

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

Annual Report

January 2025 – May 2026

Making AAPI communities visible across the Commonwealth

Written by Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, Executive Director (2011 to 2025)

500K+

AAPI RESIDENTS IN MA

27

GRANT RECIPIENTS

\$102,650

INVESTED IN COMMUNITIES

1,417

SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Chair's Letter

Dear Legislators, Community Partners, and Members of the Commonwealth,

It is an honor to present this Annual Report on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission (AAPIC). The period from January 2025 through May 2026 has been one of profound growth, resilience, and community leadership across the Commonwealth. During a time marked by rising costs of living, increased immigration enforcement, and persistent language access barriers, AAPI communities have continued to demonstrate strength, civic engagement, and an unwavering commitment to belonging.

This year, the Commission was honored to attend a celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month alongside community leaders, legislators, and partners from across the Commonwealth. We were especially moved when Governor Healey spoke directly about the AAPIC as an important partner to the state, acknowledging the Commission's work to bring the needs, challenges, and celebrations of AAPI communities to government for action. [READ more on the AANHPI Heritage event.](#)

“The Commission was recognized by the Governor as an important partner in ensuring that the needs, challenges, and celebrations of AAPI communities are brought to the government for action.”

The Commission advanced its statutory mandate through listening sessions, targeted grants, policy advocacy, and the launch of the first-ever statewide Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) Community Survey — No Longer Invisible — co-produced with UMass Boston, APIs CAN, and the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation and released at the State House. More than 1,400 APIA residents shared their lived experiences across the Commonwealth.

The data is clear and sobering. These are not statistics about distant communities — they are our neighbors, our constituents, and the people this Commission exists to serve:

30%

personally struggle to afford housing across the Commonwealth

64%

of those who experience discrimination never report it

We deepened our regional presence in Western Massachusetts and Cape Cod, and expanded Pasifika and youth leadership programming. Through the 2026 Small Grants Program, AAPIC awarded \$102,650 to 27 organizations and artists — investments that directly address food insecurity, mental health gaps, elder isolation, language barriers, and cultural identity.

AAPIC extends deep gratitude to Yasmin Padamsee Forbes, who served as Executive Director from 2021 to 2025. Under her tenure, the Commission's budget grew by more than 300%, enabling significant expansion of programming, policy work, and statewide engagement. Yasmin led four Unity Dinners, the launch of the Youth Council, community listening sessions, the Western Massachusetts Task Force, and the Pacific Islanders program, and built the partnerships and infrastructure that sustain the Commission's work today.

As we look ahead, the Commission remains committed to strengthening language access, expanding regional equity, supporting immigrant safety, and building pathways for youth and intergenerational leadership. We are grateful for the Legislature's continued partnership — and especially to the members of the Massachusetts House Asian Caucus, including newly elected Senator Vanna Howard, the first Cambodian American state senator in the United States — for your commitment to ensuring that every resident, regardless of language, origin, or identity, can access the full promise of the Commonwealth.

With gratitude,

Tuyet Tran

Chair, Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission

02

About Our Partners: The Massachusetts House Asian Caucus

The House Asian Caucus is a bipartisan caucus founded in 2011, following the historic election of the first Asian Americans to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Its members work to raise awareness of issues facing the AAPI community in Massachusetts and to increase representation within state government. The Caucus has been a steadfast partner to AAPIC — advocating for the Commission's budget, championing data disaggregation, supporting language access, and co-funding research at UMass Boston's Institute for Asian American Studies.

2025–2026 Legislative Session Caucus Members

Member	District / Role
Rep. Tackey Chan	2nd Norfolk District (Quincy) · Chair, House Asian Caucus
Rep. Tram T. Nguyen	18th Essex District (Andover, Boxford, North Andover, Tewksbury) · Vice Chair
Sen. Vanna Howard	1st Middlesex District (Lowell, Dracut, Dunstable, Pepperell, Tyngsborough) · Newly Elected
Rep. Tara Hong	18th Middlesex District (Lowell, Chelmsford)
Rep. Amy Mah Sangiolo	11th Middlesex District (Newton)
Rep. Erika Uyterhoeven	27th Middlesex District (Somerville)
Rep. Donald H. Wong	9th Essex District (Lynn, Saugus, Wakefield)

Senator Vanna Howard is the first Cambodian American state senator in the United States.

Executive Summary — 2025–2026 At a Glance

AAPIC is the Commonwealth's only permanent state body dedicated exclusively to the needs of its Asian American and Pacific Islander residents — now more than 500,000 people, the fastest-growing major racial group in Massachusetts. In 2025–2026, the Commission completed Year 2 of its 2024–2026 Strategic Plan, centering four community-identified priorities: anti-AAPI hate, language access, mental health, and youth empowerment.

Community Research & Data

- Released **No Longer Invisible** — the first-ever statewide Massachusetts APIA Community Survey (n=1,417), co-produced with UMass Boston, APIs CAN, and the Asian Community Fund at the Boston Foundation
- Survey administered in 4 languages; launch at the State House, June 3, 2025

Grants & Direct Investment

- \$102,650 awarded to 27 organizations and artists statewide in FY26
- 145 applications reviewed; grantees span arts & culture, mental health, food security, senior services, civic engagement, small business, and youth leadership
- Geographic reach: Greater Boston, North Shore, South Shore, Western MA, MetroWest, Worcester region

Community Engagement

- **Bhutanese Oral History Project:** 3 community screenings in partnership with the Bhutanese Society of Western Massachusetts
- Two Pasifika Community Gatherings
- Cape & Islands listening session; bi-monthly Western MA community workshops
- **Unerased:** Asian Voices of Cape Cod documentary screening series (Boston, Lowell)

Youth & Civic Leadership

- Youth Council Showcase at the Massachusetts State House (June 23, 2026)
- Youth Council members drawn from across the Commonwealth

Policy & Legislative Advocacy

- Active engagement with the Massachusetts House Asian Caucus on AAPI priorities
- Data disaggregation law implementation (effective January 2026)
- Advocacy on language access, anti-hate protections, and immigrant safety legislation

17th Annual Unity Dinner — May 10, 2025 · Westborough

- Theme: Bridging Cultures, Building Strength
- Keynote: Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao
- Honored: Helen Chin Schlichte (Lifetime Achievement); Hua Wang & Trinh Roblinski (Leadership for Diversity & Inclusion); Olivia Melaya Strohman, Jasmine Li & Anny Chan (Unsung Hero)

04

AAPI Communities in Massachusetts

Massachusetts is home to approximately 510,868 AAPI residents — about 7.3–8% of the state's population — making it one of the ten states with the largest Asian American populations in the country, and home to the fastest-growing major racial group in the Commonwealth. This growth is fueled in large part by immigration and is accelerating across diverse communities.

Population Snapshot

Metric	Data
Total AAPI Population	More than 500,000 — fastest-growing major racial group in MA
Population Growth (2012–present)	+38%
Share of State Population	~7.3–8%
Largest Subgroup	Chinese American: 198,039
Second Largest	Asian Indian: 137,333
Third Largest	Vietnamese: 61,863
Also Represented	Korean (34,785), Cambodian (32,171), Filipino (26,354)
Pacific Islander Groups	Native Hawaiian (2,990), Chamorro (1,257), Samoan (1,024)

Median Income — Indian American (Boston Metro)	~\$129,000
Median Income — Nepali American (Boston Metro)	~\$59,000
Overall Median Income — Asian Americans (Boston Metro)	~\$103,000

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau ACS; *No Longer Invisible, 2025*; *Boston Indicators / Boston Foundation, 2024*.

Ethnic Subgroup Population — Massachusetts

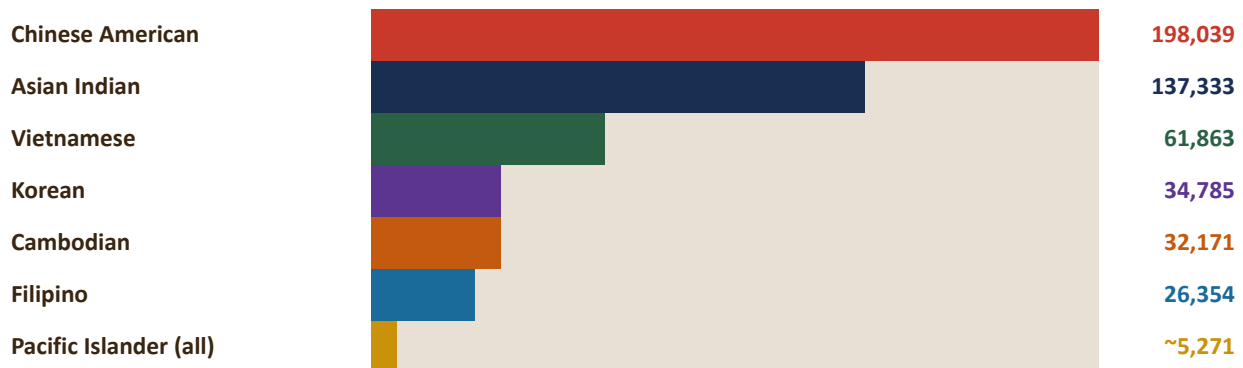


Chart scaled to the largest subgroup (Chinese American = 198,039). Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS.

Key Takeaways

- Cost of living, housing, and healthcare affordability are the most urgent concerns for AAPI residents statewide.
- Language access remains a primary barrier to using public programs.
- Discrimination and safety concerns are widespread and significantly underreported.
- 80% of APIA survey respondents are registered to vote; 84% voted in the 2024 Presidential Election. Adults aged 60+ hit 94% registration and 92% turnout — the highest of any age group.
- Disaggregated data matters: lived experiences vary significantly across ethnic subgroups. A new state data disaggregation law takes effect in January 2026.

05

Strategic Priorities 2024–2026

The Commission's 2024–2026 Strategic Plan was developed through listening sessions, community surveys, and regional engagement. It centers on four interconnected priority areas:

01

Anti-AAPI Hate & Civil Rights

23% of MA APIA respondents experienced identity-based discrimination in the past year. Hate crimes rose 47% in MA between 2015–2020. 64% of those who experienced discrimination never reported it.

02

Language Access & Public Resources

Nearly one-third of Asian Americans nationally have limited English proficiency. 17% of APIA respondents reported difficulty communicating with healthcare providers in a shared language.

03

Mental Health & Trauma-Informed Care

41% of AAPI adults nationally cite healthcare as their most important concern. Among Vietnamese American adults, only 4% used mental health services between 2022–2024. Cultural stigma and language barriers drive chronic underutilization.

04

Youth Empowerment & Civic Engagement

80% of eligible APIA respondents were registered to vote and 84% cast ballots in 2024. 74% of young AA/PI adults aged 18–29 reported experiencing hate in 2024 — the highest of any age group.

Statewide Survey Findings — No Longer Invisible (2025)

In June 2025, AAPIC and its partners released No Longer Invisible: 2025 Massachusetts Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) Community Survey Report — the first comprehensive statewide community survey of its kind, gathering responses from 1,417 APIA residents across the Commonwealth, conducted March 5–31, 2025. The survey was administered in four languages: English, Simplified Chinese, Vietnamese, and Khmer.

Economic Concerns — % Personally Struggling to Afford:



Source: No Longer Invisible: 2025 MA APIA Community Survey Report (Dhaurali & Watanabe, UMass Boston/AAPIC, 2025). n=1,417.

Financial Hardship by Ethnic Subgroup (3+ basic needs unaffordable)



Respondents with household incomes under \$75K: 53% struggling with 3+ basic needs.

Civic Engagement



Discrimination — Past Year



64%

of those who experienced discrimination, never reported it to any authority — fear of retaliation was the primary reason

Views on Administration Policy



Vietnamese Americans showed the strongest opposition to increased deportation (60%).

07

Grants & Direct Community Investment

AAPIC's grant program is the Commonwealth's most direct investment in AAPI-serving grassroots organizations. In FY26, AAPIC awarded \$102,650 to 27 grantees across Massachusetts — organizations and artists whose work aligns precisely with the documented needs of the state's AAPI population. The 145 applications reviewed represent a pipeline of community demand that far exceeds available resources.

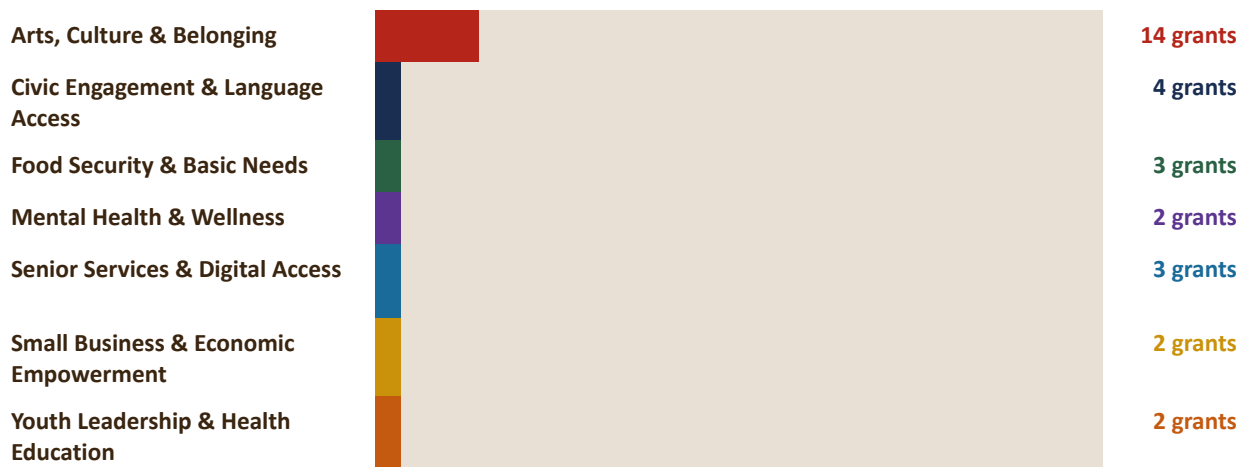


Geographic Distribution of FY26 Grants



Note: Several grantees serve multiple regions or are statewide in scope.

Grants by Focus Area



Mental Health & Trauma-Informed Care

MindSpire Mental Health & Wellness — *Lowell*

Lowell \$5,000

Provides free and low-cost psychiatric consultations and Khmer-language outreach for Cambodian and Southeast Asian residents in Lowell. Led by a Cambodian immigrant Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner — precisely the culturally grounded, language-accessible care the survey shows is missing.

Bibim Together — *West Roxbury*

With Love, Letters in Bloom \$2,000

Three bilingual Korean community events reclaiming Korean Family Month through storytelling, letter writing, and intergenerational connection — addressing the survey finding that only 39% of APIA respondents strongly feel they belong in the U.S.

1975: Vietnamese Diaspora Memorial — *Boston/Dorchester*

Our Stories, Our Space \$5,000

Three community events in Dorchester weave cultural belonging, civic advocacy, and community care for intergenerational Vietnamese residents at a moment when many immigrant families are experiencing fear and economic insecurity.

Food Security & Basic Needs

PAMANA Inc. — *Roslindale*

PAMANA Cares \$4,500

Filipino American food assistance delivering culturally appropriate care packages and grocery deliveries across New England to elders, SNAP-impacted families, and recent immigrants. Shopping at local Filipino grocers simultaneously supports AAPI small businesses.

AAPI Alliance of Western MA — *Granby/Springfield*

Community & Resource Building \$2,500

Includes \$1,500 in Asian market gift cards for food-insecure Springfield AAPI immigrant families, plus community focus groups to build regional solidarity.

Senior Services & Digital Access

Guangzhou Association of Boston — Quincy

Digital Empowerment for Seniors \$5,000

Weekly Mandarin and Cantonese digital literacy workshops for low-income first-generation Chinese seniors, teaching telehealth, online banking, and transit apps. Addresses the 'double barrier' of limited English and limited digital access.

Springfield Vietnamese Cultural Association — Springfield

Community Building Support \$4,750

Sustains a community space hosting weekly senior gatherings to reduce isolation among Vietnamese and AAPI elders in Western MA. The grant addresses urgent rent and utility costs that threaten the organization's survival.

India Association of Greater Boston — Burlington

AANHPI Senior Wellness Expo \$2,500

A free annual expo providing AANHPI seniors with cultural exhibits, wellness services, and multilingual outreach, so elders facing language barriers can access resources with dignity.

Civic Engagement & Language Access

Vivian Nguyen — Everett

Language Access & Resource Navigation in Everett \$5,000

Funds professional translation of resource guides into Vietnamese, Chinese, Khmer, Nepali, and other languages for AAPI residents. Currently self-funded and unsustainable, this grant enables a replicable municipal model.

Revere Youth in Action — Revere

General Operations \$5,000

The only youth leadership organization in Revere, rebuilding after a 2024 leadership transition, with programming centering on AAPI youth and families in civic engagement, housing advocacy, and Asian American History Month education.

Greater Malden AACC — *Malden*

AAPI Voices in Malden's TDI District \$4,900

Participatory workshops using zine-making and community mapping to ensure AAPI residents — 28% of Malden's population — shape the city's major downtown development initiative. Data generated will directly inform policy advocacy.

North Shore AAPI Coalition — *Salem*

Outreach Expansion \$4,000

Expanding beyond Salem into more isolated North Shore communities. This women-led coalition recently preserved a Chinese language program at risk of being cut. Grant funds build organizational capacity to respond to similar threats.

Small Business & Economic Empowerment

Meher Foundation — *Hopkinton*

Project Noor — Afghan Women Entrepreneurship \$5,000

Afghan refugee women in Lowell receive ServSafe food safety certification, culinary training, and entrepreneurial starter kits to launch micro-businesses. Addresses barriers facing refugee women who arrive with skills but lack credentials and networks.

Full Harvest Taxes LLC — *Turners Falls*

AAPI Tax Education & Support \$2,500

A queer/trans AAPI-run firm in Western Massachusetts is funding a paid internship to expand free tax services for non-citizens, gig workers, and AAPI-serving nonprofits — helping navigate systems many in the community cannot access alone.

Arts, Culture & Belonging

Boston Uyghur Association — *Lexington*

Uyghur Cultural Festival \$5,000

A public festival celebrating Uyghur music, dance, and culinary arts, providing a safe gathering space for a diaspora community facing ongoing persecution. A critical act of cultural preservation and community safety.

Harvard Square Philippine American Alliance — Cambridge

4th Asian Street Food & Music Festival \$5,000

A free Heritage Month festival in Harvard Square with thousands of attendees, live performances, and AAPI food vendors — creating the visible public celebration that builds belonging for families who often feel invisible.

Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy — Boston

Because You Are The Sun; Because You Are The Thread \$5,000

An interactive public artwork on The Greenway in Chinatown: pedal-activated flipbook tricycles showing Vietnamese film footage, surrounded by seating dioramas made with Chinatown residents. Cultural reclamation in one of Boston's most historic AAPI neighborhoods.

Kennis Mor — Lowell

Cambodian Mask Making \$2,500

Free traditional Khmer mask-making workshops for Cambodian youth and families, preserving sacred art forms at risk of disappearing as elders age. Addresses intergenerational cultural fragmentation.

Sophallina Tim — Lynn

Cambodian Traditional Dances \$4,500

Traditional Khmer dance costumes and programming for youth performers and elder audiences at adult daycares — spaces where elders experience cultural healing and youth build identity.

Minami Kikuchi — Saugus

Sakura Saku \$2,500

A Japanese choreographer presenting a piece centered on cherry blossom symbolism, blending traditional dance with contemporary movement — building a bridge between heritage and diaspora identity.

WeStar Academy of Music — Andover

Boston Youth Talent Spectacular \$1,500

An annual spring concert at Cary Hall in Lexington featuring young musicians performing East-West fusion, with ~60% AAPI performers and world-renowned guest artists.

Lucky Knot Arts — *Salem*

AANHPI Art Exhibit at Punto Urban Art Museum \$2,500

A free 7-week AANHPI art exhibition in Salem, centered on North Shore AAPI artists with limited access to resources and exhibition opportunities.

Good Company — *Boston*

Mahjong Special \$1,000

Six young Asian American women are expanding free, accessible Hong Kong-style mahjong events at Boston restaurants — building intergenerational connection between Chinese elders and young adults while removing financial barriers.

Johnny Chanthavong — *Lowell*

52 Community Recipes as a Playing Card Deck \$2,500

A Laotian Thai American artist creating a playing card deck with one AAPI immigrant recipe per card, preserving immigration stories through the intersection of food culture and card-game traditions.

Lowell International Church — *Lowell*

Burmese Youth Leadership Camp \$5,000

A three-day camp for ~100 second-generation Burmese American youth at Grotonwood, building emotional resilience, cultural identity, and leadership.

Civic Education Alliance — *Quincy*

Gambling Addiction Support \$5,000

Problem gambling awareness and bilingual support for Chinese communities on the South Shore, addressing an underreported behavioral health issue through community events.

Sex Week Boston / Mer-Made for Pleasure — *Jamaica Plain*

Sex Education Week Boston \$3,000

A Filipino American-led week of sex education and community events across Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville, compensating AAPI community educators in a field where AAPI practitioners are routinely undervalued.

08

AAPI Seniors in Massachusetts

Massachusetts is home to a rapidly growing population of AAPI seniors. Nationally, the number of AAPIs aged 65 and older is expected to grow more than 350% over the next 50 years — from approximately 1.6 million to 7.3 million people. The 2025 MA APIA Community Survey provides the first Massachusetts-specific data on APIA older adults, who are simultaneously the most civically engaged age group and among the most economically and health-burdened.

Elder Poverty Rates by Subgroup (National, 65+)



Source: Urban Institute; Diverse Elders Coalition. Many Southeast Asian elders spent careers in low-wage industries and lack retirement savings.

Healthcare & Housing Burden — Adults 60+ (MA Survey)

38%

of APIA respondents aged 60+, struggled to afford healthcare services — the highest of any age group

38%

of APIA respondents aged 60+ reported difficulty affording housing — tied with the 18–29 age group

85%

of AAPI elders nationally are foreign-born; only 15% speak English at home

Chronic Health Disparities

- ~1 in 12 AAPIs nationally live with chronic Hepatitis B; AAPI death rate from Hepatitis B is 7× greater than among white Americans.

- Southeast Asian American elders face high rates of PTSD and depression stemming from war trauma and refugee experiences.
- Older Asian American women have the highest suicide rate of any group of women over age 65 in the United States.
- Elevated rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, and tuberculosis are often compounded by delayed diagnosis due to limited healthcare access.

Policy Recommendations for AAPI Elders

- Expand funding for culturally and linguistically appropriate elder services, with targeted investment in Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and other AAPI language communities.
- Prioritize AAPI elders in the Commonwealth's housing affordability strategy, including preservation of affordable units in Chinatown, Quincy, and Malden.
- Require AAPI-specific language access standards statewide within the ASAP network.
- Mandate data disaggregation for elder services — consistent with the new law taking effect January 2026.
- Fund trauma-informed mental health care specifically designed for Southeast Asian elders with refugee backgrounds.
- Establish targeted Hepatitis B screening and liver cancer prevention programs for AAPI elders as a state public health priority.

09

Community Engagement & Listening Sessions

AAPIC conducted targeted listening sessions across the Commonwealth, centering the voices of communities most often excluded from state policy conversations.

Communities Engaged

- Bhutanese refugee communities (Lowell)
- Afghan refugee communities (Lowell)
- Southeast Asian communities (Worcester)
- Western Massachusetts AAPI communities
- Cape & Islands AAPI residents

Common Themes

- Housing affordability and cost-of-living pressures
- Language barriers and limited interpreter availability in public services
- Mental health access and culturally competent care
- Workforce credentialing challenges for internationally trained professionals
- Concerns about immigration enforcement and safety

10

Policy & Legislative Advocacy

AAPIC endorsed the following legislative priorities and provided testimony, convened legislators, and supported public education on civil rights, anti-hate protections, and data disaggregation. AAPIC partnered with the Massachusetts House Asian Caucus on all advocacy priorities aligned with community survey findings.

- **Racially inclusive curriculum (the CARE Bill)**
- **Language access legislation to expand multilingual services in state agencies**
- **Fred Korematsu Day recognition**
- **Data disaggregation legislation — new law effective January 2026**
- **The Safe Communities Act (S1681/H2580), endorsed and voted on by AAPIC in March 2026**

11

Youth Civic Leadership

The AAPIC Youth Council develops the next generation of AAPI leaders through direct State House engagement, leadership training, and community-based project development. Established in 2022, the Youth Council brings together high school students from across Massachusetts — including from Western Massachusetts, the North Shore, and Greater Boston.

- **Participated in State House briefings and legislative advocacy days**
- **Developed and presented community-based projects at the State House Showcase (June 23, 2026)**
- **Engaged in peer education on AAPI history, identity, and civic rights**

12

Major Events & Milestones 2025–2026

17th Annual Unity Dinner

AAPIC held its 17th Annual Unity Dinner — one of the largest annual gatherings of AAPI leaders, public officials, and youth advocates in New England. The keynote was delivered by Massachusetts Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao. Award plaques were created by Elaine Chow of ChopValue Boston from recycled chopsticks; honorees were garlanded with fresh carnation leis by Maile Kloczkowski of the Spread Aloha Project.

Award	Honoree(s)
Lifetime Achievement	Helen Chin Schlichte
Leadership for Diversity & Inclusion	Hua Wang & Trinh Roblinski
Unsung Hero	Olivia Melaya Strohman, Jianmin (Jasmine) Li & Anny Chan

Cultural Stage Performances

- New England Bhangra Club — high-energy folk dance reimagining Bhangra as a space for gender equity
- Boston Korean Dance Academy — Janggo drum dance
- Iskwelahang Pilipino Dance Team — Binasuan and Tinikling, the national dance of the Philippines
- Dr. Therese Lautua — sacred Samoan Tauluga, with community members honoring her by dancing.

Commissioner Swearing-In Ceremony (2025)

State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg officiated the swearing-in of new Commissioners in 2025, marking the transition to a new Executive Committee under Chair Tuyet Tran. The Commission is composed of 21 Commissioners appointed by the Governor, Senate President, Treasurer, Secretary of State, House Speaker, Attorney General, and Auditor — reflecting its statewide, cross-branch mandate.

Bhutanese Oral History Project (March–May 2025)

AAPIC partnered with the Bhutanese Society of Western Massachusetts to host three community screenings of Untold Stories of Bhutanese Living in Western MA — a documentary by filmmaker Hari Khanal that took more than five years to make. The film documents the forced displacement of over 100,000 ethnic Nepali Bhutanese and the resilience of those who rebuilt their lives in Western Massachusetts.

Pasifika Community Gatherings (April & October 2025)

AAPIC hosted two Pasifika Community Gatherings — the first in April in Cambridge and the second in October honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day. Both brought Pasifika community members together to share food, stories, and reflection, affirming AAPIC's commitment to the distinct identity and needs of Pacific Islander communities. These gatherings built on the Commission's work since hiring its first Pacific Islander Coordinator in 2023.

No Longer Invisible Survey Release (June 3, 2025)

AAPIC and its partners released the No Longer Invisible survey report at a press and community briefing at the Massachusetts State House. Representative Tackey Chan (D-Quincy) called the survey 'groundbreaking,' noting it 'dispels the model minority myth by providing a realistic overview of the challenges facing Massachusetts' AAPI residents.'

Western MA Community Outing — Lea Salonga Performance

AAPIC deepened its regional presence in Western MA through a community outing to see Lea Salonga — the legendary Filipino American singer whose voice as Mulan and Kim in Miss Saigon has made her an icon for generations of AAPI audiences — providing a meaningful occasion for the region's AAPI community to gather and celebrate shared cultural representation.

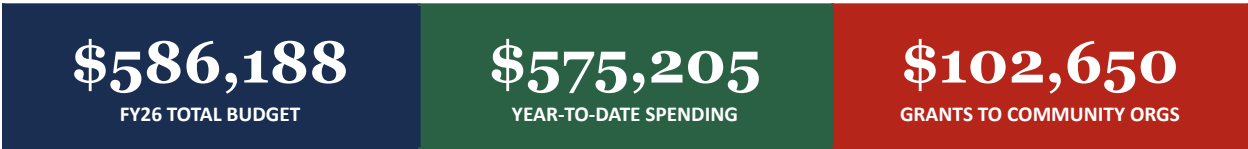
Unerased: Asian Voices of Cape Cod (2026)

AAPIC is partnering with Belonging Books and Big Tree to bring the documentary Unerased: Asian Voices of Cape Cod to Boston and Lowell. The approximately 40-minute film amplifies the voices and experiences of Asian residents living or growing up on Cape Cod, exploring identity, community, and belonging in predominantly white New England spaces.

AAPI Youth Council Showcase (June 23, 2026)

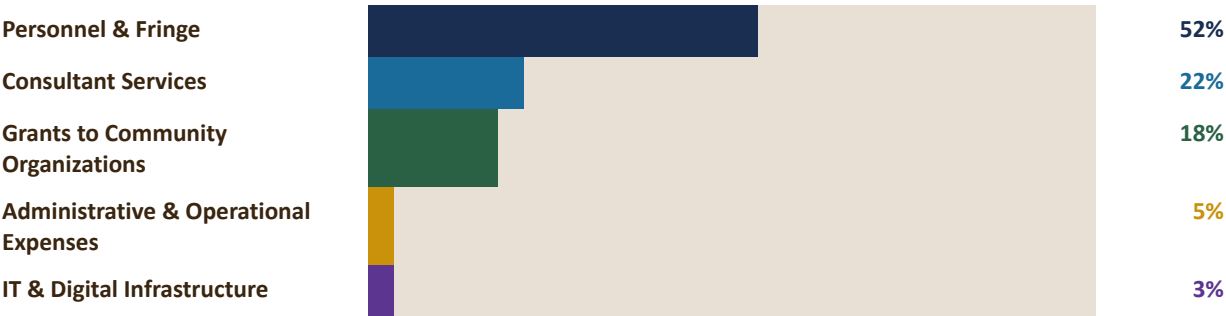
The Youth Council Showcase at the Massachusetts State House is one of AAPIC's most powerful annual demonstrations of civic investment. Youth Council members from across the Commonwealth — including from Western Massachusetts, the North Shore, and Greater Boston — bring their community-based advocacy projects directly before legislators.

Fiscal Stewardship



Personnel & Fringe make up the largest share of AAPIC's budget, reflecting the staffing required to sustain statewide programming, policy analysis, and community engagement. Consultant Services form the second-largest category, covering legal services, research partnerships (including the APIA Survey), media and communications, and financial management. Administrative Expenses and Operational Services represent the costs of event and program delivery. Grants reflect direct investment in community organizations, and IT Non-Payroll captures digital infrastructure essential for hybrid engagement.

FY26 Spending Breakdown by Category



The spending breakdown is illustrative based on the category descriptions. Total FY26 budget: \$586,188. Total spending: \$575,205.

Commissioners & Staff Acknowledgments

The Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission extends its deepest gratitude to the Commissioners who served during the 2025–2026 reporting period. Their leadership, time, and commitment ensured that AAPI communities across Massachusetts were represented, heard, and supported.

Executive Committee

Role	Member (Aug 2025 – present)
Chair	Tuyet Tran
Vice Chair	Rakashi Chand
Treasurer	Moana Bentin
Secretary	Bahara Hussaini

Role	Member (Jan – Aug 2025)
Chair	Saatvik Ahluwalia
Vice Chair	Gary Yu
Treasurer	Vacant
Secretary	Rakashi Chand

Commissioners 2025–2026

- Amy Goh
- Bahara Hussaini
- Beth Pioscos
- Bethany Li
- Christopher Huang
- Ekta Srinivasa
- Emma Chen-Banas
- Gary Chu

- Gary Yu
- Jennifer Rubin
- Leo Blandford
- Li Morrison
- Moana Bentin
- Rajashree Ghosh
- Rakashi Chand
- Richard Chu
- Tuyet Tran
- Vaishali Gade

Commissioners Concluding Service in 2025

- Meenakshi Bharath
- Karen Y. Chen
- Leo L. Hwang
- Danielle Kim
- Marilyn Park
- Philjay Solar

Staff 2025–2026

- Yasmin Padamsee Forbes — Executive Director (2021–June 2025); Senior Consultant (January 2026 onwards)
- Anita Yip — Communications & Social Media Manager (2026 onwards)
- Pranim Magar — Policy & Advocacy Director (2026 onwards)
- Shubhecchha Dhaurali — Program & Research Director
- Brissa Hunter — Pacific Islanders Coordinator
- Cha Lor — Regional Coordinator
- Ashley Shan — Youth Council Coordinator

Completed Service

- Meena Bharath — Interim Executive Director (July 1 – December 31, 2025)
- Anne Lizette Sta. Maria — Communications & Outreach (2024–2025)
- Leela Ramachandran — Policy Director (2025)

Conclusion

The 2025–2026 reporting period demonstrates what is possible when a small, dedicated state agency listens deeply, acts with precision, and remains accountable to the community. AAPIC produced the state's first-ever comprehensive AAPI community survey, invested in 27 grassroots organizations, deepened regional presence from the Cape to Western Massachusetts, elevated youth voice at the State House, and advocated for legislation that will protect and empower AAPI residents for years to come.

The data is clear: AAPI communities are growing, civically engaged, and economically vital to Massachusetts — and they face real, documented disparities in housing, healthcare, safety, and belonging that demand sustained government attention. This Commission exists at that intersection of need and possibility.

Only 39% of Massachusetts AAPI residents strongly feel they belong here. The Commission's work — every listening session, every grant, every survey, every bill — is devoted to changing that number.

AAPIC looks ahead with determination and gratitude — for the communities we serve, the legislators who partner with us, and the staff and commissioners who give this work its heart.

Appendix A: FY26 Grant Recipients

1	Boston Uyghur Association (Lexington)
2	Full Harvest Taxes LLC (Turners Falls)
3	MindSpire Mental Health & Wellness (Lowell)
4	WeStar Academy of Music (Andover)

5	PAMANA Inc. (Roslindale)
6	Greater Malden AACC (Malden)
7	Johnny Chanthavong (Lowell)
8	Lucky Knot Arts (Quincy)
9	Kennis Mor (Lowell)
10	Harvard Square Philippine American Alliance (Cambridge)
11	Revere Youth in Action (Boston)
12	Meher Foundation (Hopkinton)
13	Springfield Vietnamese Cultural Assoc. (Springfield)
14	Civic Education Alliance (Quincy)
15	Guangzhou Association of Boston (Quincy)
16	AAPI Alliance of Western MA (Granby)
17	Vivian Nguyen (Everett)
18	Minami Kikuchi (Saugus)
19	Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy (Boston)
20	Good Company (Boston)
21	India Assoc. of Greater Boston (Burlington)
22	Sophallina Tim (Lynn)
23	Bibim Together (West Roxbury)
24	North Shore AAPI Coalition (Salem)
25	Lowell International Church (Lowell)
26	1975: A Vietnamese Diaspora Memorial (Boston)
27	Mer-Made for Pleasure (Jamaica Plain)

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