

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER INITIATIVE

I. ACCESS TO AND UTILIZATION OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

GOAL 1: Improve health and well being of AAPIs by increasing their access to and utilization of health and human services.

Objective 1.1: Develop strategies to eliminate the disparities and increase AAPI participation in major preventive health activities.

Key Agency Activity: ORR-funded programs in the States provide preventive health screening, referral and immunizations to all refugees arriving in the U.S. Many of these refugees are Asian.

Lead Entity: ORR

Time Frame Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: Preventive Health grants are awarded to States.

2. Identify and develop models for screening, treatment and prevention options for AAPIs, as well as other immigrants, and ensure adequacy of immigrant and refugee medical screening requirements to evolving emerging infectious disease threats.

Key Agency Activity: ORR has developed a preventive health screening protocol for arriving refugees. The protocol is made available to all States and entities performing screening.

Lead Entity: ORR

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: All entities performing refugee health screenings have and use protocol. Protocol will be updated by FY 1999 to reflect new immunization requirements for refugees.

3. Provide continuing support for HIV/STD/TB surveillance, prevention and treatment activities targeting AAPIs in the U.S. associated Pacific Island jurisdictions and the continental U.S.

Key Agency Activity: Refugees are screened for HIV overseas before being admitted to the U.S. All refugees are tested for STDs and TB as part of the refugee preventive health screening. Positive result are subjected to surveillance and appropriate treatment.

Lead Entity: ORR

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: ORR preventive health grants are awarded.

10. Mental health and substance abuse prevention, and treatment services

Key Agency Activity:

- A. ORR has 14 current projects dealing with Asian youth at risk. These include five projects focusing on youth employment and nine focused on family and community stability. They serve Cambodian, Vietnamese, Hmong and other Indochinese, as well as Amerasian youth.

Lead Entity: ORR

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: Fund continuation of grants in FY 1998

- B. Address the issues of access to mental health services for AAPI immigrant and refugee populations by synthesizing knowledge about culturally- and linguistically- appropriate ways to work with families experiencing trauma. ORR has funded 14 grants dealing with mental health issues confronting Asian refugees. These projects deal with training professionals and paraprofessionals to provide language and culture competent services, to integrate mental health services with other refugee services, to provide support to victims of torture and national technical assistance and coordination of local mental health services to Asian refugees.

Lead Entity: ORR

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: Fund continuation of grants in FY 1998

Objective 1.4 Develop strategies for increasing AAPI community participation in selected human service programs.

1. Head Start expansion: The Administration places a high priority on expanding Head Start to the nation's low-income infant and toddlers and pre-school-age children. Presently 3% of all children enrolled in Head Start are Asian American or enrolled in a Head Start program targeted specifically to the Pacific Islands. Presently, in eight states, Asian American children in excess of the 3% national average are enrolled in Head Start. As Head Start enrollment continues to increase, Head Start's expansion funding guidance will continue to encourage applicants to initiate or expand services for unserved and underserved populations. Regional Office staff will identify locations of underserved/unserved populations and identify methods to expand outreach to AAPI families to increase their participation in both Early Head Start (infants and toddlers) and Head Start for 3-5 year olds.

Key Agency Activity: ACYF will encourage Regional Office staff to identify potential applicants in traditionally underserved or unserved areas and encourage expansion applicants to initiate services in these areas. Expansion application reviews will determine if applicants propose services for formerly unserved/underserved population.

Lead Entity: ACYF, Head Start Bureau

Time Frame: Fiscal Years 1997 through 2002

Measurable Outcome: Increased numbers of target population enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start programs as measured on the annual Head Start Program Information Report.

2. Elderly Initiatives:

Key Agency Activity:A. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) has issued \$9.5 million in 20 grants to assist non-citizen seniors, admitted to the U.S. as refugees, to apply for citizenship and to increase cooperation between refugee serving organizations and Area Agencies on Aging. These cooperative arrangements will result in elderly refugees who are at risk of losing SSI and Food Stamps, receiving linguistically-appropriate services. The majority of refugees served in this program will be from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

Lead Entity: ORR

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: Fund continuation of grants in FY 1998

B. Identify best program practices and effective outreach efforts to elderly in AAPI communities in cooperation with the aging network of State and Area Agencies on Aging and service providers.

Lead Entity: ORR

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: Evaluate proposals to continue grant funding. Fund grants in FY 1998

3. Child Care Program: Outreach to AAPI communities to provide consumer education regarding child care alternatives, locating safe and affordable services and insuring the provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate care, particularly for TANF recipients.

Key Agency Activity: A child care grant to a Native Hawaiian organization (in Hawaii) will provide outreach to AAPI communities through consumer education on child care activities, including the provision of direct child care services to Native Hawaiian families. Through this grant Native Hawaiian families will receive child care assistance which is culturally and linguistically appropriate.

Lead Entity: ACYF Child Care Bureau,

Time Frame: Grant period: January 1998 - January 2001

Measurable Outcome: For the three-year period, an average 280 Native Hawaiian children will receive daily child care subsidized by the CCDF program.

4. Child Support: Outreach to AAPI communities to provide consumer education regarding the importance of child support, the fatherhood initiative, and child support enforcement provisions in law.

Key Agency Activity: The Office of Child Support Enforcement, Division of Consumer Services was established to provide consumer education and outreach activities regarding the nation's child support

enforcement program. An initial activity was to translate a child support pamphlet into Vietnamese and in collaboration with the Office of Refugee Resettlement, share the publication with the Vietnamese community through mutual assistance associations. Also, OCSE has developed and updates on a regular basis, its WEB site as place for provide timely and useful information to all consumers. The Office is continually updating and expanding the mailing list for its flagship publication, Child Support Report, to inform the public about the program. Furthermore, a customer service workgroup was developed with our state partners. This Workgroup has begun to look at issues related to providing high quality services to those in need of child support services or those who should be providing child support to their children.

Lead Entity: OCSE, Division of Consumer Services

Time Frame: On-going

Measurable Outcome: We will develop at least one article for the Child Support Report of particular interest and relevance to the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community in the next 6 months.

Increased information on the OCSE WEB site of interest and value to our customers including Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

II. ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER DATA

GOAL 2: Increase and improve collection of data on AAPIs

Key Agency Activity: OPRE has developed an inventory of ACF data collection systems which contain data elements on race/ethnicity of program participants. The inventory and a memorandum outlining the HHS policy regarding the inclusion of information on race and ethnicity in HHS data collection systems have been provided to programs. OPRE will monitor the implementation of AAPI initiative by programs.

Lead Entity: Howard Rolston, Director, OPRE, represents ACF in the Department's Data Council. K.A. Jagannathan of OPRE is a member of the Data Council's Working Group on Race and Ethnicity.

Time Frame: The implementation of HHS policy on race and ethnicity data as this relates to AAPI initiative, is an ongoing activity.

Measurable Outcomes: Universal compliance of ACF programs with the new HHS policy for the collection of race/ethnicity categories will serve as a measurable outcome.

III. RESEARCH ON ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HEALTH

GOAL 3: Increase the number of funded research projects and programs targeted towards AAPIs.

Objective 3.2: Evaluate the impact of major health and human services changes, including welfare reform and coverage of uninsured children, on the access to care and services of the AAPI populations.

Key Agency Activity: OPRE will make active efforts to identify projects which impact on the economic well-being of Asian Americans for evaluation and fund projects in those geographical areas in which there are sizable concentrations of Asian American populations.

Lead Entity: As the lead entity within ACF for funding research and evaluation projects on welfare reform and human services, OPRE will focus on the information gaps that exist relating to service needs of Asian American populations in conducting its RD&E activities.

Measurable Outcome: OPRE expects to fund one project in FY 1998 which focuses on the socio-economic circumstances of Asian American populations.

Objective 3.4: Include AAPIs in ongoing crosscutting research on health and human services issues, in developing new survey instruments, and by involving researchers familiar with AAPI issues in review groups and advisory panels.

1. Encourage effective working relationships between community-based organizations and the research community. This will strengthen participation of AAPI communities in research efforts, and encourage entry of AAPIs into community-based research careers.

Key Agency Activity: ORR will work with NIH to assure that community based refugee organizations with research capabilities are included in solicitations for grant proposals

Lead Entity: ORR

Time Frame: FY 1998

Measurable Outcome: Inclusion of these organizations in NIH solicitations.

V. WORKFORCE AND PARTICIPATION IN HHS OPERATIONS

GOAL 5: Ensure that issues affecting underserved AAPI populations are addressed through representation in the HHS work force and participation in HHS operations.

Objective 5.1: Increase the representation of AAPI employees on advisory boards, strategic planning committees, and task forces.

Key Agency Activity: Seek appropriate representation of AAPIs in the establishment of an advisory panel whose responsibility will be to develop a report on kinship care.

Lead Entity: ACYF Children's Bureau

Time Frame: FY 1998

Measurable Outcome: Number of AAPIs on the advisory panel and the percentage of membership they represent vs. the percentage AAPIs represent in the national population.

Objective 5.2: Partner with AAPI national and local research and policy organizations to identify external AAPI community representatives to participate in HHS grant programs and other internal/external activities.

Key Agency Activity: Regional Office/grantee collaboration with AAPI community organizations.

Lead Entity: ACYF Head Start Bureau

Time Frame: 1997-2002

Key Agency Activity: The 4-member review panel "Native Hawaiian and Nonprofit American Indian Organization Child Care Grants" panel review included a Native Hawaiian individual with experience in working in Native Hawaiian community-based organizations.

Lead Entity: ACYF Child Care Bureau

Time Frame: Panel conducted September 29-October 1, 1997.

Objective 5.3: Provide technical assistance to AAPI community organizations on HHS programs and activities, to increase both these organizations' knowledge base and capacity to participate, and HHS program staff awareness of AAPI health and human services issues.

Key Agency Activity: Provide technical assistance through national resource centers to State agencies and community-based organizations in response to requests from these entities regarding child welfare-related issues which impact AAPIs. The Children's Bureau currently funds nine (9) National Child Welfare Centers to provide technical assistance to child welfare State systems and private, non-profit service providers related to: (1) respite and crisis care services; (2) abandoned infants assistance; (3) child maltreatment; (4) organizational improvement; (5) family centered practice; (6) legal and court issues; (7) permanency planning; (8) special needs adoption; and (9) youth services.

Lead Entity: ACYF Children's Bureau

Time Frame: FY 1998

Objective 5.4: Develop strategies for increasing recruitment of senior level AAPIs to SES and other line positions in HHS agencies.

Key Agency Activity: OCS will participate in ACF initiatives to increase Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) representation on advisory/planning groups and discretionary grant review panels, and in initiatives to assure that information on grant and contract opportunities is appropriately disseminated, in order to increase OCS staff awareness of AAPI human services issues, and to increase the pool of AAPI candidates/applicants for advisory/planning groups, grants, and contracts. For example, OCS will participate in ACF activities to develop data bases with information on AAPI organizations, etc., to use for information dissemination, as appropriate.

Lead Entity: OCS

Time Frame: ongoing

VI. CROSS CUTTING COLLABORATION TO ENHANCE HHS CUSTOMER SERVICE TO AAPIs

GOAL 6: Enhance HHS capacity to serve Asian American and Pacific Islander customers.

Objective 6.1: Improve collaboration within the Department to increase coordinated approaches to meeting AAPI customer needs.

Key Agency Activity: ACF will collaborate with the National Center for Health Statistics in funding the 1998 National Prevention Supplement to the National Health Interview Survey. ACF's contribution is expected to yield useful data on the health needs of Asian American populations among others.

Lead Entity: OPRE is the lead entity in coordinating ACF's participation in the funding of National Prevention Supplement.

Measurable Outcomes: Survey results

Objective 6.2: Ensure that HHS programs and initiatives meet the needs of AAPIs by strengthening partnerships with AAPI community organizations.

2. Each HHS division/program should identify opportunities to research customer needs and customer satisfaction with services delivered to AAPI communities and clients. Divisions and programs should seek opportunities to (1) solicit advice from AAPI community groups, and (2) involve AAPI communities in materials development and decision making on customer service strategies and improvements.

Key Agency Activity: ORR national conference and regional technical assistance meetings are a vehicle through which AAPI customer needs and satisfaction are sought.

Lead Entity: ORR

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: Conference reports document results of process.

Key Agency Activity: OCS will participate in initiatives to identify opportunities to research customer needs and customer satisfaction with services delivered to AAPI communities and clients, by soliciting advice from AAPI community groups. OCS is currently consulting with Asian Americans to discuss and plan Family Violence Prevention and Services Program efforts to address domestic violence issues in Asian American communities. OCS grantees, including community action agencies, provide outreach and information dissemination and involve communities in needs assessment and program planning and evaluation.

Lead Entity: OCS

Time Frame: Ongoing

ATTACHMENT
DEPARTMENTAL INITIATIVES

Welfare to Work:

Children's Health Care:

Address the particular abuse prevention and child developmental needs of various minority communities.

Key Agency Activity: Encourage States, through the Community-Based Family Resource and Support Grants Program, to develop child abuse and neglect prevention and family support programs in communities with AAPIs.

Lead Entity: ACYF Children's Bureau

Time Frame: Starting in 1998 and beyond

Measurable Outcome: Decrease in numbers of reports of child abuse and neglect relating to AAPI families.

Childhood Immunization:

Requirements that children using federal child care assistance receive immunization may not reach children who are cared for under informal community networks, as often the case in AAPI communities, as well as other immigrant groups. Search for alternative outreach that takes advantage of the need for child care.

Key Agency Activity: The Healthy Child Care American Campaign was launched in 1995 as a collaborative effort of health care professionals, child care providers, and families of children in child care, working in partnership to improve the health and well-being of children in child care settings. One of the goals of this campaign is to provide up-to-date and easily accessible immunizations for children in child care (including those in informal community settings).

Lead Entity: ACYF Child Care Bureau, in conjunction with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau/HHS and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Time Frame: Ongoing

Teenage Pregnancy Prevention:

Include communities with AAPIs in programs such as Community Coalition Partnership program, Adolescent Family Life Program, Independent Living Program, Community Schools Program, Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, Drug Treatment and Prevention Programs, and Young Men/Family Planning Partnership Training Program.

Key Agency Activity: When possible, fund Runaway and Homeless Youth programs in geographic areas with high concentrations of AAPI youth to provide services directly to this population.

Lead Entity: ACYF Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: Number of AAPI adolescents being served by FYSB grantees.

Adoption Initiative:

Include AAPIs in minority parent recruitment (at least proportional to AAPI children awaiting adoption or permanent placement).

Key Agency Activity: Encourage States, through Regional Office staff partnership meetings and national adoption recruitment grantee and specialist meetings to develop recruitment outreach to the AAPI community.

Lead Entity: ACYF Children's Bureau

Time Frame: Starting in 1998 and continuing

Measurable Outcome: Increase in the numbers of AAPI families who become foster and adoptive parents.

Aggressively enforce anti-discrimination laws against prospective parents of Asian or Pacific Islander origin.

Key Agency Activity: Working with OCR, provide TA to States regarding the anti-discrimination law and its relevancy to the AAPI community.

Lead Entity: ACYF Children's Bureau

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: No increase in discrimination complaints from the AAPI community in regard to their interest in becoming foster and adoptive parents.

Domestic Violence (DV) Initiative:

The National Domestic Violence Hotline should accommodate language and cultural differences through AAPI service representatives and/or referrals to help within the AAPI community, where available and desired.

Key Agency Activity: .The domestic violence hot line advocates receive training that addresses language and cultural differences, and they respond to the extent possible to accommodate language and cultural differences among callers. The hot line accommodates for translations. The hot line itself is bi-lingual (English and Spanish), and it uses the AT&T language line as appropriate when callers speak other languages. These activities are on-going. OCS is currently working on an Asian American domestic violence initiative (it already has worked on African American and Latino domestic violence initiatives). OCS is consulting with Asian American representatives to help develop the initiative; their input is important in program planning.

Lead Entity: OCS

Time Frame: Ongoing

Measurable Outcome: AAPI callers are able to communicate in languages they speak.

The Office of Community Services/ACF should do outreach to AAPI communities and ensure that there is funding for battered women's shelters with diverse populations.

Key Agency Activity: OCS's Family Violence Prevention and Services Program formula grants fund states to provide shelters and related assistance. While there are federal guidelines and assurances regarding services to be provided, states determine which shelters to fund. There is an emphasis on underserved populations; state plans must address populations that are underserved (based on ethnicity, race, culture, language, geographical isolation, etc.). Shelters operate as appropriate in their communities, consistent with state plans. OCS's Family Violence Prevention and Services Program discretionary grants fund a national domestic violence hot line and five domestic violence resource centers. These are all on-going programs and activities. As noted above, OCS is currently consulting with Asian American representatives to help develop an Asian American domestic violence initiative.

Lead Entity: OCS

Time Frame: Ongoing

Education and prevention grants as well as programs on issues such as sexual assault, domestic violence, family planning, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, nutrition, substance abuse, and family preservation should be culturally sensitive and include outreach to AAPI communities.

Key Agency Activity: On an on-going basis, OCS will fully participate in domestic violence prevention and services initiatives and will continue to recognize the importance of culturally sensitive programs and outreach. Other parts of ACF and/or HHS should have the lead in activities that address family planning, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases, nutrition, substance abuse, family preservation, and non-domestic sexual assault.

Lead Entity: OCS

Time Frame: Ongoing

