

A REPORT ON THE STATE OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN OHIO



December, 2014

THE STATE OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN OHIO

A REPORT FROM THE OHIO AAPI ADVISORY COUNCIL

submitted to

Governor John R. Kasich

September, 2014

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 - Encourage culturally relevant opportunities in areas of particular interest to Ohio's AAPI community (i.e., education, faith, and art)

- Improve communication with the members of Ohio's AAPI community on state matters related to their native countries
- Promote participation by members of Ohio's AAPI communities in, and help increase the awareness of, minority business assistance programs offered by state agencies
- Reach out to Ohio's AAPI citizens and give them opportunities, as they arise, to participate on policy-making, planning, and decision-making bodies
- Increase opportunities for health screenings of Asians and Pacific Islanders
- Develop community health education efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of chronic illnesses and mental health conditions affecting Ohio's AAPI community and any available treatment plans
- Encourage compliance with such prescribed treatment plans and culturally relevant approaches to treatment
- Help increase awareness regarding Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, Asian festivals, and other AAPI activities throughout Ohio



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2011-09K

Establishing the Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio has a rich tradition of ethnic and cultural diversity, prides itself on the diversity of its citizens, and is committed to addressing the needs of ethnically diverse populations, particularly in the areas of health, education, and economic development.

WHEREAS, my Administration is committed to making all state services, benefits and opportunities available to Ohioans without discriminating on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, or ancestry.

WHEREAS, according to the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) (the "Survey"), the State of Ohio's Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) population is 221,087; having increased by 40% between 2000 and 2009, it is one of Ohio's fastest growing demographic groups.

WHEREAS, the Survey defines "Asians" as "[a] person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. It includes people who indicate their race as Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hmong, Pakistani, Thai, or Cambodian."

WHEREAS, the Survey defines "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders" as "[a] person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or Other Pacific Islands. It includes people who indicate their race as Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan, Other Pacific Islander, Fijian, Tongan, or Marshallese."

WHEREAS, according to national and state population reports, the majority of Ohio's AAPI population live in metropolitan areas (i.e., approximately 32% of Ohio's total AAPI population live in Franklin County; approximately 29% of Ohio's total AAPI population reside in Cuyahoga and Summit Counties; approximately 11% of Ohio's total AAPI population live in Hamilton County; and, approximately 9% of Ohio's total AAPI population reside in Montgomery and Clark Counties).

WHEREAS, according to the Survey, Asian Indians comprise the largest Asian ethnic subgroup in Ohio (29% of Ohio's AAPI population), followed by: Chinese Americans (22% of Ohio's AAPI population); Filipino Americans (9.3% of Ohio's AAPI population); Korean Americans (8.9% of Ohio's AAPI population); Vietnamese Americans (7.6% of Ohio's AAPI population); and Japanese (5.0% of Ohio's AAPI population).

WHEREAS, according to the Survey, Ohio's Pacific Islander population is 0.1% of the State's total population (most of whom are Hawaiians and Guamanian Americans).

WHEREAS, in 2007, Governor Strickland established an Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council in a Directive to the Governor's Office of Global Relations.

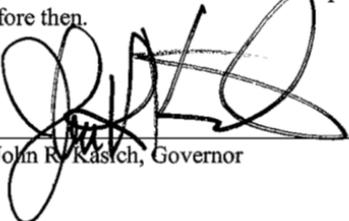
WHEREAS, because Governor Strickland's Office of Global Relations ceased to exist at the end of his administration, uncertainty has developed as to whether that council continues to exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council (the "Council") is hereby established and shall advise my Administration on matters of concern to Ohio's AAPI population.
2. The Council shall consist of not more than thirty (30) individuals, all of whom I will appoint and will serve at my pleasure. The Council membership shall consist of individuals who have been or are presently serving Ohio's AAPI community in any of the following capacities:
 - a. In private industry;
 - b. In governmental service;
 - c. As a scholar or recognized achievement in the study of AAPI matters; and
 - d. Individuals concerned about issues of importance to Ohio's AAPI population.
3. The Council shall include representatives from all regions of the State and, if possible, include at least one (1) member of each ethnic group included in the ACS's definition of "Asian" and "Pacific Islander".
4. I will designate one member to serve as the Chairperson of the Council. A majority of the Council may appoint a vice-chairperson, if necessary.
5. Members of the Council shall serve without compensation.
6. No later than December 31 of each year, the Council shall submit a final written report to me addressing issues specific to Ohio's AAPI population, and make recommendations to me and each cabinet-level state agency, board, and commission that provides services to Ohio's AAPI population on how to best accomplish each of the following:
 - a. Improve access to state programs and services for Ohio's AAPI citizens;

- b. Encourage culturally relevant opportunities in areas of particular interest to Ohio's AAPI community (i.e., education, faith, and art);
 - c. Improve communication with the members of Ohio's AAPI community on state matters related to their native countries;
 - d. Promote participation by members of Ohio's AAPI communities in, and help increase the awareness of, minority business assistance programs offered by state agencies;
 - e. Reach out to Ohio's AAPI citizens and give them opportunities, as they arise, to participate on policy-making, planning, and decision-making bodies;
 - f. Increase opportunities for health screenings of Asians and Pacific Islanders;
 - g. Develop community health education efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of chronic illnesses and mental health conditions affecting Ohio's AAPI community and any available treatment plans;
 - h. Encourage compliance with such prescribed treatment plans and culturally relevant approaches to treatment; and
 - i. Help increase awareness regarding Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, Asian festivals, and other AAPI activities throughout Ohio.
7. The Governor's Director of Minority Affairs and Director of Boards and Commissions shall provide oversight and policy guidance to the appropriate state agencies, boards and commissions on how to best implement the objectives of this Executive Order and any particular recommendations from the Council's reports.
8. The appropriate state departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and officers shall cooperate and provide the necessary assistance requested by the Council, or any member or representative thereof, in the performance of its duties.

I signed this Executive Order on May 27, 2011 in Columbus Ohio and it will expire on my last day as Governor of Ohio unless rescinded before then.



John R. Kasich, Governor

ATTEST:

Jon Husted, Secretary of State

The Ohio AAPI Advisory Council Membership List

Mr. Michael Byun, Co-Chair, Arts, Culture and Education Committee

Executive Director, Asia, Inc., Cleveland/Akron, Ohio.

Mr. Tom Chung, Ph.D.

Executive Director, China Initiatives, University of Cincinnati; former Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine, University of Cincinnati; past-Director, Greater Cincinnati Chinese Chamber of Commerce; past-President, Cincinnati Association of Rational Thought; current Treasurer, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition.

Mr. Krishna Grandhi, J.D., M.S., M.B.A., Chair, Technology Advisory Committee

Attorney with experience in intellectual property and technology law, specializing in representing high-technology companies; community activist with a focus on civil rights and immigration issues; Board Member, Asian American Bar Association of Ohio; President-Elect and Board Member, South Asian Bar Association of Ohio.

Mr. Vi Huynh, M.H.A., Chair, Arts, Culture and Education Committee

Director of Operations, Advanced Platform Technology (APT) Center, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center

Mr. Ronald Katsuyama, Ph.D., Council Vice Chair, Chair, Civil Rights and Immigration Impact Committee

Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Dayton; President, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition; Co-founder and former President, Asian American Council, Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Yung-Chen Lu, Ph.D., Council Chair

Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics, The Ohio State University; Founder and Past-President, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition, Founder and Fund Raiser, Asian Festival and the Asian-American Community Service Council.

Ms. Cora Munoz, Ph.D., R.N., Co-Chair, Health Issues and the Health Care System Committee

Professor, Department of Nursing & Health, College of Natural Sciences, Capital University; Commissioner, Ohio Commission on Minority Health; Vice-President, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition; Chair, Board of Directors, Asian Festival Corporation.

Ms. Rebecca Nelson, M.A.

Administrator for Neighborhood Health at Columbus Public Health; has served in several positions at The Ohio State University, including AVP for Student Life, Director of the Multicultural Center, Program Manager for Community Development at the Wexner Medical Center, and Assistant Director with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion; serves as a Commissioner with the Columbus Community Relations Commission.

Ms. Radhika Reddy, M.A., M.I.S., M.B.A., Chair, Economic and Workforce Development Committee

Founder and Partner, Ariel Ventures, LLC; Member, Ohio Global Markets Advisory Board; Member, The Ohio State University Board of Regents Task Force for Commercialization of Technology.

Ms. Bounthanh Phomasathit, B.S.W., M.S., Secretary

President, Diversified Health Management, Inc..

Mr. Dimment Singh, Ph.D.

Manager of a pharmacy manager within an underrepresented community; serves as a community organizer, working to reduce health disparities in minority communities.

Mr. Ramesh Srivastava, M.S., F.S.S., CStat.

Consultant, United Nations Development Program; Adjunct Faculty, Sinclair Community College; Past-President, Asian American Council, Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Andrew Philip, Intern

A graduate student in the Department of Psychology, The Ohio State University, he is also preparing to enter medical school in the fall, 2015.

Ms. Chenyun Yao, Intern

A graduate student in the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, The Ohio State University, she is a Master of Public Administration Candidate, 2014.



1st row: Tom Chung, Rebecca Nelson, Governor Kasich, Cora Munoz, Bounthanh Phomasathit, Michael Colbert

2nd row: Vi Huynh, Krishna Grandhi, Ramesh Srivastava, Yung-Chen Lu, Radhika Reddy, Jeff Guo, Ron Katsuyama

Introduction

Letter from the Chair



December, 2014

Dear Governor Kasich,

On behalf of your Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council (OAAPIC), I am pleased to present you with our report, *The State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Ohio, 2013-14*. Following your 2011 establishment of the Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council (OAAPIC) through Executive Order 2011-09K, members have been meeting regularly (typically on a monthly basis) with efforts focused upon fulfillment of the objectives described in this Order.

Each member of the Council not only attends full Council meetings but, in addition, serves on one or more of the following committees: (1) Art, Culture, and Education; (2) Civil Rights and Immigration Impact; (3) Economic and Workforce Development; and (4) Health Issues and the Health Care System. Council members have worked together with community leaders and experts in developing this report. We hope it is helpful to you, your cabinet-level state agencies, boards, and commissions in serving the needs of all of Ohio's diverse citizens.

We look forward to continuing discussions with you and members of your administration concerning our common vision for moving Ohio into a position of leadership among states of our great nation

Sincerely,

Yung-Chen Lu, Chair
Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council

Standing Committees

Arts, Culture and Education Committee

Goal: The goal of the Arts, Culture and Education Committee is to increase access, participation and recognition of arts, culture and education activities of the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Ohio. Toward this aim the committee works with local organizations to develop new programs and promote involvement in current activities of AAPI communities.

Council Members: Vi Huynh (Committee Chair), Michael Byun, and Rebecca Nelson, M.A.

Non-Council Members: Irene Javier, Ph.D., Huey Li Li, Ph.D., Justin Perry, Ph.D., Hong Qiu, Manju Sankarappa, and Lin Xu

Consultants: Abigail Pauline Batin (PNA), Dr. Yung Chen Lu (OAAPIAC, Asian-American Community Service Council, Asian Festival, Asian Health Initiative), Jason Ma (Ohio Contemporary Chinese School), Carolyn Putney (Toledo Museum of Art), Diment Singh (OAAPIAC), and Henry Yan (Ohio Chinese School)

Civil Rights and Immigration Impact Committee

Goal: The goal of the Civil Rights and Immigration Impact Committee is to enhance the overall experience of AAPIs living in Ohio through protection of basic civil and human rights, including those associated with housing and home ownership, voting, and freedom from racial profiling.

Council Members: Ron Katsuyama, Ph.D. (Chair), Michael Byun, Krishna Grandhi, M.S., M.B.A., J.D., and Rebecca Nelson, M.A.

Non-Council Members: Danny Caudill, J.D., Kevin O'Neill, J.D., Ed Stanek, Matthew Teshima, and Charleston Wang, M.B.A., L.L.M., J.D.

Economic and Workforce Development Committee

Goal: To mobilize and optimize AAPI community resources, knowledge and networks to support Ohio economic development and job creation through AAPI business development, foreign business attraction, foreign direct investment, and trade promotion with Asian countries.

Council Members: Radhika Reddy, M.A (Tax), M.B.A. (Finance), and M.I.S. (Committee Chair), Tom Chung, Ph.D., Jeff J. Guo, Ph.D., and Yung-Chen Lu, Ph.D.,

Non-Council Member: Ye-Fan Glavin, Ph.D.

Health Issues and the Health Care System Committee

Goal: The goal of the Health Issues and the Health Care System Committee is to improve the overall health of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander in the state of Ohio through increased screenings, health education and compliance with culturally appropriate treatment, thereby achieving health equity. Consistent with the vision of the HHS Disparities Action Plan in the National Partnership for Action, this committee envisions a “A nation free of disparities in health and health care.” (Health disparities are conditions in which there is a disproportionate incidence of disease, disability and death in a minority population.)

Council Members: Cora Munoz, Ph.D., R.N, Bounthanh Phommasathit, M.S.W., Ramesh Srivastava, M.S., F.S.S., CStat.

Non-Council Members: Manju Sankarappa, BS, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition

Consultants: Michael Byun (OAAPIAC, Asian Services in Action), Arlene de Silva (Asian Community Alliance), Tom Chung (OAAPIAC, Asian Community Alliance), Yung Chen-Lu (OAAPIAC, ACSC, Asian Festival, Asian Health Initiative), Jennifer Kue (The Ohio State University), Kelly Yotebieng (Community Refugee and Immigration Services), Sarah Miller (Community Refugee and Immigration Services), Chikako Cox, Ph.D.

Summary of Ohio Asian Americans

We begin our report with an excerpt from the Ohio Development Services Agency’s summary of “Population Characteristics and Projections,” posted online at the following site: <http://www.development.ohio.gov/files/research/P7004.pdf>

Ohio Asian Americans

Ohio's Asian American community is comprised of more than 238,000 people, accounting for 2.1 percent of the state's total population. According to the 2010 Census by the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio's Asian population grew by 49 percent since 2000 and more than quadrupled since 1980. For the United States, taken as a whole, the Asian population is nearly 17.3 million, or 5.6 percent of the nation's total population. Since 2000, the number of Asian Americans in the U.S. has increased by more than 5.4 million people, or 45.6 percent.

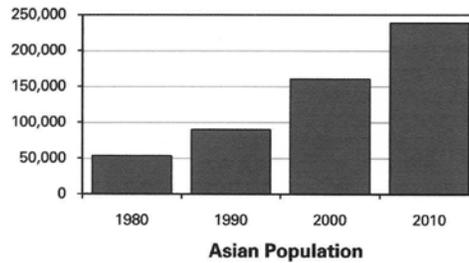
OVERVIEW

- 238,292 people – 2.1 percent of Ohio's total population
- 49 percent increase in population since 2000
- 128,604 were born outside the U.S.
- 33 percent are of Asian Indian ancestry
- Median age of 32.5 years compared to 38.8 years for Ohioans as a whole
- 28,500 enrolled in public schools
- Median household income: \$64,317
- 18,000+ businesses with \$6.2 billion in receipts

Note: Asian refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. A person reporting their race as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other race is used for total population counts only. A person reporting their race as Asian alone is used for the other population characteristics. The recording of specific, multiple races was not done prior to 2000.

Ohio's Asian Population: 238,292

The Asian American community accounts for 2.1 percent of Ohio's total population with significant growth occurring over the last three decades. Since 2000 the number of Asian Ohioans has increased by 49 percent. In 1980 there were approximately 50,000 Asians in Ohio, comprising 0.5 percent of the state's total population.



A majority of Asian American Ohioans live in the state's metropolitan areas and counties with large universities. Generally, Asian Americans in Ohio are as likely to live in the suburbs as the central city. The city of Columbus is an exception with more Asian Americans living in the city because of the influence of The Ohio State University. Nearly 32,000, or 13 percent, of Ohio's Asian population live in Columbus. There are another 25,000 Asian American Ohioans living in the Columbus metropolitan area. The Cleveland-Akron metropolitan area has more than 40,000 Asian Americans residents.

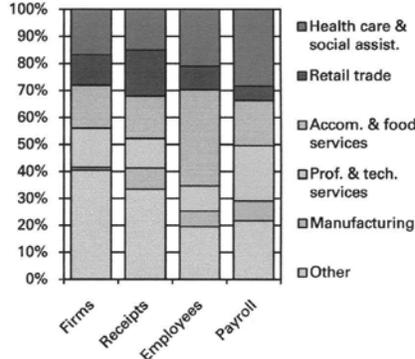
Total Asian American Population		Percent of County Population	
Franklin	53,189	Delaware	5.0%
Cuyahoga	39,136	Franklin	4.6%
Hamilton	20,016	Warren	4.5%
Summit	14,311	Greene	3.7%
Montgomery	12,254	Athens	3.2%
Butler	10,555	Union	3.2%
Warren	9,550	Cuyahoga	3.1%
Lucas	8,801	Butler	2.9%
Delaware	8,690	Summit	2.6%
Greene	5,967	Hamilton	2.5%
Lorain	3,976	Montgomery	2.3%
Stark	3,754	Hancock	2.0%

**Business Receipts:
\$6.2 billion**

There are more than 18,000 Asian American-owned businesses in Ohio, according to the most recent Survey of Business Owners conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Of that number, businesses with a payroll total over 6,000 and, combined, employ more than 51,000 workers with an

annual payroll of nearly \$1.4 billion. Receipts for those businesses approached \$6.2 billion with receipts for all Asian American-owned businesses nearly \$6.8 billion.

With respect to business sectors, health care/social assistance and accommodation/food services each account for 16 percent of Asian American-owned firms. These sectors account for only 9 and 3 percent of all businesses in Ohio respectively. Eight percent of all accommodation/food service firms in the state are owned by Asian Americans.



The distribution of receipts for Asian American-owned firms by sector varies greatly from that of the state taken as a whole. Between 15 and 17 percent of receipts come each from the health care/social assistance, retail trade, and accommodation/food service sector. For all Ohio businesses, manufacturing is the largest sector and brings in more than one-fourth of the receipts; wholesale trade accounts for 21 percent. Accommodation represents less than 2 percent of receipts.

**Unemployment
Rate: 6.7 %**

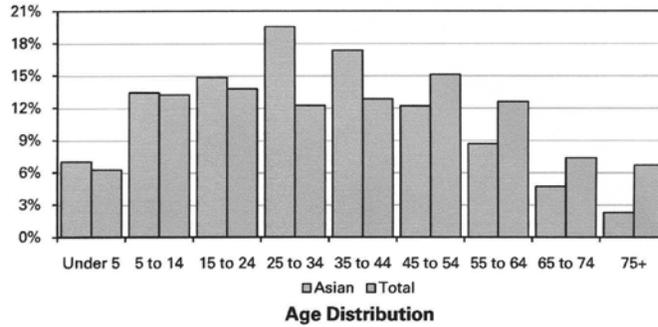
The number of Asian American Ohioans in the civilian labor force is over 95,000. Asian Americans in Ohio have an unemployment rate of 6.7 percent. Asian Americans between the ages of 25 and 64 have an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent while Asian Americans between the ages of 20 and 24 have a rate of 6.1 percent.

Employed Asian Americans are highly represented in professional occupations, compared to Ohioans as a whole, with sales/office occupations a distant second. Of the roughly 89,000 employed Asian Americans, 43 percent are in professional and related occupations with roughly 11,000 in each of computer/mathematical and healthcare occupations. Sales and office occupations account for 15 percent employed Asians.

**Median Age:
32.5 years**

The median age of Asian Americans in Ohio is 32.5 years. For comparison, the median age of Ohioans overall is 38.8 years. A very high proportion of Asian Americans between the ages of 25 and 34 and slightly lower proportions in the older age groups kept the median age lower than that of Ohio's total population.

In Ohio, nearly 38,000 marriages include at least one Asian American spouse. Of these families, almost 57 percent have children living at home. For all married couples in Ohio, 39 percent have children at home. Nine percent of Asian American families with children consist of single mothers.

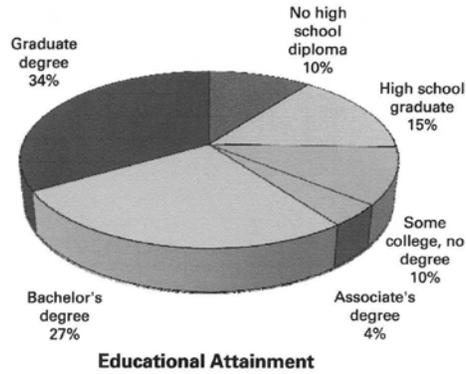


Public School Enrollment:
28,500

During the 2009-2010 school year, there were more than 28,500 Asian American students enrolled in Ohio's public schools, making up 1.6 percent of Ohio's total student body. For the 2000-2001 school year, the figure was 1.1 percent.

More than 24,000 Asian American Ohioans are enrolled in college or graduate school. This accounts for 18 percent of Asian Americans older than 17 years. Around 21,000 of these are foreign born.

The educational attainment of the Asian American community exceeds the state as a whole. One-third of Asian Americans, older than 24 years, have a graduate degree with another 27 percent having a bachelor's degree. For the state, as a whole, 8 percent of Ohioans have a graduate degree, while 15 percent have a bachelor's degree. Foreign-born Asian American Ohioans, which make up a large portion of the Asian American community, have a similar educational attainment profile as those born in the United States.

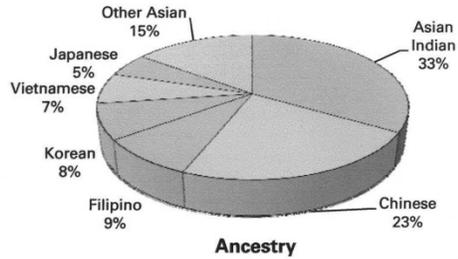


Foreign Born:
128,604

More than 64,000 of the 238,000 Asian Americans in Ohio are of Indian descent. The Indian community is growing quickly and has expanded by more than half since 2000. Roughly 19,000 people, more than three-quarters of the growth, emigrated from India in the past decade.

Chinese American, the second largest group behind Indian, accounts for one-quarter of Asians in Ohio. The Chinese community is growing quickly, increasing over 60 percent, or around 17,000 people, since 2000. Much of this growth is due to international migration.

The Ohio Vietnamese community, while smaller, is experiencing significant growth. Since 1990 it has grown more than two-and-a-half times to around 13,000 people. The Filipino and Korean populations are also growing but at a slower pace. The size of the Japanese community has not changed significantly since 1990.



Roughly four-of-five Asian American Ohioans speak a language other than English at home. How proficient they are at English depends, to some extent, on their or their family's country of origin. About three-quarters of the Asian population in Ohio with ties to South Central Asia, mainly India, speaks a language other than English at home. Of these, around three-quarters that speak an Indic language report speaking English "very well". About half of Asian Americans that speak Chinese, Korean, or Japanese at home report speaking English "very well." Only about one-quarter from these three groups reports speaking English at home.

The statistical source of this profile is the 2010 Census of Population and Housing and the Census Bureau's 2009 American Community Survey. Business data came from the Census Bureau's 2007 Survey of Business Owners. Although the census is the most comprehensive set of socio-economic data available, the estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling error that may result in some over- or under-estimation of actual population characteristics. The source of public school enrollment was the Ohio Department of Education.

Executive Order Objectives

A. Improve access to state programs and services for Ohio's AAPI citizens

Arts and Culture

From an arts and culture perspective members of the OAAPIAC have worked with the Ohio Arts Council to increase the awareness of grants and programs that are available. In 1998, Dr Yung-Chen Lu from the Asian Festival in Columbus first applied and received an organization development grant from the Ohio Arts Council. This grant was instrumental in helping established one of the first and largest Asian festivals in the country. (Attendance at this two-day event has risen to over 100,000.) The OAC has continued to support this festival every year since 1998. Most importantly, this grant from the OAC helped establish a coalition of Asian organizations in Franklin County that would later serve as an example to other cities in Ohio. For example, an Ohio Arts Council grant supported the Dayton Cultural Festival in 2009. In 2010, the Cleveland Asian Festival (CAF) followed a similar path and received a *Building Cultural Diversity* grant from the Ohio Arts Council that helped launch a new tradition. The CAF has now also become a key organizer for the Cleveland Asian community in the arts and cultural fields. The OAAPIAC continues to encourage other Asian organizations across the state to develop arts and culture programming and to seek funding from the Ohio Arts Council. (More information about the Ohio Arts Council can be obtained at www.oac.state.oh.us.)

Education

From an education perspective, the OAAPIAC believes there is a great opportunity for Ohio's public education system to prepare Ohio students for a global economy and international environment by increasing the number of language immersion schools, increasing advance placement language courses (e.g., Chinese and Japanese), and expanding opportunities to bring international teachers to Ohio's classrooms. We hope to work with legislators and administrators in the State of Ohio to further these programs.

A model for state support of language immersion schools has been developed in Utah, thanks to State Senator Howard Stephenson's 2008 bill. Utah now has 33 Chinese, 14 French, 2 German, 6 Portuguese, and 63 Spanish immersion schools. According to the Utah State Office of Education benefits of an immersion school include high proficiency in a second language, improved performance on standardized tests, enhanced cognitive skills, and increased cultural sensitivity (<http://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/dualimmersion/>).

In Ohio, there are only 7 immersion schools. The newest school is ***Global Ambassadors Language Academy (GALA)***, a tuition-free, K-8, public charter school scheduled to open in August 2015 in the city of Cleveland. GALA is a language immersion school that will offer both Mandarin Chinese and Spanish immersion options and the *International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program*.

GALA will be the first Mandarin Chinese immersion school in Ohio. Currently, there are only 147 mandarin immersion schools in the U.S. (including only 18 are charter schools). GALA's opening will be a huge success for Ohio. In addition to the student academic benefits, GALA will foster greater appreciation for diversity and culture in our community, as well as support and grow our region's international and immigrant populations.

GALA will be sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD), is partnered with the Confucius Institute at Cleveland State University, is a member of the Flagship - Language Acquisition Network (F-LAN), and has received letters of support from the *Cleveland Transformation Alliance* and *Global Cleveland*.

GALA's development is very timely and significantly aligns with the current education setting in Cleveland. In July, 2012, the *Cleveland Plan (House Bill 525)* was signed into law to fundamentally reinvent public education in Cleveland. Grounded in an emerging national approach known as the "*portfolio strategy*", the Plan transitions CMSD from a traditional, single-source school district to a new system of district and charter schools. One strategy of the *Cleveland Plan* encourages community partners to start new innovative schools from the best national education models. GALA is poised to capitalize on this opportunity, implementing an education model that promises to bring national attention to Cleveland (www.gala-prek8.org).

Civil Rights and Immigration Impact

Members of the Council served on the planning committee and help promote the *Protecting Civil Rights Town Hall: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities*, held on April 15, 2014. Topics included Hate Crimes, Law Enforcement and Community Relations, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. The objectives of the Civil Rights Town Hall were to provide continued civil rights education, especially for new Americans, to familiarize them with best practices in managing situations that may threaten their civil rights, and to create community among new Americans as well as an effective dialogue with local and state law enforcement. In addition, a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) panel, consisting of a diverse group of students, discussed problems in accessing services for which they are now eligible, such as in-state tuition and driver's licenses, in the face of inflexible bureaucratic procedures. They also mentioned how their lack of access to financial aid and health insurance continues to impact their lives.

Council members continue to be concerned with problems that new immigrants have experienced in accessing Ohio's services. While federal immigration reform will help create a more just and humane society for all Americans, Ohio has traditionally retained powers in a number of areas, including the issuance of driver's licenses, marriage licenses, and divorces. Ohio also administers worker's compensation and adjudicates employment discrimination. While certain citizenship and legal residency issues in these areas could be resolved pending federal immigration law and enforcement reforms, others are likely to remain. Therefore, the following issues have been identified:

- a. **Issuance of Driver's License or Ohio Identification (ID)**. Notwithstanding *Title II* of the *Real ID Act* which provides for national standards for driver's licenses, Ohio (together with at least one-half of the other states) have passed resolutions or binding legislation to opt out of the federal standards. Since there is no national identity document, an Ohio Driver's License continues to be accepted as a primary form of personal identification. (Even the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) accepts a state-issued driver's license as a List B Document on its I-9 Form, which must be filed by employers screening potential employees for their verification of employment eligibility.) This has become problematic for two reasons. First of all, because the original purpose of a driver's license was to ensure driving ability and traffic safety, only a small, low-resolution photograph is obtained by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). In contrast to fingerprinting and, certainly, more rigorous identifiers such as DNA markers, the adequacy of a driver's license photograph as a primary personal identifier is questionable. Secondly, in the course of strict scrutiny of citizenship and legal residency eligibility for getting a driver's license or Ohio Identification (ID) from the Ohio BMV, we have heard from an attorney about **denial of documented immigrants from obtaining such essential documents**.

- b. **Issuance of Marriage License**. In Ohio a marriage is recorded in the local Probate Court. Under federal immigration law, a non-citizen who had entered with inspection is eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident (LPR) status through marriage to a U. S. Citizen. However, the CRII Committee has become aware of instances where **individual civil rights have been abrogated when local probate court officials have refused to marry an alien** on grounds that the person is unable to produce a social security number. The matter has been litigated in *mandamus* and a U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled that a probate court may not refuse to certify a marriage because of the lack of a social security number. [See, *State ex rel Ten Residents of Franklin County v. Belskis*, 142 Ohio App.3d 296, 755 N.E.2d 443 (Ohio App. Dist.10, 2001).]

- c. **Divorce.** The Division of Domestic Relations of the Ohio Courts of Common Pleas oversees the termination of a marriage. Respecting federal immigration law, any married alien who wishes to marry a U. S. Citizen must demonstrate to the USCIS that he or she is eligible to marry; that is, any prior marriage must have been terminated according to law.

Generally, only persons who can satisfy the requirements of Ohio residency and domiciliary can avail themselves of the jurisdiction of the Ohio divorce courts. The word "residence" in ORC 3105.03 means "domiciliary residence," a concept which has two components: (1) an actual residence in the jurisdiction, and (2) an intention to make the state of jurisdiction a permanent home." [See *Coleman v. Coleman* (1972), 32 Ohio St.2d 155 at 162, 291 N.E.2d 530 at 535; *Rahawangi v. Alsamman*, (2004), Ohio- 4083 (Ohio App. Dist. 8 08/05/2004), citing, *Franklin v. Franklin* (1981), 5 Ohio App. 3d 74, 449 N.E.2d 457; and *Hager v. Hager* (1992), 79 Ohio App.3d 239, 243, 607 N.E.2d 63, 66. See also, *Zhao v. Zeng*, (2003), Ohio 3060 (1st App. Dist., Hamilton County).] This can create a dilemma for a non-citizen with an estranged spouse who intends to return to his or her country of origin. Suppose this person wishes to marry a U.S. Citizen. Then, not having avail of an Ohio divorce court, **a married non-citizen may be obliged to travel back to his or her country of origin in order to obtain a divorce that is recognized by the USCIS.**

Another situation under which an immigrant is denied access to an Ohio Common Pleas (divorce) Court arises when an immigrant acquires lawful permanent residence (LPR) status by reason of a family relative. The relative (and, on occasions, an additional co-sponsor) must give an *Affidavit of Support* (USCIS Form I-864). This document, although a requirement of federal immigration law, has been held to be binding during a divorce proceeding, *Davis v. Davis*, (12/17/2004), Ohio- 6892 (Ohio App. Dist.6), (and Ohio's Domestic Relations Courts have also given priority to this document). Consequently, such immigrants have been denied access to an Ohio Common Pleas (divorce) Court, as well as to Ohio's Domestic Relations Courts. Unable to obtain an Ohio divorce, such an immigrant must obtain a divorce in his or her country of origin before becoming eligible to marry a U.S. Citizen.

Given the barriers among certain non-citizens in obtaining a divorce through the Ohio Courts of Common Pleas or a hearing by an Ohio Domestic Relations Court, the CRII Committee is investigating what reasonable Ohio statutory change would permit these individuals to gain access to these judicial processes that can profoundly affect their well-being.

- d. **Worker's Compensation.** The CRII Committee notes that the Ohio Supreme Court [in *State ex rel. Papadopoulos v. Indus. Comm.*, 196 N.E. 780 (1935)] does not preclude undocumented workers from participating in the Workers' Compensation Fund.

Further, the Ohio Court of Appeals [in *Rajeh v. Steel City Corp.*, (2004), 157 Ohio App.3d 722, 813 N.E.2d 697 (Ohio App. Dist.)] considered Ohio laws, federal laws, and public policy interests in ruling that (1) undocumented workers must be considered “employees” under state workers’ compensation law, and (2) workers’ compensation provides for a “substitutionary remedy for a negligence suit” (rather than a state or local public benefit). As such, **the Ohio Court of Appeals concluded that an undocumented worker is entitled to participate in, and recover, from the Workers' Compensation Fund.** (This case is summarized in a report by the National Immigration Law Center at the following URL: <http://v2011.nilc.org/immsemplymnt/emprights/emprights082.htm>)

Many undocumented workers are known to be employed in skilled trades across industries and services such as housing and commercial construction, restaurants, hotels, and agriculture. Such employment provides employers with several competitive advantages. For example, undocumented workers typically command lower salaries than their "legal" counterparts. However, undocumented workers are typically not counted on the employer's payroll, thereby providing the employer with opportunities to save tax-related and benefits-related expenses.

Since undocumented workers are typically not counted on the payroll, employers have little incentive to contribute into the Workers' Compensation Fund ("Fund") on behalf of these employees. Consequently, **when an undocumented worker whose employer has not contributed to the Fund becomes injured, the right of that worker to tap into the Fund for compensation has been questioned.**

The CRII Committee has examined the controversy involving fair treatment of an injured undocumented worker in this situation, and arguments on both sides of this issue have been studied. There are **four basic arguments in favor of worker's compensation payments for undocumented workers.** First of all, employees should not suffer the consequences of an employer not paying into the Fund. If the employer is able to gain competitive financial advantage by hiring these workers, then **it is also the employer's responsibility to provide for workers' compensation,** whether obtained through the federal program or a private alternative (for which rules of citizenship and nationality may not be as stringent). Secondly, **it is a moral imperative that workers receive medical treatment for job-related accidents. Such basic health services should be a right associated with residency and economic productivity.** Thirdly, while prevention of accidents is almost always cost-effective, it typically **makes good business sense to ensure immediate treatment following a worker's injury or work-induced disability** so that he or she can more quickly return to the workforce. Finally, **denial of worker's compensation places workers at risk of incurring even greater health care expenses** if their condition should worsen. Such

expenses may be unaffordable by the worker and are **eventually passed on to the general public.**

The CRII Committee also considered **four basic arguments against worker's compensation payments for undocumented workers.** First of all, **state-supported benefits such as this should not be awarded to those who entered the country illegally.** Such procedures would only encourage others to follow in their path, thus creating a situation that is inherently unfair to those who enter legally. Secondly, **undocumented individuals must be responsible for injury or disability associated with their work,** as they assume these risks knowingly and without coercion when they are hired. Thirdly, not having paid into the Fund or a private alternative, **any money they should access would reduce the amount available to those who are legitimately covered.** Finally, **payment to undocumented workers would result in a system without checks and balances.** That is, a state would have no way of estimating their liability in this area, as the number of undocumented workers is unknown. Consequently, responsible budgeting becomes impossible.

As an alternative to participation in the Fund, a worker can seek redress for a work-related injury or disability by suing his or her employer in a state municipal, county, or common pleas court. Following a ruling favorable to the worker, an employer would become liable for damages incurred through negligence, and the Fund's financial integrity is kept intact. The problem with this potential remedy, however, is that a typical worker, compared to his or her employer, is relatively unsophisticated about the legal system, leading to an imbalance in the judicial process. Further, prospects of prolonged and costly litigation could dissuade some from pursuing a case that is likely, although not certain, to win in court.

Immigration reform at the federal level could also help resolve workers' compensation issues at the state level, and the CRII Committee is monitoring Congressional developments. Meanwhile **the committee recommends** that current Ohio and federal laws regarding workers' compensation be respected, thereby **preserving the right of undocumented workers to participate in the Workers' Compensation Fund and permitting them to collect workers' compensation.**

- e. **Employment Discrimination.** The issue concerning an undocumented worker's right to a claim for employment discrimination appears similar to the issue concerning his or her right to collect workers' compensation. Further, certain federal protections against national origin discrimination may extend to employment discrimination of undocumented workers. However, it appears that the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) has been reluctant to pursue employment discrimination allegations brought by persons who are not eligible for employment by reason of immigration status. As the CRII Committee monitors immigration reform at the federal level and seeks to

more fully understand the latest OCRC position on this issue, **members of the CRII anticipate** further discussions and **future recommendations regarding employment discrimination among undocumented workers.**

Economic and Workforce Development

The OAAPIAC has promoted education about the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)/Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) Unit's role in the State of Ohio's minority business set-aside program. The Council recognizes that Ohio's Asian and Asian American small business owners have been under-represented in their use of this program as well as participation in the EDGE program, which is designed to facilitate access to state government contracts and business services for EDGE certified businesses. Therefore, a special information session on Minority Business Development was planned during this year's Ohio AAPI Legislative Day that included the following topics: (1) Benefits of MBE status for immigrant entrepreneurs, (2) Ohio's Certification process, (3) Contract procurement, (4) Business incentives (incl. tax credits), and (5) International Business and Foreign Direct Investment.

The OAAPIAC has also announced opportunities for below-market interest loans from the *Community Development Financial Institution* (CDFI) and for public/private partnerships to promote international trade to Asian and Asian American business leaders and entrepreneurs throughout Ohio.

The OAAPIAC Chair, Dr. Yung-Chen Lu, has been serving on the Executive Committee of the Minority Business Advisory Council. Goals include establishment of set-aside procurements for minority businesses, and the OAAPIAC will be participating in outreach to increase the number of Asian American business participants.

The Economic and Workforce Development Committee has initiated plans for a statewide Economic Development conference/summit to include Ambassadors representing Asian countries. The goal will be to enhance opportunities for foreign trade and economic development in Ohio. In addition, the committee is working to establish an Asian American businesses directory that can facilitate the dissemination of information and encourage the development of partnerships.

Health Care System

Various members of the OAAPIAC have been working to promote access to Ohio's health programs and services. For example, as part of the *Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health (ADAMH)* Board of Franklin County's mental health needs assessment, Dr. Cora Munoz and Bounthanh Phommasathit participated in focus group interviews of immigrant and refugee community representatives. The purpose was to obtain information that the *Health Policy Institute of Ohio* and *Community Research Partners* can use to help develop recommendations for more effective outreach to those suffering from anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Dr. Cora Munoz also served as a panel speaker at the Crisis Intervention Training for Columbus Police Officers that is sponsored by the *ADAMH Board*. Culturally-specific interventions for Asians in the community were explored in the training.

Dr. Cora Munoz, Manju Sankarappa, Arlene DeSilva, and Michael Byun participated in the *National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavior Health's NNEDLearn Program*. A culturally appropriate wellness program was developed specifically for Asians to address holistic care.

Members of the Council have also been working with the *Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH)* and the *Multiethnic Advocacy for Cultural Competency (MACC)* to develop strategies for including other Asian community leaders in a survey that will identify mental health issues such as PTSD, depression, suicide, domestic violence, etc.

Dr. Ron Katsuyama and Manju Sankarappa coordinated the development of a *Facebook* page under contract with the *Great Lakes Regional Health Equity Council* to promote enrollment for healthcare coverage. They described their strategies and presented findings at the 2014 Diversity in Public Health Summit at The Ohio State University.

Dr. Yung Chen-Lu and Dr. Munoz met with the *Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS)* Medical Director Mark Hurst, M.D., and staff members Deborah Nixon-Hughes, Joseph Hill, and , Jamoya Cox to discuss future partnerships to increase delivery of mental health services to vulnerable Asian populations.

Members from the Cleveland Refugee Services Collaborative, which includes Asian Services in Action (ASIA) and over a dozen other refugee-serving organizations) have been addressing the Nepali community suicide issue. They have begun work with the *Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County* to address this complex mental health issue.

A parallel effort is underway in Summit County (City of Akron), where ASIA and the *International Institute of Akron* are working with the *Summit County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services* along with mental health service providers to meet the mental health needs of the Nepali community. By taking steps to address Nepali suicide the community hopes that it can provide broader mental health services, especially for those with limited English proficiency.

Dr. Tom Chung gave a presentation on the status of Asian Americans at the Montgomery County Workshop on Health Discrepancies.

Finally, members of the Council have been collaborating with the *Office of Minority Health (OMH)* at *Columbus Public Health* to help educate members of various Asian communities about Ohio's health programs and services through presentations and community forums. With representation on the *Minority Health Advisory Committee*, the Council has also given strong support to OMH's partnership with the *Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Service* to provide monthly health education presentations that specifically address health issues affecting the Nepali community. The Council also helps disseminate healthcare resource materials throughout the Asian community, including OMH's *Asian Health Briefing Paper*, which provides information useful for those who desire to learn more about the unique healthcare needs of Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.



Members of the Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council volunteer to provide community health screenings



Governor Kasich meets with the Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council

B. Encourage culturally relevant opportunities in areas of particular interest to Ohio's AAPI community (i.e., education, faith, and art)

Arts and Culture

The OAAPIAC members are all extremely engaged in their local regions. For example, Council members presented the *Asian Festival* in Columbus and the *Cleveland Asian Festival*, resulting in distinctive recognition (indicated by the many website visits, large attendances, and positive comments voiced in person and through media reviews. These events provide opportunities for Ohio performers to showcase Asian dancing, singing, martial arts, and other art forms. In 2014, the *Cleveland Asian Festival* had approximately 50 performance groups and the *Asian Festival* in Columbus had over 70 performance groups. In addition, many of these performance groups come from local Asian language schools, enabling them to promote their education programs and attract new students. These weekend/summer language schools include Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Hindi. The following descriptions provide brief introductions to two of the largest Chinese Schools in Central Ohio.

Ohio Contemporary Chinese School (OCCS) is a heritage weekend school that introduces Chinese language and culture to overseas Chinese, their children, and the general public in Central Ohio. The OCCS was established in 1994 with less than 100 students, mostly children of Chinese parents. The Chinese School Association in the United States, known as CSAUS, was founded in the same year. Being one of the five founding schools, the OCCS has been playing a critical role in the development of a Chinese language curriculum and standards for the operation of Chinese schools in the US. The CSAUS now has over 550 member schools across all states. The OCCS hosted the first CSAUS nationwide conference in Columbus. Subsequently, two Chinese leaders in the Columbus area have served as CSAUS presidents.

The OCCS currently has almost 600 students. The school offers 41 Chinese classes, 30 cultural classes (including, art, dance, chorus, flute, martial arts, and Chinese calligraphy) and 28 supplementary classes (e.g., SAT, math, English writing, and science). The students' ages range from 3 to over 50, and they come from various ethnic backgrounds.

From the very beginning, the OCCS has given special attention to the needs of students from non-Chinese speaking families, including students who were adopted from China. The OCCS provides special classes for these children and their parents, as well as to others who have no Chinese background. Promoting many cultural activities, the OCCS dance troupe,

choir and flute groups give performances on occasions such as Chinese New Year and the Asian Festival. Chess students have been successful in state and nationwide competitions.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, many OCCS graduates have sent greetings from across the country, sharing their personal success stories and expressing gratitude for opportunities provided by the OCCS during their childhood. (More information is available at: www.columbus-occs.org)

The **Ohio Chinese School (OCS)**, Columbus, Ohio, teaches Chinese language, art and culture to children, mostly of Chinese parents, who seek to preserve the traditions and language of their homeland. They have the only HSK test center in Central Ohio. (China's *Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi* test, known as the "HSK," is used to assess the Chinese language proficiency of non-native speakers.) Subjects such as art, music, math, English, debate, technology, and sports enhance the school to cover a range of subjects important to all parents and families. Special attention is given to celebrations of Chinese culture such as the Moon Festival in the autumn, and New Year in the winter.

The OCS also provides various programs for new immigrant students and their families, including college application and essay guidance, SAT preparation, health fairs, and discussions that facilitate access to programs and services among those with limited English proficiency. A parents club and family room supports families struggling to reconcile tensions arising from adherence to different cultural traditions. The OCS also provides information about traveling back to China and about immigration law and associated procedures.

The OCS recently expanded its curriculum to include summer classes in Chinese, as well as classes in mathematics and English reading and writing. Children take field trips to take advantage of Central Ohio resources, including the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. A Journalism camp provided students with opportunities to visit area companies for interviews. The OCS periodically invites guests who share their expertise and enthusiasm for their sport, craft, or profession, thereby providing inspiration to students that can help them attain their aspirations. (More information is available at: www.ohiochineseschool.org)

In 2013, the **Toledo Museum of Art** featured a series of fall events devoted to Asian art, with most of it focused on Japanese art in conjunction with their exhibition "Fresh Impressions." They presented Japanese drummers, wood block printmaking workshops, a performance on the koto, a fashion show inspired by Japanese clothing, a film series and lectures on *shin hanga* prints. In 2014, the Cincinnati Museum of Arts presented a show on the Taoist Arts in China. Taft Museum also featured an exhibition of ropes and artifacts of the Chinese Dragon. Also in 2014, Michael Roediger, Director and CEO of the **Dayton Art Institute** spoke to a gathering of Asian Americans about its Asian collection, the 6th largest of its kind in the country. He also invited the local *Japanese Americans Citizens League* to partner with the Institute in hosting an event associated with its upcoming *Deco Japan* exhibit.

C. Improve communication with the members of Ohio's AAPI community on state matters related to their native countries

Through efforts of Council member Krishna Grandhi, members of his Technology Advisory Committee, and the Ohio Jobs and Family Services IT staff, the OAAPIAC communicates with many leaders of Ohio's AAPI communities through a robust online presence. Its website (aapi.ohio.gov) was first launched to the public at large in August, 2013. The website has helped the Council promote its activities, especially among its constituents throughout Ohio. The website also provides information on the history of the Council, its mission, and its goals.

The website also provides information on the Council membership. This includes detailed profiles on each of the Council members and their involvement with their respective communities in Ohio. The website further provides information on various events throughout Ohio that the Council is involved with. For example, the website provides comprehensive information regarding the Ohio AAPI Legislative Day, the Asian Festival in Columbus, the Cleveland Asian Festival, and the Protecting Civil Rights Town Hall. The website also posts information on past events which the Council supported, such as the *Ohio AAPI Health Conference*.

Additionally, the website provides information on various projects around the state that the Council is involved with. For example, the website provides information on the *B-Free Columbus Project*, the *Breast Health Education and Screenings Project*, and the *Chronic Disease and Diabetes Self-Management Programs* in the state. The website also has a section dedicated to various resources made available by the Council. This includes the publications of the Council (e.g., Reports on the *State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Ohio* and the *Asian American and Pacific Islander Midwest Regional Action Summit*), other publications, and various community contacts (online directory) focused on Asian American activities in Ohio.

In addition to the website, the Council also has a presence on social media. In 2013, the Council launched its Twitter and Facebook handles. The Council's Twitter handle @aapiohio provides quick access to the Council's activities to its followers. The Council's Facebook page, [facebook.com/aapiohio](https://www.facebook.com/aapiohio), provides its followers with the contact information and current activities of the Council.

Together with the website, the Council's social media presence helps keep constituents interested in the Council's activities with up-to-date information on the Council and its involvement with the community in Ohio.

D. Promote participation by members of Ohio's AAPI communities in, and help increase the awareness of, minority business assistance programs offered by state agencies

The OAAPIAC has promoted education about the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)/Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) Unit's role in the State of Ohio's minority business set-aside program. The Council recognizes that Ohio's Asian and Asian American small business owners have been under-represented in their use of this program as well as participation in the EDGE program, which is designed to facilitate access to state government contracts and business services for EDGE certified businesses. Therefore, a special information session on Minority Business Development was planned during this year's Ohio AAPI Legislative Day that included the following topics: (1) Benefits of MBE status for immigrant entrepreneurs, (2) Ohio's Certification process, (3) Contract procurement, (4) Business incentives (incl. tax credits), and (5) International Business and Foreign Direct Investment.

The OAAPIAC has also announced opportunities for below-market interest loans from the *Community Development Financial Institution* (CDFI) and for public/private partnerships to promote international trade to Asian and Asian American business leaders and entrepreneurs throughout Ohio.

E. Reach out to Ohio's AAPI citizens and give them opportunities, as they arise, to participate on policy-making, planning, and decision-making bodies

The OAAPIAC, through its dialogue with Asian community leaders across Ohio, continues to engage and invite participation in its activities. For example, at the University of Cincinnati's celebration of Asian American Heritage Month, Dr. Tom Chung described the OAAPIAC's activities, both state-wide and within the Greater Cincinnati area.

While expansion of Council membership has been on hold for several months, nevertheless, participation is encouraged through its committee structure and through planning of its various activities. The OAAPIAC held a retreat for its members in July, 2014, with a focus on strategic planning. Further, service on other boards, commissions, or through public office is also encouraged. For example, we welcome the recent successful campaign of Niraj Antani, State Representative (R-42nd District), the first Republican Asian American elected to the Ohio House of Representatives and the second Asian Indian to be elected to a state office in Ohio history.

F. Increase opportunities for health screenings of Asians and Pacific Islanders

Optimal prevention and treatment strategies associated with health problems among AAPI population differ from prevailing screenings and treatment practices developed for the general population, due to the diverse linguistic and cultural practices of the various Asian subgroups. Participation in health screenings has been generally low for the AAPI community. Factors that may contribute to low participation are: lack of insurance, lack of access to linguistically appropriate screenings, lack of information about the importance of preventative services and lack of understanding of the need to maintain healthy lifestyle through healthy eating, exercise and avoidance of risky behaviors to maintain physical and mental health. For example, Asian Americans have the lowest rate of screenings for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers. Evidence shows that screenings lead to early detection of disease process and early initiation of treatment lead to better prognosis. Hence AAPI generally are diagnosed at a later stage of disease progression as compared to the general population.

There is a need to increase mental health screenings in the AAPI community. Due to delay in seeking treatment, this population seek treatment only when community and family resources are ineffective in managing the symptoms thus are more severely ill than other groups when using mental health services. Stigma is probably the largest barrier in seeking mental health services among the AAPI group. An effective strategy used in increasing health screening participation in the AAPI community is the utilization of Community Health Advocates. These are individuals representing their respective Asian subgroups who are formally trained on health topics and the need to increase participation in preventative health activities. They recruit individuals and serve as liaisons/interpreters for health screenings. This indigenous model in public health has been very effective in increasing participation in health screenings by AAPI in Ohio.

Health screenings at the *Asian Festival* in Columbus are unique and special services provided at the Festival. In 2013 and 2014, free health screenings include BP screenings, glucose check, cholesterol, osteoporosis, dental, vision, Hepatitis B, mental health, mammogram and cardiovascular assessments and children screenings. Holistic health counseling and medication management service were also provided. Approximately 500-600 participants receive these screenings on a yearly basis. Funding support was from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, Cardinal Health, InHealth, OSU Wexner Medical Center and the ADAMH Board.

Asian Festivals in Cleveland, Dayton and Cincinnati also provide free Health screenings. The 5th *Cleveland Asian Festival* was held on May 17-18, 2014. A key part of the festival is a health fair that provides free screenings and health education. Community health partners include Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, MetroHealth, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA

Medical Center, Aico's Dental Group, Asian Services in Action, and Cleveland Department of Public Health. Screenings include vision, blood pressure, body mass index, glucose, cholesterol, lead testing, mammogram (by appointment), sleep disorders, bone density, HIV, and dental. Volunteer interpreters were also on hand to help translate many Asian languages for the health screenings. Combined over 1,650 screenings were provided.

These festivals are all in the month of May in conjunction with the celebration of the Asian American Heritage month.

In November 2013, Asian Services in Action (ASIA) became the first Ohio AAPI centered federally qualified health center. At full capacity they will provide 3,000+ low income limited English proficient individuals with primary care. This is a remarkable accomplishment of this agency.

The ACA of Cincinnati had a Project HOPE (Helping Our People through Empowerment) where they established helpline for participants. They also conducted 3 focus groups - Indian, Japanese and Vietnamese communities and 1 men's event. They addressed the issue of domestic violence through training of community leaders. This was done in partnership with Alliance for Immigrant Women in Cincinnati.

B-free Columbus project:

The Ohio Asian American Health Coalition (OAAHC) received a grant award from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to enable early identification of the hepatitis B virus (HBV) and linkage to care among foreign-born Asian and African-populations. Hepatitis B is a serious health disparity in the Asian and African subcontinent. Manju Sankarappa, Project Director, Dr. Yung-Chen Lu, Principle Investigator, and Dr. Cora Munoz, Trainer, are all members of the Health Issues and the Health Care System Committee of the OAAPIAC. For the past two funding periods, 2,800 screenings were done. This is a very successful project in terms of Hepatitis B awareness and education as well as detection through blood test. In March 2014, NPR aired news brief on this health issue. In addition to educating the communities, this program also provided physicians' information about hepatitis B. In extensive outreach to various Asian and African populations, screenings and education were held at faith-based community sites such as temples, churches, clinics and community events such as the Indian festival, Ghana festival, Asian festival, grocery stores and religious activities. Other health screenings were provided in these events through collaborations with medical and nursing schools.

Refugee screenings for depression, stress, anxiety and trauma:

The Community Refugee and Immigration services (CRIS) provide services to address the issues of refugees such as depression, stress, anxiety, and effects of trauma. They provide mental health screenings for the Bhutanese/Nepalese since depression and suicide is prevalent in this group. The goal is have a refugee community that is healthy and the

resettled refugees are able to become self sufficient and integrated into the community at large. The Wellness/health program is coordinated by Kelly Yotebieng and Sarah Miller.

Other Health screenings:

- a. Mammogram screenings /OSU Diversity Enhancement at the James Clinic
- b. Southeast Asian Women’s Health Project - Jennifer Kue PhD PI OSU College of Nursing

Asian Mental Health Screenings:

Mental health screenings were conducted at the Asian Festival through funding from ADAMH with Cora Munoz PhD, R.N as the project director. One hundred and twenty one participants completed 4 inventories on depression, generalized anxiety, mood disorder and post- traumatic stress disorder. There were several challenges in this mental health screenings. The perception of mental illness in the AAPI community is highly stigmatized and therefore acknowledgement of mental health problem is problematic and has implications to seeking treatment.

G. Develop community health education efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of chronic illnesses and mental health conditions affecting Ohio’s AAPI community and any available treatment plans

The Chronic Disease Self- Management Program (CDSMP) is a community education initiative for the Asian community utilizing the evidenced based Stanford Curriculum. Workshops were provided to the Asian community on Healthy U Chronic Disease Self-Management Program and Diabetes Self-Management Program (CDSMP/DSMP) through the support of Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA) and the Ohio Department of Aging. This six week workshop is designed to help individuals better manage their Chronic health condition including Diabetes and gain control of their health! Free workshops were provided in various venues in the state of Ohio. Dr. Cora Munoz and Manju Sankarappa from the OAAHC are master trainers and Stanford University certified lay facilitators.

In the area of physical health and chronic disease. ASIA is leading a multi-sector coalition which includes ethnic voluntary social organizations, cultural/language schools, public health, local foundations, and refugee resettlement organizations to utilize policy, system, and environmental strategies to reduce obesity, increase physical fitness, and support healthy eating. To date the project has impacted over 30,000 AAPIs in the Greater Cleveland area.

For the past 20 years, Dr Yung Chen-Lu with support from Life Care Alliance has been providing hot meals in congregate settings at Asian restaurants that are pre-certified for healthy and nutritious meals. This program is offered every day of the week with an average participation of 100-110 Asian elderly. They receive brief health education information such as healthy eating, the benefits of water and how to manage emotions. This program is very successful in minimizing social isolation of the Asian elderly thus improving their mental health as well as their physical health.

Free Clinic for Asians at Rardin Family Practice at OSU has been in operation for 19 years. Volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, medical and nursing students staff this clinic. This was initiated by Dr. Yung Chen-Lu with support from OSU Wexner Medical center. Primary care is provided to the Asian patients through interpreters.

Lack of dental services in the Asian community has been identified as a serious problem. The need for these services has been recognized by the community leaders. This issue is being explored through a collaborative effort of the OSU Dental School, the Asian Dental Alumni Society, the Asian Health Initiative and the Asian Festival. The goal is to provide basic dental care and extraction. The biggest challenge is to seek funding to provide this service.

The 6th OAAHC Health Conference was held on Dec 7 and 8, 2013 at the University of Toledo with a theme "*Journey to a Healthier Future*". This conference was supported by a grant from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health, ProMedica of Cleveland , the University of Toledo Medical College, the Association of Pacific & Asian American Medical Student Association and the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition. The development of a pamphlet about AAPI health concerns is consistent with the HHS goal of increasing cultural competency of clinicians and other health care providers. A brochure is being developed acknowledging the need to provide health care providers particularly physicians with information about health concerns of Asian clients and how to provide culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate service

H. Encourage compliance with such prescribed treatment plans and culturally relevant approaches to treatment

The OAAPIAC recognizes the following cultural and linguistic factors that are related to medical or psychological treatment outcomes and encourages the development of standards to ensure culturally relevant approaches to such treatment:

- Implicit bias and prejudice
- On-going cultural competency training of health care providers.

- Diversity of the workforce
- Linguistic needs
- Formal training/certification of community health advocates
- Interpreter training
- Mental health education/screenings
- Follow up from community health advocates

The Council makes the following specific recommendations:

1. Train community health advocates working with their respective communities and increase health screenings for Asians.
2. Provide translated materials for those with limited English proficiency but are literate in their own language.
3. Train Chronic Disease Self-Management Program lay leaders from targeted Asian communities, thereby enabling program implementation in the language of service recipients.
4. Develop strategies for state-wide mental health screenings.
5. Provide additional comprehensive health screenings including mental health, dental health and vision tests at the *Asian Festival* in Columbus and at comparable events in other regions
6. Continue education on the Federal Affordable Care Act to maximize the rate of health coverage.

I. Help increase awareness regarding Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, Asian festivals, and other AAPI activities throughout Ohio

The OAAPIAC plans to continue developing its online presence, adding to its *events calendar* so that Asian leaders throughout Ohio can have ready access to information about the API Heritage Month, Asian Festival, and other AAPI activities throughout Ohio.

