

Obama Administration Record for the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community

“When any of our citizens are unable to fulfill their potential due to factors that have nothing to do with their talent, character, or work ethic, then I believe there's a role for our government to play.”

- President Barack Obama, October 14, 2009

President Obama knows that putting Americans back to work is job one. But we have to do more. We have to reclaim the security the middle class has lost by restoring the basic values that made our country great. America prospers when we're all in it together; when hard work pays off and responsibility is rewarded; when everyone, from Main Street to Wall Street, does their fair share and plays by the same rules. The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has made tremendous contributions to our nation, but still faces challenges. That's why President Obama signed an executive order reestablishing the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders which has worked to improve the quality of life and opportunities for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by facilitating increased access to and participation in Federal programs, and ensuring educational opportunities for AAPI students. The Obama Administration's record for the AAPI community includes:

- **Restoring Economic Security to Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Families:** In the last 23 months, 3.7 million private sector jobs have been created and putting Americans back to work and restoring economic security for middle class families remain the President's top priorities. He has taken a series of steps to spur economic growth, get Americans back to work, and restore middle class security.
 - **Taking Action to Strengthen the Recovery:** The President fought to continue the payroll tax cut into 2012, ensuring that taxes do not go up on nearly 7.6 million AAPI workers, and to extend unemployment insurance so that Americans looking for work do not lose this crucial support. In addition, the President has put forward a broader jobs package that would cut taxes for small businesses, put teachers and first responders back on the job, help the unemployed get back to work, and rebuild our infrastructure.
 - **Helping AAPI-Owned Businesses Grow and Hire:** The success of the 1.5 million AAPI-owned businesses in the United States, which employ more than 2.8 million workers, is critical to our economy.
 - **Cutting Taxes and Expanding Access to Credit for AAPI-owned Businesses:** President Obama has helped AAPI firms by cutting taxes for small businesses and helping them get the loans they need to grow and hire, including signing into law 17 small business tax cuts and taking action to expand access to credit. Between 2009 and 2011, over \$9 billion through more than 18,000 Small Business Administration loans went to AAPI small businesses.

incidence rates are among the highest in the United States for Laotian American, Samoan American, Vietnamese American, and Cambodian American women. The Affordable Care Act helps reduce these disparities by ensuring that people who join new health insurance plans can receive recommended preventive services, including a range of cancer screenings, with no additional out-of-pocket costs. As a result of these reforms, nearly 3 million Asian Americans are receiving expanded preventive services coverage in the private health insurance market and over 500,000 Asian Americans received free preventive services through Medicare in 2011.

- **Making College More Affordable for AAPI Students and Families:** By re-directing subsidies from private lenders to students, the Administration has already raised the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,550, and it will increase again to \$5,635 in 2013. Meanwhile, the number of Pell Grant recipients has risen by 3 million – a 50 percent increase since 2008 – demonstrating the need for this critical program. Also, for families struggling with the cost of college, we’ve created the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) — a partially refundable tax credit worth up to \$10,000 over four years of college.
- **Strengthening Higher Education Institutions that Serve AAPI Students:** Through the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Program, the Obama Administration is strengthening higher education institutions that serve Asian Americans, Native Americans, and Pacific Islanders. The FY 2013 Budget provides \$8.1 million in grants to allow these institutions to improve their academic programs, institutional management, and fiscal stability as well as serve high-need and limited English proficiency communities.
- **Reforming Legal Immigration and Immigration Enforcement:** Since 2009, the Administration has made significant improvements to our legal immigration system, including better protecting American workers through reforms to the temporary work visa program; improving immigration services and resources provided to military families; reducing barriers for high-skilled immigrants; making our immigrant detention system safer and more humane; and providing more staff and better training to our immigration courts. The Administration is also focusing its enforcement resources so that convicted criminals and those who pose a threat to public safety are prioritized for deportation, and that resources are not focused on low-enforcement priorities, such as individuals brought to the United States as children or those with strong community and family ties.
- **Promoting Safe and Secure Jobs for AAPI Workers:** The White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders has partnered with the Department of Labor to work with community organizations to translate materials into Asian languages to engage at-risk AAPI workers to ensure safe and healthy work conditions.

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