

State of Minnesota
Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans
Biennium Report
Fiscal Years 2002—2003

Mission and Vision:

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans was created by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1985 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 3.9226, subdivision 1, with the primary mission to serve Asian Pacific Minnesotans in the following ways: assist in their incorporation into the governmental and policy making process; help them gain better access to state government services; ensure that their talents and resources are used and promoted; and act as a bridge between them and other communities.

The State Council consists of 23 members. Nineteen members are appointed by the Governor, two members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Senate are appointed as non-voting members under the rules of the House and the Senate, respectively.

The Council serves over 40 communities of Asian-Pacific origins, including people from: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Gilbert Islands, Guam, Hawaiian Islands, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Korea, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives Islands, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Okinawa, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tahiti, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Vietnam (partial list).

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY:

To fulfill our mission, the Council has collaborated with the public and private sectors to highlight, promote, and incorporate Asian Pacific Minnesotans into the social, educational, economic, and political life of the state.

- Increased involvement of Asian Pacific people in making public policy by streamlining and disseminating information. Hosted forums on many key issues that are confronting the community: aging, Census 2000, business development, youth and crime prevention and education and parental involvement. Over 2,000 people participated and thousands more impacted through radio, television, and newspaper coverage.
- The Council created the Asian Pacific Policy Taskforce and charged it with creating and working on legislation in five areas: education, violence prevention, mental health, economic self-sufficiency, and community development. The group produced the report *Asian Pacific Family Strengthening Initiative* and worked successfully on many legislative action items.
- Promotion and commemoration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month in May of each year. The Council organized Asian Pacific Day at the Capitol which included an award ceremony, the Asian American Festival, and the annual dinner. Over 3,000 people participated in the month-long activities.

REVENUE:

None.

EXPLANATION OF AGENCY’S BUDGET PLAN:

1. Advise — Continue to work with the legislature and the Governor’s office on the creation and implementation of policies and laws as they relate to and impact the Asian Pacific community. Host 6-8 community/issue forums.
2. Advocate — Continue to strengthen our role in working with and reaching out to the community so that we will remain in tune with their needs and concerns.
3. Assist — Create more opportunities for the community to access state government services that are meaningfully, educational, and empowering.
4. Promote — Garnish public, private and community support to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to highlight and recognize the achievements and contributions of the Asian Pacific people in this state.
5. Policy Development — Research, write, and disseminate policy briefs and or reports on issues that are confronting the community. Reports will clearly define the issues and offer workable solutions to address the issues.
6. Capacity Building — Work to build capacity in the community to respond effectively and efficiently to community needs, e.g., economic self-sufficiency, business development, community center, increase in teachers and licensed mental service providers.
7. Leadership — Conduct training and forums on public leadership for the Asian Pacific community to address and identify how they can become actively engaged in public service and policy development.

ISSUES AFFECTING AGENCY’S OPERATIONS:

- Dramatic increase in the Asian Pacific community through secondary migration and undercount of the population as reported by the U.S. Census.
- Citizenship and language barriers continue to affect the community’s access to state services and benefits.
- Over 50% of the community are refugees as compared to less than 25% nationally.