

U.S. DEPARTMENT of HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) enhances the health and well-being of all Americans by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.

BUILDING ON HHS'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- EXPANDING LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY:** The Food and Drug Administration developed culturally and linguistically tailored COVID-19 health messages in Mandarin, Cantonese, Hmong, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. And, as part of the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center's "Translation Toolkit" included resources in Japanese, Chuukese, Ilocano, Korean, Marshallese, Samoan, Tagalog, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, and Vietnamese.
- DELIVERING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THAT IS CULTURALLY COMPETENT:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) implemented a new cultural competency training for marketplace agents and brokers participating in the Marketplace for Plan Year 2023, which highlights the importance of cultural and linguistic competence when assisting Marketplace consumers with eligibility, enrollment, and post-enrollment issues.
- INVESTING IN ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES TO ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY:** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded 28 research projects addressing AA and NHPI populations in a dozen states to reduce the health equity gap among women who have been historically understudied, underrepresented, and underreported. In addition, the Office of Minority Health awarded \$2 million, including \$1 million to the University of Hawaii to establish a Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity, to advance equity-based solutions for pressing health needs, including those faced by Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native populations.
- ENGAGING WITH THE AA AND NHPI COMMUNITIES TO ADVANCE EQUITY AND JUSTICE:** The Office for Civil Rights collaborated with the Partnership Center and other agencies to address concerns from the Sikh American community regarding their religious rights to maintain facial hair in the context of public health and workplace requirements on mask/respirator wearing.

PRIORITY PROGRAM GOALS FOR THE ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

Per Executive Order 14031, HHS has identified five high-priority goals that will span the next two years. These goals will advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities.

GOAL 1

Enhance the availability, quality, collection, and use of disaggregated data on AA and NHPI populations: The Equity Subcommittee of the HHS Data Council has reviewed HHS service programs about the availability and use of vital statistics, health survey, and administrative data. The group will begin developing department wide recommendations to address challenges faced by HHS-funded service programs in collecting, using, and reporting equity-related data elements in program evaluation.

GOAL 2

Increase language access across HHS programs for AA and NHPI communities: HHS will focus on addressing barriers that individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) face in obtaining information, services, and/or benefits from HHS federally conducted programs and federally assisted programs. In addition, HHS plans to issue a \$3 million grant opportunity to support demonstration sites, including those serving AA and NHPI populations, to promote equitable language access in healthcare settings; update its COVID-19 video to include information on vaccine boosters in Asian languages; and make child support information and resources accessible on its website in different languages for AA and NHPI populations.

GOAL 3

Raise awareness of hate crimes and hate incidents and address anti-Asian and NHPI discrimination: HHS and the Department of Justice jointly issued guidance in May 2022 aimed at raising awareness of hate crimes and incidents committed on the basis of personal or group characteristics, including race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability. In addition, the HHS Office of Minority Health assembled a cross-departmental workgroup to develop guidance on promoting best practices to advance cultural competency, language access, and sensitivity toward AA and NHPIs.

GOAL 4

Combat human trafficking of AA and NHPI populations: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) will develop programs to deliver culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) for AA and NHPI communities. In addition, ACF will increase access for organizations, including those serving AA and NHPI populations, to apply for and receive funding to implement CLAS in contexts such as these services. Historically, most anti-trafficking training, technical assistance, victim assistance grants, and awareness campaigns have not used CLAS for AA and NHPI communities, and AA and NHPI-serving organizations have had few opportunities to access ACF funding.

GOAL 5

Strengthen AA and NHPI health research: NIH recently issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking feedback, comments, and ideas from the scientific community and the general public to identify gaps, needs, and opportunities to enhance research focused on AA and NHPI health disparities. A careful analysis of the RFI responses, along with discussions during the inaugural Annual NIH AA and NHPI Health Research Conference on May 4-5, 2022, will provide a foundation for an NIH-wide working group which will coordinate and develop a summary report.

Contact WHIAANHPI@hhs.gov if you have any accessibility issues with the document.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES