



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food
and Agriculture

2015 AAPI

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Providing Research, Education, and Extension Opportunities
for Our Nation's *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders*

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE



FROM THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population is projected to reach 35.6 million in the next 40 years, making it the fastest growing racial group in the country. They provide innumerable contributions to the agriculture and food enterprise of our nation. However, this expanding group faces challenges in the areas of education, civil rights, language barriers, health, and economic development.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) are proud to partner with our land-grant universities, state and local governments, other federal agencies, and professional organizations to find solutions to these critical issues. Through programs such as the Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Competitive Grants Program, Resident Instruction Grants, and Distance Education Grants for Institutions of Higher Education in Insular Areas, students from these under-represented groups are finding career opportunities in the areas of agricultural research, education, and extension. Other NIFA-supported programs such as the

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, Community Food Projects, and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program are turning research into action—bringing groundbreaking discoveries from research laboratories to farms, communities, and classrooms to benefit Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in countless and innovative ways.

While much work remains to address the unmet needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, NIFA is committed to improving access to grants and funding opportunities and fostering partnerships with AAPI communities. These efforts are contributing to USDA's goals in support of the White House's Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders, which aims to improve the quality of life and opportunities for all of our nation's Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.



SONNY RAMASWAMY

NIFA's mission is to invest in and advance agricultural research, education, and extension to solve societal challenges. To better understand NIFA's role within AAPI communities, it is important to note that the challenges and needs of these groups vary widely. The Land-Grant University System is committed to recognizing and addressing their unique differences at the state and local level. NIFA supports three AAPI-specific programs:

DISTANCE EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INSULAR AREAS

The program strengthens the capacity of higher education institutions to use distance education technology to carry out resident instruction, curriculum, and teaching programs.

ALASKA NATIVE- AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN-SERVING INSTITUTIONS EDUCATION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

This program helps improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability these institutions as they increase their self-sufficiency and capacity to serve low-income students.

RESIDENT INSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INSULAR AREAS (RIIA)

RIIA strengthens the instruction and curriculum capacity of insular area institutions and enhances the quality of their food and agricultural-related sciences.

MAKING AN IMPACT

HEALTH

CHILDREN'S HEALTHY LIVING (CHL) PROGRAM SERVES UNDERSERVED MINORITY POPULATIONS IN THE PACIFIC REGION

The University of Hawaii at Manoa administers CHL, which received a \$25 million, five-year AFRI grant in 2011. This Childhood Obesity Prevention project works through a network of partners in local communities to improve child nutrition and healthy living practices for remote underserved minority populations in Alaska, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, and Hawaii. The project has provided scholarships to 22 students in food, nutrition, and public health, and in appropriate research and evaluation methods; developed Pacific Tracker (PacTrac), a data system specifically for collecting Pacific food and activity; conducted appropriate interventions at selected school and daycare facilities for program participants; and examined preschool wellness policies.

EDUCATION

GRANT AWARDS TOTAL ALMOST \$46 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

In fiscal year 2014, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions (AANAPISIs) received almost \$46 million in NIFA funding through research and extension capacity grants; grants targeting insular institutions and native Alaska-serving and Hawaiian native-serving institutions; and competitive grant programs, including NIFA's flagship grant program, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). **The University of Guam Cooperative Extension Service** (UOG-CES), supported with both agricultural capacity and competitive grant

funds, provides research-based knowledge to the people of Guam through innovative community programs that foster positive change. In 2012, the UOG-CES 4-H Development and Communities program used experiential learning workshops to teach positive life skills to 5,625 youth.



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ALASKA NATIVE-SERVING AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN-SERVING INSTITUTIONS EDUCATION COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

The University of Hawaii's Agribusiness Education, Training, and Incubation (AETI) project develops and expands the local agricultural and food production workforce through education, training, and more productive agribusiness. Twenty-one new courses and five new degree and certificate programs increased the University of Hawaii's capacity to educate students in related areas; as a result, 324 students of AETI-supported programs found employment. In addition, more than 80 new agribusinesses opened their doors, and existing businesses reported an average profit increase of 290 percent and an employment increase of 29 percent each year.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANTS

In fiscal year 2014, NIFA awarded more than \$18 million in grants to educate, mentor, and enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers. While 38 projects were awarded across the nation, two noteworthy projects targeted the AAPI community.

The first of these awards helped the **Hmong American Partnership** provide education to 500 new Hmong farmers and help 50 Hmong refugee farmers expand their businesses. The **University of Hawaii** received the other award to train new farmers, enrolling 225 students who will develop comprehensive plans to start businesses of their own.

AMERICAN SAMOA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION CONTINUES TO SUPPORT FAMILIES, YOUTH, AND COMMUNITIES

Through agricultural extension and research capacity grant funding, **American Samoa Community College** support Samoan families with family resource management programs, such as workshops on sewing, arts and crafts, Samoan culture, nutrition demonstrations, and establishing vegetable gardens. These activities not only improve the quality of life for American Samoans but also contribute to their economic well-being through an increase in the number of home-based businesses.

LANGUAGE ACCESS

HELPING HMONG FARMERS OVERCOME THE LANGUAGE BARRIER

The AAPI Limited English Proficiency Resource Center provides education and technical assistance to AAPIs with limited English proficiency so they may access USDA



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resources. The center identifies existing and emerging resources, prioritizes topics, and translates material for audio dissemination—all of which help AAPI farmers and fisherman build successful farm and rural enterprises. Hmong community members guide the center, which is supported by several USDA agencies and managed by the **North Central Regional Center for Rural Development** at **Michigan State University**.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION-FRESNO COUNTY SUPPORTS HMONG, LAO COMMUNITIES

The University of California (UC) Cooperative Extension-Fresno County serves Hmong and Lao communities through the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and the Small Farms Program by conducting workshops in both English and Hmong languages and providing resources in Hmong on their website. The training, “Eating Smart-Being Active,” is offered in both English and Hmong. A designated field assistant, fluent in Hmong and Lao languages, is also employed by the **UC Cooperative Extension Central Valley Region** and the **UC Small Farm Center** to assist Southeast Asian growers in Fresno County. •

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NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and seeks to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges. Learn more by visiting WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV or following [@USDA_NIFA](https://twitter.com/USDA_NIFA) on Twitter.