The Data Disaggregation Team
Executive Summary

♦ What is the Challenge?

The Data Disaggregation Team (DDT) was tasked by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC) with developing a targeted and achievable solution to assist federal agencies in their data collection, analysis, and disaggregation efforts of Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) populations in order to ensure equal access to all federal programs and services.

♦ Methodology

To execute the challenge, DDT directed meetings with stakeholders within the AANHPI community and government officials to identify data disaggregation needs. After performing a detailed literature review, DDT developed the *AAPI Needs Assessment Questionnaire* using the Fall 2011 Volume 9 Numbers 1 and 2 AAPI Nexus Journal entitled *The Role of New Research, Data, and Policies on Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders,* as the foundation of the questionnaire.

♦ What are the Specific Recommendations?

1. **Recommendation to FAPAC**

   - Continue to engage with key federal statistical agencies. FAPAC should continue to leverage resources and contacts who are knowledgeable about AAPI data issues including the WHIAAPI staff and the WHIAAPI Interagency Work Group on Data which includes members from key federal statistical agencies.

2. **Recommendations for federal agencies**

   - Identify opportunities for collaboration and leveraging existing resources. Examples include utilizing the American Community Survey sample, and utilizing existing state level data where there are relatively high concentrations of AANHPI populations (i.e. California, Hawai'i, Illinois, New York, Texas, and New York).
   - Current OMB AAPI disaggregation guidelines should be revised so that both the AA and NHPI racial/ethnic categories are further disaggregated. Appropriate funding should be allocated to federal agencies to capture such data. This can only occur through in-depth lobbying and congressional intervention.

3. **Recommendations for AANHPI community**

- Work with policymakers to prioritize data disaggregation for AANHPI populations. While the WHIAAPI Agency Plans include data objectives, many agencies still fall short of meeting the community's needs in collecting adequate data to inform policy changes. Stronger oversight should be considered to compel agencies to act. For example, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) might conduct inspections or audits of data efforts, at the request of Congressional members.
- Continue to engage with public and private organizations, and state and local government agencies that are currently collecting data on AANHPI groups to understand the challenges they face, the areas that are under-represented from a data perspective, and how to incrementally expand future collection efforts.

✚ What's Next?

The Data Disaggregation Team recommends the following for the next DDT cohort:

1. Work directly with the Interagency Work Group which is charged with addressing data concerns. Furthermore, the next DDT cohort should review the WHIAAPI Agency Plans and identify ways that the DDT can assist the agencies to address their data disaggregation plans.
2. Develop a follow-up survey for federal government representatives. The survey would identify the issues they see as pertinent regarding AANHPI data disaggregation, and report on what AANHPI community collaboration/outreach activities currently exist within their agency. The administration of this survey will require FAPAC's involvement and supervision since federal employees are constrained by government regulations on distribution of surveys to federal employees.
3. Initiate a dialogue with senior agency representatives to determine the potential for further data disaggregation and the constraints that prevented further disaggregation. This will require assistance from WHIAAPI and FAPAC to navigate high-level agency contacts. Goals for engagement should be clear from the on-set, with full knowledge of the current status of all relevant data efforts.

AAPI DATA — *Making the Invisible-Visible, Underrepresented-Represented, Aggregated-Disaggregated*