to social justice, demonstrating conclusively that it would not be enough for National CAPACD to work on a set of issues that fit under a narrow definition of community development. 9/11 cemented our commitment to all the diverse parts of the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities we serve and reminded us that substantial work had to be done to build relationships between them and with other communities of color in order to make progress toward a just and equitable society.





## INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES & NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2003, National CAPACD launched its new strategic plan that prioritized investing in its members, building cross-cutting programs and telling our stories. The new strategic plan laid out four core strategies:

1. Increasing access to comprehensive capacity-building tools and resources for member organizations
2. Convening AAPI communities for community development and social change
3. Telling our stories – forging an AAPI community action research and policy agenda
4. Building collective leadership – creating opportunities for AAPI community leaders and change agents.

This new plan led to the creation of the AAPI Communities Taking Initiative in Our Neighborhoods Technical Assistance (ACTION TA) Program, our signature peer training program that builds on the skills and expertise we have within our network. We released our groundbreaking report, “The New Face of Asian Pacific America: Numbers, Diversity and Change in the 21st Century” with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, OCA, and AsianWeek. In addition, we established a foundation that enabled National CAPACD’s strong network to support a national mobilization to address the landfills and environmental injustices faced by the Vietnamese community in the Gulf in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.



## INFLUENCING THE NATIONAL AAPI POLICY AGENDA

Over the last 15 years, in our unique position as the first and only national advocacy organization focused on the community development needs of AAPIs, National CAPACD has worked to add housing and community development to the national conversation about AAPIs and helped shape the debate about housing and community development to include AAPI issues.

In 2006, we played a key role in the creation of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus’ Housing Taskforce, a subcommittee devoted to housing and community development issues and chaired by Congressman Al Green. We have since worked closely with the Taskforce to support federal funding for housing programs that assist our members’ work.

We are also an active member of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), a coalition of AAPI organizations formed in 1996. We play an important role in NCAPA as a voice for housing and community development issues in the AAPI advocacy community. In 2001, we formed NCAPA’s Housing and Economic Justice Committee, and we continue to co-chair it today with the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.



## BUILDING A PIPELINE

The inspiring work of our member organizations provides evidence for our deeply held belief that the best advocates for policy changes are those directly impacted. Since our inception, we have placed community leaders at the forefront of our policy development and advocacy work.

In 2007, we launched our Community in the Capital (CITC) fellowship to provide senior staff of National CAPACD member organizations



with leadership skills, training in the legislative process, experience working on a national level, and opportunities to build relationships with their peers in community development around the country.

A number of prominent leaders in the Asian American and Pacific Islander movement today have benefited from this program. In 2010, the fellowship was awarded to Hyeok Kim, then executive director of the InterIm Community

Development Association in Seattle. Later that year, she was appointed to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Today, she is the Deputy Mayor for External Affairs for the City of Seattle — and the city's first female Asian-American deputy mayor.

Our Next Generation Scholarship Program is designed to train younger, emerging leaders in communities around the country. Each year during our convention, the program offers dedicated young staff members who are new to the community development field the chance to connect with their peers and seasoned leaders.

One success story that came out of this program is Meina Banh, who was a student at the UCLA School of Public Policy in 2009 at the time. She went on to be a policy associate at the Pacific American Consortium in Employment, and the 2009–10 APAICS Fellow in the Office of Congressman Mike Honda. She currently works at the Office of Financial Education at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Our leadership development programs are investment in the advocacy and organizing capacity of the AAPI movement and critical to building a pipeline of leaders in the field of community development.

## THE FINANCIAL, HOUSING & FORECLOSURE CRISIS

The financial, housing and foreclosure crisis that began in 2008 affected low-income communities across America. Neighborhoods lost revenue, families lost homes, and workers lost jobs. For Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, there was no national infrastructure in place to help struggling communities respond to the crisis. So National CAPACD partnered with the National Council of La Raza, a Latino advocacy organization, and the National Urban League, a leading civil rights organization, to lobby for the protection of low-income communities of color, increase the visibility of the foreclosure crisis, and get basic services provided to neighborhoods at risk. National CAPACD also partnered with national advocacy groups to launch the Home for Good campaign, leading to the restoration of \$45 million in government funding for housing counseling services and delivered 35,000 signed postcards from voters around the country to both 2012 presidential candidates.

As a result of our work, we were awarded status as a housing counseling intermediary by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2010 becoming the country's only housing counseling intermediary focused on the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islanders. This designation has helped our work immensely, supporting housing counseling services and providing training and support that ultimately benefits thousands of renters, buyers, and owners each year.

But we are not only concerned with mitigating the effects of the crisis, it is vital to low-income communities that regulation is put in place to

ensure that this will never happen again. To that end, we played an instrumental role in advocating for the creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), who we continue to work with today to improve language access for consumers with limited English Proficiency.



### DEAR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:

প্রিয় প্রেসিডেন্ট পদপ্রার্থী:

대통령 후보자 귀하:

श्रीमान राष्ट्रपति पदको उम्मेदवार ज्यू,

亲爱的总统候选人:

親愛的總統候選人:

Kính thưa  
Ứng Cử Viên Tổng Thống



## PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

National CAPACD is keenly aware that many of the issues facing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are common to low-income communities across the country. It is not enough to simply advocate for our own communities. Core to our work is advocacy for systemic change with other communities of color.



In 2009, we formed the Alliance for Stabilizing Our Communities in conjunction with the National Council of La Raza and the National Urban League. This initiative seeks to create sustainable, accessible home ownership and financial stability and ensure access to affordable rental housing across low-income communities. Together, the partners successfully fought to keep antipoverty dollars in the federal budget, preserving critical housing services for all low-income communities.

We worked with a similar slate of civil rights and advocacy organizations to create the Asset Building Policy Network, which focuses on increasing access to financial services that enable low-income families to invest and save for the future. This led to the creation of our Immigrant Integration Financial Capability project, in partnership with Citi Foundation and the Mission Asset Fund. The program combines the traditional practice of peer lending, familiar to AAPI communities, with financial coaching and education.

The Chinese Community Center, a National CAPACD member located in Houston, Texas, recently began its Immigrant Integration Financial Capability program. Among those helped by this program was a newly single father struggling with a low credit score that required him to pay high deposits on utilities, keeping him from his goal of purchasing a home. His sister told him about the program, and he began financial coaching and joined a lending circle immediately. A year later, his FICO credit score was 26 points higher, he had increased his savings by two thousand dollars, and he had been pre-approved for a mortgage.

By working with National CAPACD's members, individuals like him are able to improve their financial well-being in the long term with the support of a community behind him.

## DATA & RESEARCH

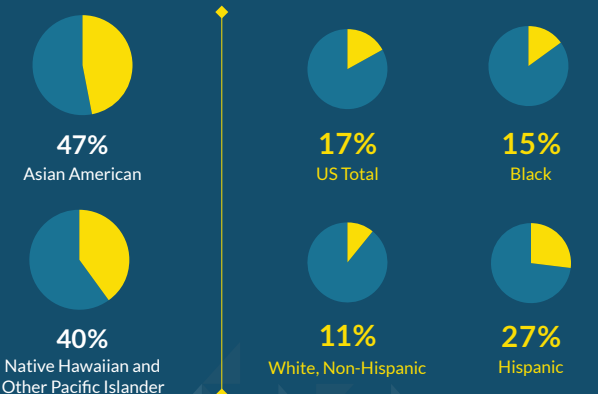
A critical function of National CAPACD is to supplement on-the-ground work with strong data and research collected on a national scale. Over the last 15 years, we have released a series of influential reports on AAPI communities and issues.

In 2012, we published our landmark report, *Spotlight: Asian American and Pacific Islander Poverty*, an incisive document that sought to challenge the “model minority” myth of universal Asian-American economic success. While many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have prospered in this country, this fact obscures the needs of communities that struggle — communities whose numbers are on the rise. The report disaggregated the data, focusing exclusively on the more than two million AAPIs living in poverty. By highlighting the specific needs of these low-income communities through the report, media, and congressional hearings in 2013, we were able to give elected officials, policymakers, and other allies the information they need to address poverty among AAPIs.

Since then, we have conducted more original research to help shed light on the financial vulnerability of AAPIs. In 2014, we partnered with NCLR and the National Urban League to publish a report titled “Banking in Color,” which examined how low- to moderate-income communities of color across the country are meeting their financial needs. The report highlighted continued struggle to recover wealth that was lost in the economic downturn five years before, and opportunities for improvement in banking services for low-income consumers.

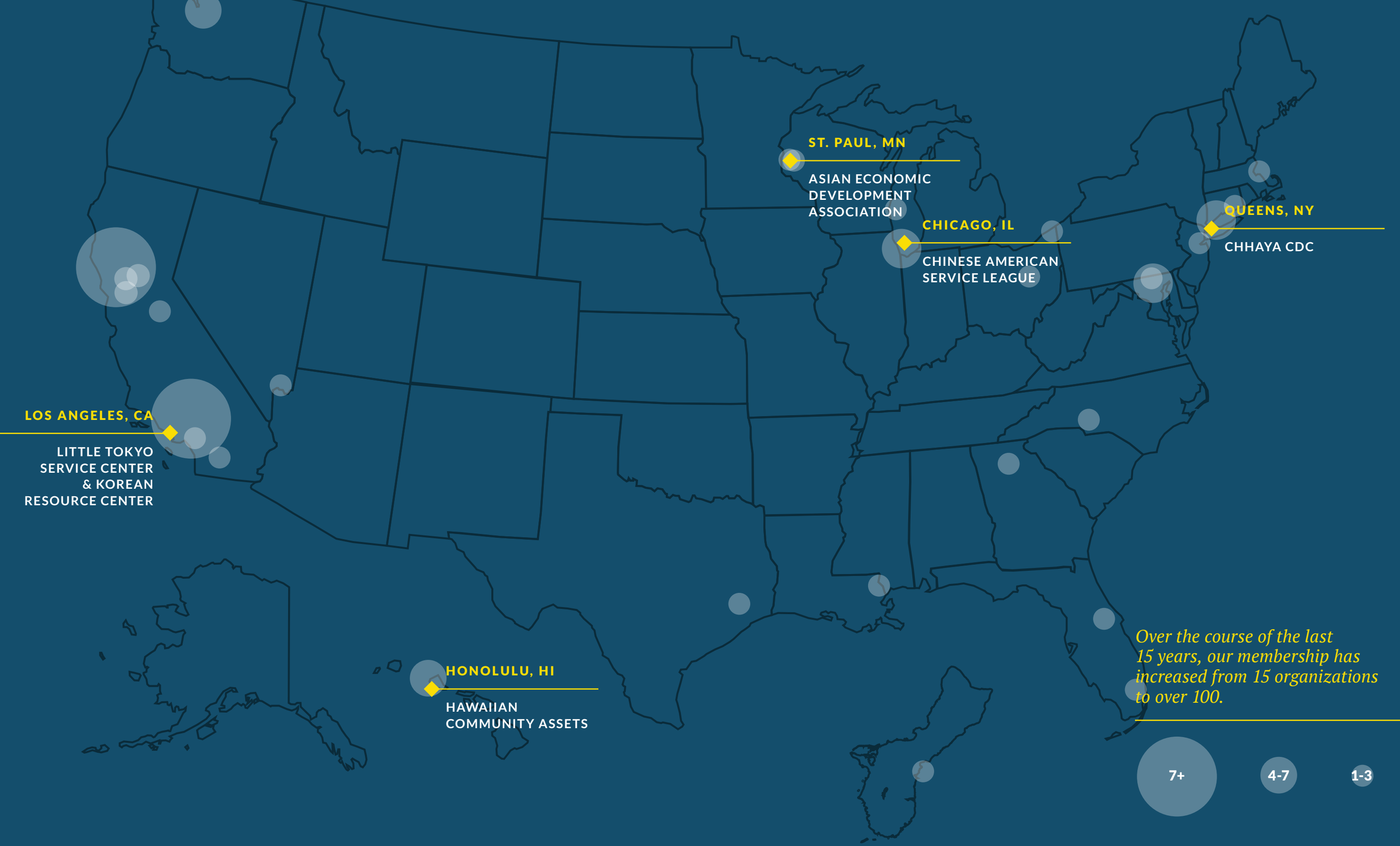
In 2015, we released “Scrimping + Saving,” a report that offered new data and creative solutions for addressing growing financial vulnerability in low-income AAPI communities highlighting the influence of ethnicity, immigration status, and language fluency on access to financial services. Congresswoman Judy Chu, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, said after the report's release, “Through the use of disaggregated data, the Scrimping + Saving report provides a clearer understanding of the challenges Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders face and offers concrete recommendations for improvement. I commend National CAPACD for releasing this important report, and I look forward to our continued work together to ensure that AAPIs are equipped with the resources they need to achieve financial stability.”

### PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POOR POPULATION LIVING IN HIGH HOUSING COST REGIONS



Spotlight on AAPI poverty

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS







# ASIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

In 2014, an electrical contractor in Minneapolis named Luyen Le and his sister-in-law, Tyra Tran, a former postal worker, decided to start their own company. They approached Asian Economic Development Association (AEDA) for help.

AEDA was formed by members of the Asian-American community in Minneapolis and St. Paul in response to a proposed light-rail extension project in St. Paul. The city’s report on the proposal claimed that there would be minimal impact on the largely Southeast Asian community known as Frog Town, despite the fact that there would be two years of construction and the light rail would not even stop in the neighborhood, thus undercutting local business and destabilizing a neighborhood that had not had much investment in years. Small family businesses from the neighborhood collaborated with other Twin Cities community organizations to demonstrate the actual impact of this long-term construction. Through a grassroots campaign, support from National CAPACD, and participation in a lawsuit enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, AEDA was able to obtain loan funds for the businesses and have the light rail stop in the community. AEDA established a business and cultural district known as Little Mekong in the vicinity of the new light rail stop, effectively transforming a public

project that would have adversely affected their community into a positive good for local residents, as well as the city. Today, Little Mekong is developing as a hub of restaurants, storefronts, and cultural events. The jewel in Little Mekong’s crown is the annual summer night market, featuring food and local art. The night market has become a destination for St. Paul residents and visitors, bringing jobs and nightlife to the local community. And it was as vendors in this night market that Luyen Le and Tyra Tran encountered AEDA.

After six months of training in their small business development program, their company, Modern Electrical Solutions, Inc., was up and running. AEDA later helped them navigate government services in order to obtain certification as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise facilitating access to public contracts. Soon thereafter they were awarded a subcontract to work on Minneapolis’ upcoming U.S. Bank Stadium, a billion-dollar football stadium for the Minnesota Vikings. Theirs is among the only Minnesota companies of its kind owned by Asian Americans. The owners are proud of their role as a job creator in their community and continue to work closely with AEDA.







# LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER & KOREAN RESOURCE CENTER

Among National CAPACD’s proudest moments are those in which we are able to facilitate collaboration among our members. A perfect example of this occurred in 2006, when two Los Angeles-based member groups, the Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) and the Korean Resource Center (KRC), began planning an affordable senior housing apartment complex in Koreatown as a joint venture between the two organizations. There is a high need for this project in the neighborhood, which faces the combined pressures of a growing elderly population, low incomes in the community, and the skyrocketing rent prices threatening cities across the country. One client of the KRC exemplifies the necessity of a project like this one: Mr. Kim, who emigrated to the U.S. in 1962 and later served in the American military. He is now diabetic and disabled after kidney surgery. He was forced to wait more than three years to rent an apartment in existing senior housing. This is not unusual. Senior citizens in his community

must often spend more than twice that amount of time waiting for affordable housing units to become available.

In order to meet this need, the LTSC has been building affordable housing projects since 1993. The group has not only developed within Little Tokyo, but also partnered with more than 15 other community-based organizations to create 22 projects comprising 800 units of affordable housing around Los Angeles. In our view, these partnerships represent the best of the nationwide community development movement National CAPACD is here to support: inspiring community-based organizations that are working together to better the lives of all.

The LDK Senior Apartments are projected to open in late 2016.



LOS ANGELES, CA





# CHINESE AMERICAN SERVICE LEAGUE

For many recent Chinese immigrants, the only restaurant work available is low-paying as a sous chef or dishwasher, with little chance of a stable future career, particularly for women or those who do not speak English.

Not so for those who come to Chicago where the Chinese American Service League (CASL) has for the last three decades run its Chef Training Program, an intensive, 16-week class designed to comprehensively teach new immigrants the basics of the food industry, including lessons in vocational English for students who need them. Tuition is charged on a sliding scale and subsidies are provided for transportation and childcare. After graduation, CASL assists students with finding employment. One former student is now the head chef of Shanghai Terrace, the restaurant

at Chicago's five-star luxury Peninsula Hotel, who makes a point of hiring other alumni of the Chef Training Program as a way of giving back (and also, presumably, because he knows from personal experience how well CASL trains its future chefs).

CASL was founded in 1978 by a group of Chinese-American social workers. One of them was Bernarda Wong, the president of the organization, who received the White House "Champion of Change" in 2012 in honor of her work with CASL. The organization runs a myriad of programs other than the Chef Training Program, including a day-care, afterschool classes, community-based senior service programs, workshops on housing and financial education, and a pro bono legal clinic.



CHICAGO, IL







# HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY ASSETS

In January 2011, a Native Hawaiian veteran named Larry enrolled in a financial and rental education counseling program run by Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA). HCA is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency and community lending institution working to build the capacity of low- and moderate-income communities to achieve and sustain economic self-sufficiency with a particular focus on Native Hawaiians. After serving in the US Army, Larry had returned to Hawaii to find himself with limited employment options and family conflict. He became homeless while waiting for his lease award on Hawaiian Home Lands, but was able to secure a room in a transitional shelter run by HCA. When he arrived in the shelter, he reported an annual income of \$21,600, had no savings and a credit score of 563, and was facing more than \$28,000 in debt.

While residing at the shelter, Larry started working closely with his dedicated HUD-certified counselor. Showing the same commitment to his finances that he had shown during his service, Larry worked diligently to better his financial situation. Within three months he completed HCA’s Kahua Waiwai workshops, established a monthly budget, and set a savings goal and action plan to purchase a home. By September 2011, his hard work was paying off. He had increased his credit score by 73 points and reduced his debt by \$5,000.

“It felt good to know I could manage my money and debt,” Larry recalled. “HCA told me that if I kept up the work, I could become a homeowner, but that my first step was to secure a rental.”

HCA was founded as an economic justice organization, bringing to light red-lining practices on Hawaiian homestead land. The group exposed the injustices practiced by lenders in the Native Hawaiian community and organized to provide the Hawaiian people with free education and counseling services.

HCA implements a unique, holistic approach to helping families achieve and sustain permanent housing. Named Kahua Waiwai, meaning “Foundation for Wealth,” HCA’s comprehensive program includes housing and financial education workshops, individualized counseling, and access to asset building services and financial products — all in the context of Native Hawaiian culture.

Working with HCA, by January 2013, Larry had secured both full-time employment with the United States Army and rental housing. Through HCA’s Homebuyer Education Program, Larry was then referred to various affordable mortgage financing options before securing a mortgage loan on an affordable three-bedroom home on Hawaii Island. In 30 months, he had successfully moved from homelessness to homeownership.

“I feel blessed to be a homeowner. Thank you HCA for all that you do for the community, Native Hawaiians, and veterans,” said Larry.







# CHHAYA CDC

According to a recent survey by Chhaya CDC, a community development organization serving the needs of New York’s South Asian immigrant community, nearly half a million New Yorkers live in basement apartments that are technically illegal due to arcane zoning regulations. Minor modification of the zoning laws would immediately legalize some 35 percent of these apartments, allowing their residents crucial access to city services without fear of eviction and preventing many of the homeowners from facing foreclosure.

In response to this need, Chhaya began an aggressive campaign of advocacy called BASE, an acronym for “Basement Apartments Safe for Everyone,” in 2013. In short order, the group marshaled endorsements from 30 citywide organizations and eight members of the City Council, in addition to garnering favorable press coverage in national media. In 2014, New York’s mayor Bill de Blasio addressed the issue in his signature housing plan.

This kind of advocacy is nothing out of the ordinary for Chhaya, which played a critical role in a coalition of tenant rights groups that achieved a major victory in halting the egregious practices of a predatory equity investor that put thousands of tenants across the city at risk of eviction in 2010. This victory led to the development of Stabilizing NYC, a diverse coalition of tenant organizing groups combating predatory investments around New York today. In response to threatened evictions, Chhaya organized more than 135 tenants through building-wide organizing and in housing court in 2014 alone.

In response to low political participation among South Asian New Yorkers, the group carries out extensive voter registration and Get Out the Vote drives throughout New York City. Perceiving a need in the community for trustworthy financial education and services, Chhaya launched the city’s first Peer Lending Circle financial model, and initiated its Saathi program, which offers financial counseling and empowerment to low-income minority women.



QUEENS, NY



# IMPACT

Since our inception, National CAPACD has contributed significantly to the welfare of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. We serve our member groups as a much-needed national voice and intermediary, and we have successfully leveraged our influence in Washington to draw attention to the needs of low-income AAPI communities, altering the national dialogue about these issues by conducting influential research and speaking to policymakers and elected officials. This shift in dialogue has had tangible results: for example, our Housing Counseling Network, formed in the wake of the housing and foreclosure crisis, has grown the field from five HUD-certified agencies to 19 in five years, today providing invaluable services to over 36,000 clients in 16 geographic areas.

We hosted 15 annual conventions and a policy summit featuring secretaries of federal agencies, top corporate executives, leaders in community development and philanthropy, and distinguished elected officials.



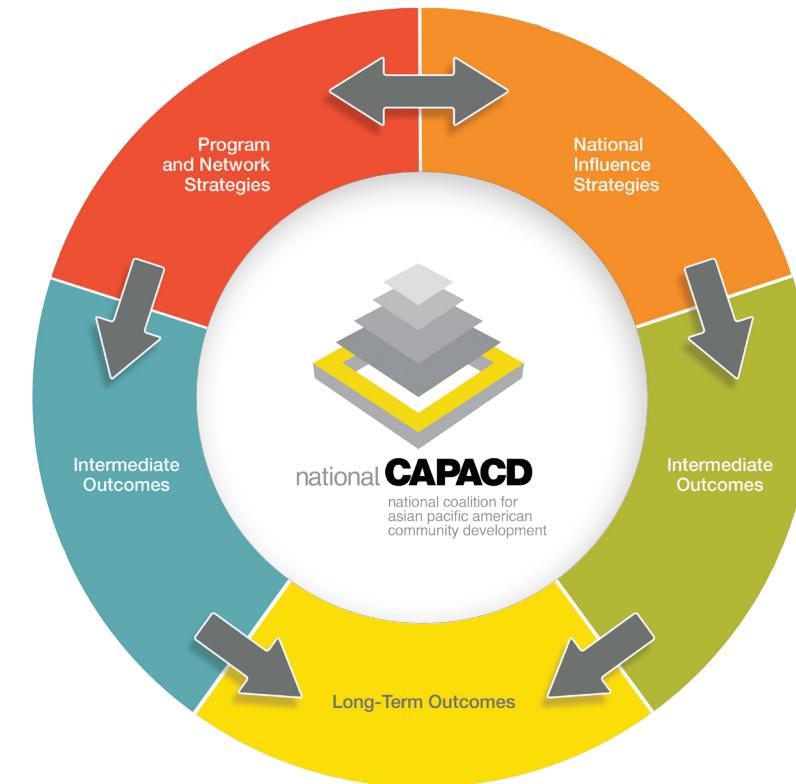
We trained more than 120 leaders from our membership base through the Community in the Capital Program, which prepared a new generation of leaders to advocate on behalf of our communities.

We established the first and only AAPI-focused national housing counseling intermediary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Since 2009, National CAPACD leveraged nearly \$5 million in resources, which resulted in helping nearly 36,000 individuals and families stay in their homes, purchase their first home, and access public support.

We built a strong infrastructure for collective impact around the country through the ACTION TA program, bringing AAPI communities together to learn from one another. Through this program, nearly 50 organizations have developed some of the most effective programs in the AAPI community. These programs developed critical community spaces and housing, and helped to preserve AAPI neighborhoods and communities around the country.



# LOOKING FORWARD



With 15 years of experience, a national reputation, and a track record of successful advocacy campaigns, National CAPACD is in a strong position to undertake major efforts to increase resources and opportunities for low-income Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and to involve these communities in the broader struggle for economic justice. A detailed, comprehensive breakdown of the methods we will use toward these ends is available in the strategic plan we unveiled at 2014 convention.

In the coming years, we will increase our support and facilitation of our member groups' work in community development and develop an economic vitality program designed to improve financial security in low-income communities, while simultaneously using the national influence we have built to ensure federal accountability to AAPI communities, build effective community

leadership, and advocate for economic justice. In the longer run, we plan to expand services to a larger number of low-income AAPIs, build stronger local and regional partnerships, increase civic and political participation in AAPI communities, develop a comprehensive national AAPI policy platform on racial and economic justice, and increase the amount of national attention given to the needs of low-income AAPIs. All of this is ultimately aimed at creating a measurable impact in quality of life for low-income Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

***As we move forward, we will rise together.***

National CAPACD sincerely thanks all those who have contributed to its development to date including:

FORMER & CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Seema Agnani  
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