



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

APIAHF
ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER
AMERICAN HEALTH FORUM

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Mission

Achieving health equity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities through law, policy and practice.

Vision

A healthier future for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, inspired and driven by community.

In 2026, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) will celebrate 40 years of service to Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. Our anniversary theme—honoring our past, shaping our future—captures both the legacy we carry and the responsibility we embrace. For four decades, APIAHF has advanced health policies that protect our most vulnerable communities, bridged gaps with culturally and linguistically appropriate resources, and led public health campaigns on issues ranging from HIV and cancer prevention to pandemic response to vaccinations to diversity in clinical trials.

Across these years, APIAHF has played a pivotal role in shaping national policy and elevating AANHPI voices. We led the COVID-19 response for AANHPI communities in partnership with the CDC and local communities. We built a robust network of more than 315 community-based organizations across nearly every state, ensuring we remain deeply connected to on-the-ground realities and uniquely positioned to lift up authentic community perspectives. APIAHF is not simply another health equity organization—we are the nation’s leading voice for AANHPI health, access to care, immigrant rights, and social justice.

Our story began with a moment of profound misrepresentation. In 1985, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the landmark “Heckler Report,” which concluded—incorrectly—that AANHPI communities were healthier than other groups. This conclusion stemmed from aggregated data that erased the diversity and disparities within our communities. That erasure sparked a movement. Advocates came together to demand disaggregated data, equitable federal policies, and recognition of the full breadth of AANHPI experiences. From that movement, APIAHF was born.

This past year has tested our nation and our organization. Communities across the country are facing cuts to health insurance, threats to language access, and heightened risks to the safety and well-being of immigrant and refugee families. APIAHF also confronted significant challenges, including the loss of federal funding that had long supported our work. These shifts required difficult decisions and meaningful adjustments to ensure we can continue to serve our mission with integrity and impact.

Yet even in a year of strain, we found clarity about the future we are shaping. We streamlined programming, sharpened our strategic focus, and strengthened support for our community partners. We continued to advocate, convene, educate, and build power—because our communities deserve nothing less. As we reflect on 2025, we are proud of what we accomplished together, with our vibrant community of partners, despite the obstacles.

As you read this annual report, we invite you to join us in a moment of reflection and cautious optimism. Our 40th anniversary is not only a celebration of where we have been—it is a commitment to where we are going. Together, we will honor our past and shape a future where every AANHPI community can thrive.

In reflection and celebration,



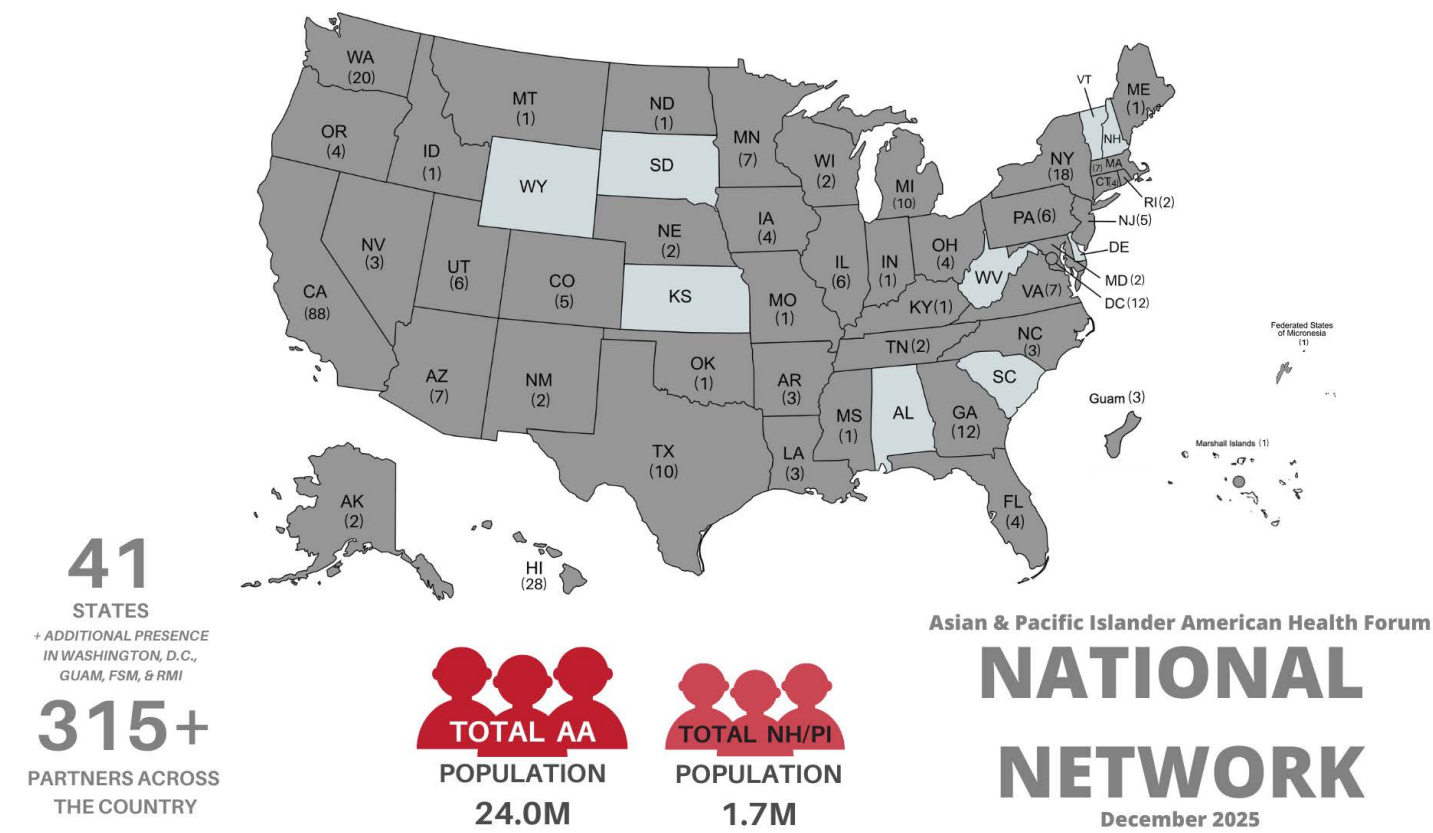
Neal Shah
Board Chair

Juliet K. Choi
President & CEO

APIAHF’s CBO Network is a diverse network of national and grassroots health community based, membership-based, community health centers, direct services, advocacy, legal, and civic organizations.

“Thanks so much to APIAHF for the generous support and for the opportunity that I know will contribute immensely to our interns’ education, particularly with real world advocacy. I remember participating in my first VOICES conference as a NICOS grad intern nearly three decades ago and the career-long connections I made then and years following.”

Kent Woo, Executive Director
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition



“We want to thank the APIAHF team for the visit and to share our work with you all. Thank you for everyone’s kindness and thoughtfulness.”

Jannette Diep,
Executive Director
Boat People SOS-Houston



- In 2025, the CBO Network represented and served:
- 51 self-identified ethnicities
 - 41 U.S. states
 - 4 jurisdictions: (1) Washington, D.C., and (3) U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands: Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, and the Marshall Islands

APIAHF’s programs address a wide range of health concerns affecting AANHPI communities, from ensuring access to childhood vaccines to providing guidance on cancer treatment options.



2025 Community Engagement Highlights

The Community Engagement Program continued to grow in reach, depth, and impact this year, strengthening our national network and expanding the resources and support available to AANHPI communities. We welcomed 24 new community-based organizations into the National Partner Network—our largest year-over-year increase since 2024—and added Indiana to our national map, reflecting the widening footprint of our collective advocacy.

To stay grounded in community realities, we conducted two major surveys. The 2025 Pulse Survey, disseminated from May 27 to June 27, gathered 90 responses and culminated in a published report on August 22. Later in the year, the 2025 National CBO Survey achieved our highest response rate to date, with 107 responses between September 29 and December 12. These insights continue to shape our policy priorities and technical assistance strategies.

Throughout the year, we convened partners through “APIAHF Network Nexus,” a bi-monthly virtual convening series featuring expert guest speakers, policy updates, and networking sessions for CBO partners to exchange further resources and information hosting four nationwide. Sessions covered a wide range of urgent topics—including Medicaid defense, mental health, immigration enforcement, Alzheimer’s and dementia awareness, H.R.1 updates, maternal health for new AANHPI mothers, and ongoing legal battles around birthright citizenship and language access. We were joined by five guest and partner speakers, including the Alzheimer’s Association, the AANHPI Lactation Collaborative of California, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and the Asian & Pacific Islander Caucus of the American Public Health Association.

Our Lung Cancer Awareness Pilot Program brought in-language education directly to communities, across three in-person townhalls in Las Vegas, Houston, and Queens. We also expanded our storytelling and public education efforts through three new episodes of The Hot Pot podcast, a video podcast series hosted by the APIAHF Community Engagement team to provide a space in sharing knowledge, experiences, and insights on AANHPI health while honoring the unique identities that make up our communities. Episodes explored perinatal health, diaspora and intergenerational trauma, and innovations in lung cancer awareness.

To further equip communities with accessible information, we developed a suite of multilingual resources, including a Gen Z Tobacco and Vaping two-pager, fact sheets on Predatory Tobacco Advertising, IgA Nephropathy (a rare and treatable disease particularly impacting AANHPIs), and Children’s Vaccines, and a new report, *AANHPI Health Equity: Community Stories Driving Policy Change*. Together, these tools amplify community voices and support informed advocacy across the country.



The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum advanced a powerful policy agenda in 2025, driving systemic change at the national, state, and local levels. Through deep partnerships with community advocates, public health leaders, and policymakers, we championed equity, protected essential benefits, and ensured AANHPI communities remained visible and prioritized in federal decision-making.

Key Accomplishments in 2025 included:



Developed and widely circulated the 2025 Policy Platform, outlining federal priorities for AANHPI health equity



Provided Medicaid defense advocacy and ACA Marketplace Open Enrollment materials for CBO partners nationwide, in coalition with civil rights partners



Led a national coalition to submit a public comment on the Department of Homeland Security's proposed public charge rule



Spearheaded advocacy on FY26 federal funding priorities, helping prevent deep cuts and secure new investments for programs relied on by CBO partners

Policy Platform

APIAHF released its 2025 federal policy priorities to address persistent health disparities and strengthen systems of care for AANHPI communities. The platform was shared broadly with congressional champions and federal agencies, reinforcing APIAHF’s role as a trusted source on AANHPI health. Priorities included:

- Defense and education on H.R.1/One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) and its impacts on Medicaid, Marketplace coverage, and immigrant public benefits
- Vaccine equity, cancer equity, and diversity in clinical trials
- Language access improvements across federal programs
- Preservation of disaggregated data to ensure accurate representation of AANHPI communities

H.R.1

APIAHF played a leading role in opposing harmful provisions in H.R.1 that would slash public benefits, including Medicaid. We collaborated with national partners and submitted a detailed letter to the Senate Finance Committee outlining the bill’s potential harms. Our rapid analysis and ongoing briefings strengthened APIAHF’s reputation as the go-to resource for congressional offices seeking expertise on AANHPI health issues.

Medicaid

APIAHF continued its long-standing coalition work to defend Medicaid and address widening coverage disparities in communities of color. In March, APIAHF joined 11 national partners, civil rights leaders, and Tri-Caucus leadership (Reps. Meng, R. Kelly, and Soto) to release a report detailing the devastating impact of Medicaid cuts, accompanied by a national press conference. APIAHF joined multiple sign-on letters and contributed to coalitions alongside hundreds of organizations to coordinate strategy against threats from H.R.1.

Medicare and Medicare Advantage

APIAHF provided input and a formal statement for Better Medicare Alliance’s minority outcomes report—one of the first studies using validated, matched ethnic and demographic data to compare outcomes across Medicare beneficiaries. We continue to advocate for greater AANHPI data transparency in Medicare research and reporting.

ACA Marketplace

APIAHF submitted a comment letter opposing a proposed rule that would rescind ACA Marketplace access for individuals with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status. To support communities navigating Marketplace changes, we developed a multilingual one-pager ahead of the 2026 Open Enrollment Period. APIAHF co-hosted a widely attended webinar with our sister organization, the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), drawing CBO partners, federal advocates, and Hill staff.

Immigration

APIAHF issued a press release urging reversal of the Administration’s decision to share sensitive Medicaid data—including immigration status—with DHS. This disclosure has already caused fear in immigrant communities, leading many patients and families to cancel medical appointments and forgo essential care. APIAHF continues to advocate for policies that protect privacy, safety, and access to health services.

Cross-Cutting Advocacy

Throughout the year, APIAHF advanced education and policy efforts on data disaggregation, language access, and culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services, ensuring that AANHPI communities remain visible and supported across federal health systems. Building on this foundation, APIAHF’s advocacy efforts continually meet the moment, confronting the impact of cuts to vital programs including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and defending the health protections that women, children, and seniors rely on.





Healthcare Champions of Change Awards July 17, 2025

The Healthcare Champions of Change Awards honor the work that our community partners, healthcare providers, and policymakers do in the course of serving their communities.

The reception held special significance as APIAHF approached its 40th anniversary, making it a moment not only to honor outstanding contributors but to reflect on nearly four decades of movement building and look ahead to the future together.

Policymaker Award

Congresswoman Young Kim (CA-40)
Congresswoman Jill Tokuda (HI-2)

Community Advocate Award

Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation
Oklahoma Micronesians Coalition

Narrative Change Award

Center for the Study of Asian American Health at NYU Langone Health

The annual VOICES conference stands as the premier national gathering for AANHPI healthcare advocates.

The conference convened community leaders, advocates, researchers, policymakers, funders, and health professionals from across the country to advance health equity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.



"The conference was really enriching with lots of opportunities to make connections and it was also fun!"

Christen Marquez,
Program Manager
UCLA NHPI Data Policy Lab

"This was my first time attending VOICES, and as the co-founder of a new community health nonprofit organization, it was exactly what I needed to meet and connect with so many other community leaders and get inspired and re-energized to continue this work."

Namuun Clifford, Co-Founder
Mongolian American Health Institute

VOICES provides a unique platform for engaging key stakeholders committed to advancing health equity and justice, with a particular focus on eliminating disparities and promoting the well-being of AANHPI populations.

The 2025 conference, held October 2–3 in Washington, D.C., welcomed over 300 attendees from across the country, fostering meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and advocacy. VOICES 2025 reinforced its role as a premier convening space for the AANHPI health equity movement, strengthening organizational capacity, elevating community voices, and building the cross-sector partnerships needed to drive meaningful and lasting change.

Highlights of VOICES 2025 include:

- Plenary sessions, policy panels, and breakout discussions covering some of the most pressing health issues facing AANHPI communities today, including disparities in lung cancer and rare diseases, mental health across generations, the future of Medicaid and Medicare, and the role of artificial intelligence in equitable healthcare delivery.
- A memorable keynote was delivered by author and award-winning filmmaker, John Osaki, whose recent film Making Waves: The Rise of Asian America, explores the vital role of Ethnic Studies in redefining the narrative and promoting service to Asian American communities across the country.
- A Fireside Chat with Debbie Chang, President and CEO of Blue Shield of California Foundation, offered insight into philanthropy and systems change.
- Sara Kehaulani Goo opened the conference with a powerful breakfast plenary sharing her debut memoir Kuleana and her Native Hawaiian family’s story of ancestral land and legacy, in conversation with journalist and host Niala Boodhoo.
- Hill visits, where attendees met directly with members of Congress and staff to champion federal policy priorities.
- Networking opportunities with like minded health advocates from across the nation and U.S. Pacific jurisdictions.



Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Our VOICES 2025 Conference was possible due to the generous support of our corporate sponsors.

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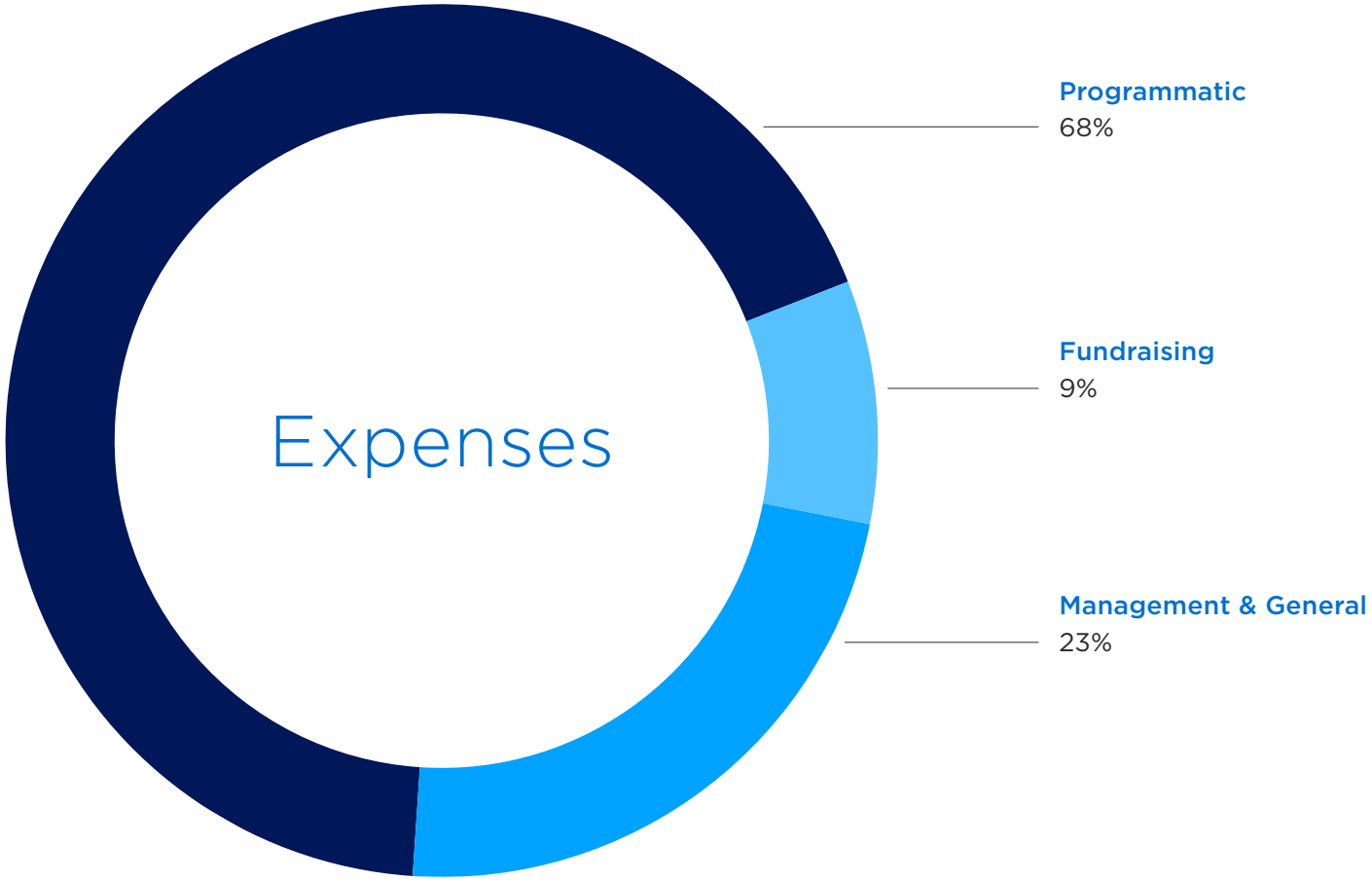
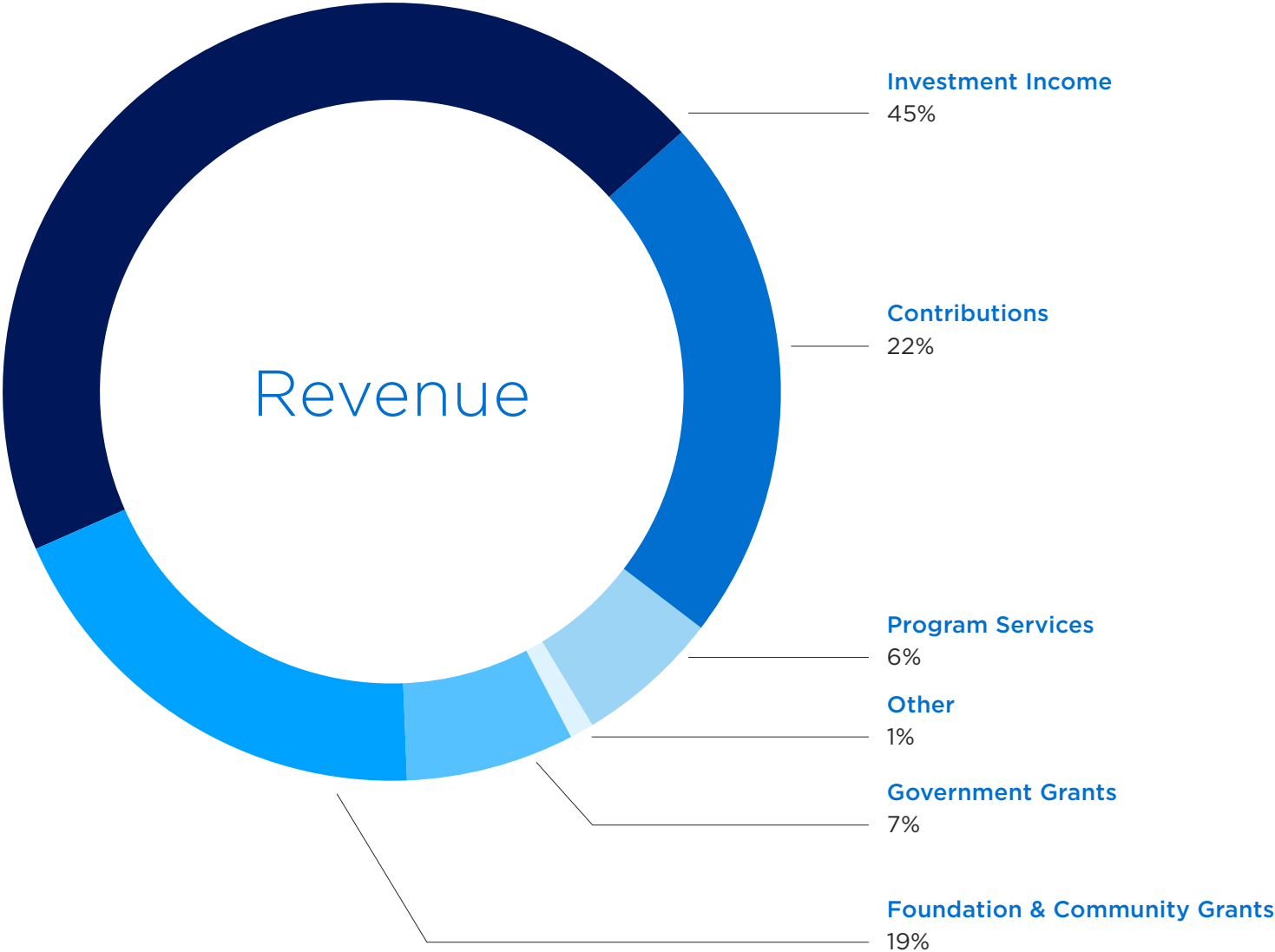


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APIAHF is grateful for the generosity of the businesses and corporations in our Business Leadership Circle and Friends, whose partnerships provide general operating support to advance better health outcomes for AANHPI communities.

In addition to providing general operating support, Business Leadership Circle partners advance the interests of AANHPI health and health equity through: event sponsorship, programmatic investments, product donations, grants & awards programs, and raising public awareness.

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Supporters

APIAHF appreciates the generosity of the following donors whose support has helped us champion better health outcomes for our communities.

AARP
Adam Carbullido
Ajija Van Gieson
Albert Shen
Alicia Tullo
Alyssa Umsawasdi and Bryan O’Connor
Alzheimer’s Association
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