



November 13, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

We thank you for your leadership on the Bipartisan Budget Act, which was an important first step in protecting Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities from harmful sequestration cuts in non-defense priorities that would have disproportionately impacted important programs focusing on language access, diversity and equality that already are underfunded. As a coalition of 35 national organizations that represents the interests of AANHPI communities, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) urges you to consider the following programmatic funding priorities to better serve our communities.

Throughout the budget and appropriations process, NCAPA has made more than 30 funding requests for programs across the federal government that would impact AANHPI. We would like to highlight several of these priorities and the real difference they could make in our communities:

- **Immigrant Integration and Citizenship program:** NCAPA urges \$10 million for this program in the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. This program funds organizations that help immigrants prepare for citizenship. Two-thirds of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are foreign-born, and the current immigration system does not fully meet the comprehensive needs of immigrants. Integration grants provide culturally sensitive services to assist immigrants in overcoming integration barriers. Congress authorized that \$10 million in fee revenue could fund this program in FY 2015, and we support at least a continued authorization but preferably direct appropriations at this level.
- **Community Relations Service (CRS):** NCAPA urges \$14.446 million for this office in the Department of Justice. CRS provides resources and tools to address community conflicts that arise from racial and ethnic tensions. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders continue to face

racial and religious bias in neighborhoods, classrooms, and at work. Anti-immigrant legislation and rhetoric is increasing racial tensions, and National Center for Education statistics show that AAPI teens are bullied more than other ethnic groups. With this climate, there is a strong need for the efforts of CRS. This program was funded at \$12.250 million in FY 2015.

- **Asian American & Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI):** NCAPA urges \$30 million to strengthen the AANAPISI grant program in the Department of Education. This program addresses the unique challenges of Asian American and Pacific Islander students in college access and completion. It helps to develop curriculum and academic instruction; enhance tutoring, counseling, and other student support programs; and establish community outreach programs that encourage AAPI elementary and secondary school students to develop academic skills. This program was funded at a mere \$3.113 million in FY 2015.
- **Racial and Ethnic Approach to Community Health (REACH) program:** NCAPA urges \$50 million for this program under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). REACH has historically provided direct support to racial and ethnic minority communities with the highest rates of health morbidity and mortality and the greatest burden of disease, to develop sustainable solutions for their health issues. REACH has a decade of documented success in engaging AAPI communities in addressing the underlying conditions of chronic disease. This program was funded at \$30 million in FY 2015.
- **Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant (NHHBG) program:** NCAPA urges \$9 million for this program in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This program funds housing and community developments for low-income Native Hawaiian communities. As the only block grant specifically designed to assist Native Hawaiians, the NHHBG program provides affordable housing services for low-income Native Hawaiians eligible to reside on Hawaiian Home lands; financial assistance; housing counseling; and acquisition and rehabilitation of affordable housing. This program was funded at \$9 million in FY 2015, and we support its sustained, level funding.
- **Office of Housing Counseling:** NCAPA urges \$65 million for this Office in the Department of Housing and Urban Development. This Office provides housing counseling, including language-capable housing counselors that are especially critical for many at-risk, limited English proficient (LEP) homeowners. One third of AAPI are considered to be LEP, which make us highly susceptible to loan scams and mortgage fraud, and housing counselors can help to protect these customers from these predatory practices by helping them to manage their finances, maintain mortgage payment schedules, and avoid foreclosure. This program was funded at \$47 million in FY 2015.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that these programs—and all of our priorities—are integrated into the final appropriations legislation. We also urge Congress not to include any ideological policy riders that would harm our communities and unnecessarily politicize the funding necessary to keep our government running. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Kelly Honda, Policy and Membership Manager at 202-706-6768.

Sincerely,



Christopher Kang
National Director

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans
1629 K Street NW Ste 400
Washington, DC 20006

Full list of appropriations priorities (alphabetical by agency):

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Food and Nutrition Service	Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	\$6.684 billion
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	Food Safety Outreach Program	\$5 million
Office of Advocacy and Outreach	Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program (2501 Program)	\$10 million
Rural Business-Cooperative Services	Value-Added Producer Grants (VAPG)	\$15 million
Rural Business-Cooperative Services	Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) program	\$2.5 million
Rural Business-Cooperative Services	Rural Microenterprise Investment Program	\$4.653 million

U.S. Department of Commerce

Bureau of the Census	\$1.5 billion
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U.S. Department of Education

Higher Education	Federal TRIO Programs	\$859.8 million
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Higher Education	Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)	\$301.6 million
Higher Education	Strengthening Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	\$12.8 million
Higher Education	Strengthening Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions	\$30 million
School Improvement	Native Hawaiian Student Education	\$34.2 million
Student Financial Assistance	Pell Grants	\$22.5 billion (discretionary)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

CDC	National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion (NCCDPHP)	\$1.1 billion
CDC	National Center for Health Statistics	\$148 million
CDC	Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH)	\$50 million
HRSA	Bureau of Primary Health Care- Health Center Program	\$4.2 billion
HRSA	Native Hawaiian Health Care	\$14.4 million
OS-OASH	Office of Minority Health	\$65 million

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Office of the Secretary and Executive Management	Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	\$20.954 million
US Citizenship and Immigration Services	287(g)	Eliminate the program
US Citizenship and Immigration Services	Immigrant Integration and Citizenship Program	\$10 million

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Community Planning and Development	HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$1.6 billion
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Office of Housing	Housing Counseling Assistance Program	\$65 million
Office of Housing	Housing of the Elderly (Section 202)	\$455 million
Public and Indian Housing	Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant (NHHBG) Program	\$9 million
Public and Indian Housing	Native Hawaiian Loan Guarantee Fund (Section 184a)	\$100,000

U.S. Department of Interior

National Park Service- National Recreation and Preservation	Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants	\$3 million
Office of Insular Affairs	Assistance to Territories	\$99.66 million

U.S. Department of Justice

Community Relations Service	\$14.446 million
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U.S. Department of Labor

ETA	WIOA Title I State Formula Grants (Adult, Dislocated Workers, and Youth)	\$1.61 million
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Other

Legal Services Corporation	\$486.9 million
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	\$373.112 million

cc:

Senator Thad Cochran, Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
 Senator Barbara Milkulski, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee
 Representative Hal Rogers, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
 Representative Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee
 Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus