



Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are one of the fastest-growing populations in the United States. In Illinois, this diverse and often over-looked community of over 473,000 includes Americans of Bangladeshi, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Nepali, Pacific Islander, Pakistani, Thai, Tibetan and Vietnamese descent.

Asian American Institute (AAI) is a pan-Asian, non-partisan, not for profit 501(c)(3) organization, whose mission is to empower the Asian American and Pacific Islander community through advocacy, by utilizing coalition building, education, and research.

AAI was established in 1992 by a group of Asian American community activists, academic professionals, and business leaders in response to the need for this fast-growing population to develop consensus on a pan-Asian agenda among Chicago's diverse Asian Pacific American communities.

Specifically, the Institute works to empower the Asian American (AA) & Pacific Islander (PI) communities by:

- Increasing public understanding about AA & PI communities,
- Advocating for policies that promote social, economic, educational and political equity of the Asian American community as a whole,
- Encouraging active civic participation through education and advocating for equal rights,
- Working in partnership with and supporting like-minded organizations and individuals to build positive interracial and inter-ethnic relations.

Publications include:

- Asian American Compass: A Guide to Navigating the Community
- Understanding Asian Americans in Metropolitan Chicago
- A Piece of the Puzzle: Including Asian Pacific Americans in a Multicultural Curriculum

We work with other like-minded organizations to stand united on issues of common interests. In 2005, AAI became an affiliate of the Asian American Justice Center (formerly National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium), a national organization that works to advance the human and civil rights of Asian Americans through advocacy, public policy, public education, and litigation.