



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**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.

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)—the oldest health advocacy organization serving Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities—is unwavering in its mission to advance the health and well-being of these vibrant and resilient communities.

In 2024, our collective efforts touched lives across the nation, reaching 44 states and U.S.-affiliated Pacific jurisdictions. Together, we accomplished so much: assisting more than 100,000 individuals in securing healthcare coverage; enrolling 26,300 people in Medicaid, the Health Insurance Marketplace, or Medicare; training over 100 in-language Community Health Workers (CHWs) and 80 Patient Navigators (PNs) and Pacific Islander Navigators; and issuing our third annual community-based organization (CBO) survey—the only report of its kind. At our annual VOICES conference in the nation’s capital, we welcomed over 250 community members, celebrated leaders at the Health Equity Awards reception, and fostered partnerships that continue to strengthen our mission. Through our training, technical assistance, advocacy, and resources, we made a difference that goes far beyond numbers—changing lives and advancing the health and dignity of AANHPI communities.

However, the challenges we face are real and growing. The policy environment has become increasingly difficult for immigrants, communities of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, and other historically underserved populations—putting them at greater risk. Institutions and safeguards meant to protect our most vulnerable neighbors are under pressure. Speaking up on their behalf has never been more challenging—or more essential.

Despite these obstacles, we stand firm. Consistent with our multi-decade commitment to health equity, APIAHF continues to tackle systemic disparities and address the critical needs of our communities. With renewed focus, we will remain steadfast in developing community-informed resources, advocating tirelessly, and uplifting both physical and mental health and wellness through our programs and policies.

In the face of adversity, APIAHF has always risen to meet the moment. Whether mobilizing partners during the COVID-19 pandemic or resisting discriminatory policies, we have remained committed to our mission. Throughout our history—including partnerships with the federal government under eight presidential administrations and across party lines—we have championed culturally competent care and pursued bipartisan solutions that serve all AANHPI communities.

As we approach our 40th anniversary, we reflect on a legacy of leadership and a future of continued impact. We hope you take pride in all that we have achieved together. It is through unity and perseverance that our communities continue to thrive.

Sincerely,



Neal Shah  
Board Chair



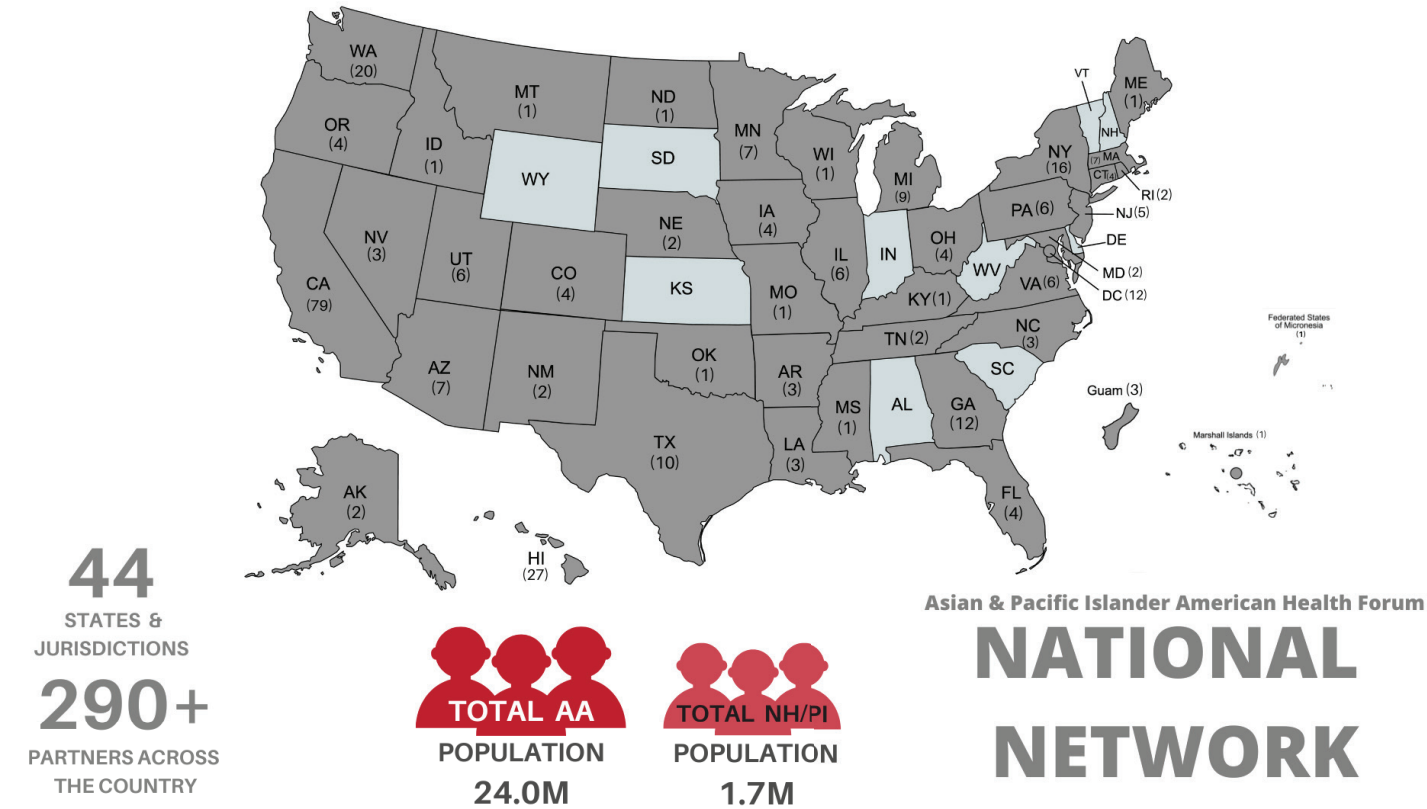
Juliet K. Choi  
President & CEO



As a trusted partner and steadfast advocate for diverse communities, APIAHF is dedicated to fostering its national network of more than 290 community-based organizations (CBOs) to better understand the complex, on-the-ground health needs of AANHPIs across 44 states and U.S.-affiliated Pacific jurisdictions.

“APIAHF has been a valuable partner to NAPCA for many years. Through the [Engaging AANHPI Communities in Adult Vaccination] EVAC grant, we’ve shared [flu and COVID-19] vaccine information with older AANHPI communities and brought the actual vaccines to them. This partnership has enabled us to help AANHPI older adults overcome language and cultural barriers to vaccine access. Together, we’ve also been able to advocate for changes that support the health of AANHPIs, helping them lead healthier, more connected lives.”

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)  
Seattle, WA



“Because we are a small community nonprofit with an all-volunteer board, we rely on more established organizations like APIAHF to collect information about policy and advocacy priorities and share when we can lend our voice through organizational or community testimonials.”

Filipino Young Leaders Program (FYLPRO)  
Carson City, NV



- In 2024, the CBO Network represented and served:
- 51 self-identified ethnicities
  - 40 U.S. states
  - 4 U.S.-affiliated Pacific jurisdictions: (1) Washington, D.C., and (3) U.S.-Pacific Islands: Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, and the Marshall Islands



APIAHF is committed to driving meaningful policy and systemic change at the federal, state and local levels. Through partnerships with community advocates, public health leaders and policymakers, we work tirelessly to advance equity and opportunity for AANHPI communities. Key focus areas of our 2024 policy efforts included:

Language Access

Recognizing that nearly one in three AANHPIs are limited English proficient (LEP), APIAHF advocated for the protection and expansion of language rights to ensure equitable access to vital health services. Most notably, we hosted a stakeholder convening with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) to hold federal agencies accountable for language access standards, and successfully championed the restoration of critical language protections under Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). These protections, reinstated and updated by HHS in July 2024, represent a significant step forward in addressing the needs of LEP individuals nationwide.

Data Disaggregation

The AANHPI population in the U.S. continues to grow, now exceeding 26 million people and expanding across an increasing number of states. However, much of the available data consolidates these diverse communities, often obscuring their unique backgrounds, experiences and challenges. In March 2024, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) finalized Statistical Policy Directive 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. Originally updated in 1997 to create distinct categories for “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander,” and expand the definition of “Hispanic” to include “Hispanic or Latino,” this latest update introduces new categories, including Middle Eastern or North African (MENA), and establishes a regular review process ahead of each decennial census. These advancements mark a critical step toward more inclusive and accurate data representation.

Access to Medicaid

As of December 2024, 41 states and Washington, D.C., have adopted Medicaid expansion. However, the conclusion of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency in April 2023 initiated the process of Medicaid Unwinding, during which states disenrolled individuals who no longer met eligibility criteria or did not complete the renewal process.

This Unwinding has led to the equivalent of a 31% decline in Medicaid enrollment nationwide, with significant variations across states. In response, APIAHF collaborated with national civil rights and health organizations to address the persistent and deepening challenges faced by communities of color in healthcare access. These efforts included co-authoring reports and engaging with federal agencies such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the White House Domestic Policy Council, and Congress to mitigate the harm caused by disenrollments.

Through the Hands Off Our Healthcare initiative, in partnership with the NAACP and other national organizations, APIAHF evaluated and publicly called on all 50 states and D.C. to strengthen their efforts to prevent unnecessary loss of health coverage for millions of families and children. APIAHF produced a state-by-state scorecard and Medicaid disenrollment rankings, and its President & CEO led direct outreach to governors and states Medicaid directors, providing them with performance grades and actionable recommendations. Many governors and state Medicaid leaders have responded positively to these calls to action, demonstrating a commitment to addressing the gaps in healthcare access.

Affordable Care Act Marketplace

Marketplace enrollment reached new heights in 2024, with a record-breaking 24.2 million Americans enrolling in health plans during the 2024–25 ACA Open Enrollment Period. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through CMS, invested \$100 million in grant funding for 44 Navigator organizations, marking the largest-ever investment in Navigators. These programs play a vital role in our communities by offering in-language services and eliminating language barriers for many AANHPI individuals.

APIAHF continues to advocate for initiatives that support Asian and Pacific Islander immigrant communities. In 2023, APIAHF submitted comments to CMS in support of a rule granting Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients access to Marketplace plans, leading to the rule’s finalization. In May 2024, APIAHF hosted a webinar with CMS and other partners to support the implementation of this rule during the 2024–25 Open Enrollment period.

Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA)

In 2024, APIAHF played a central role in leading the reintroduction of the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) during the 118th Congress. Spanning nearly 1,800 pages, this comprehensive legislation serves as a blueprint for health equity in the United States. Developed with contributions from over 300 organizations and dozens of Congressional members, the bill was championed by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), including Chair Emerita Rep. Judy Chu (CA-28), Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-12), and Sen. Mazie Hirono (HI), in partnership with the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. To support its introduction, APIAHF co-led a press event on Capitol Hill and launched a dedicated HEAA landing page, reinforcing its commitment to advancing health equity across the nation.





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.

"I felt very comfortable going to PICA WA for the vaccination clinic. They had translated documents about the vaccination and why it's important to keep up with it. They really care for making sure elders, like me, stay strong and healthy."

Quote from elder (Chuukese community)  
Pacific Islander Community Association of WA (PICA-WA)



Below are several highlights from our 2024 initiatives:

“The current project extends accessibility to our target populations by bringing routine immunizations into their communities. This service has proven to improve vaccine intake. We also ensure all of our staff speak an Asian language so we can assist our patients in their own language. This builds credibility and trust, and makes it much easier to promote vaccination. By proactively reaching out to community organizations that assist individuals who are secluded and difficult to reach, we have expanded vaccine coverage across the valley.”

Asian Community Development Council (ACDC)  
Las Vegas, NV



Increasing Insurance Enrollment

APIAHF is dedicated to ensuring that AANHPI communities have access to the care they need. In 2024, we strengthened the capacity of CHWs and PNs to deliver education, counseling and assistance with health insurance enrollment. These efforts resulted in a notable increase in insurance enrollment among AANHPI populations.

“APIAHF provides essential resources and expertise that enhance SAAPRI’s local outreach efforts. By inviting SAAPRI representatives to national [VOICES] conferences, APIAHF fosters knowledge sharing, networking, and access to best practices from similar communities. APIAHF’s development of multilingual healthcare education materials and collaborating with SAAPRI on community review ensures that vital health information reaches South Asian American community members who are non-English-speaking or have limited English proficiency.”

South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI)  
Chicago, IL



Healthcare Awareness and Public Education

To address critical health challenges such as the HIV epidemic and the spread of infectious diseases, APIAHF implemented targeted public education initiatives. These programs also supported our ongoing objective of increasing adult and children vaccination coverage, advancing health and well-being across our communities.



Language Access

With one-third of AANHPI individuals experiencing limited English proficiency, promoting language accessibility remains a cornerstone of APIAHF’s work. Throughout 2024, we developed and disseminated culturally and linguistically appropriate materials in up to 33 Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander languages to better serve our communities.



Community Narratives

Elevating the diverse experiences within AANHPI communities is central to our mission. In 2024, APIAHF launched a four-part video series, Engaging AA & NH/PI Communities in Adult Vaccination (EVAC) Partner Spotlight Series. The EVAC Partner Spotlight Series highlighted the work of CBOs collaborating on this CDC-funded program since its inception. These stories reflect the vital role of community partnerships in addressing health disparities. Later, in partnership with Pfizer through its Communities in Action for Health Equity grants program, the Health Forum and 6 local AANHPI organizations launched an EVAC initiative Part C program to reach AANHPI communities with vaccination education messages, increasing the number and diversity of vaccination opportunities of: routine immunization, Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV), and vaccinations for children.



APIAHF implements a range of programming aimed at improving health outcomes for AANHPI communities. Here are just a few examples of our program initiatives:

20x20 Systems Mapping Project

Increases the availability and skills of CHWs and PNs to provide education, counseling and facilitate enrollment in health insurance plans. Builds on existing partnerships to further enhance capacity within AANHPI communities to assess systemic barriers to health and begin tackling solutions from the ground up.

Impact

“A consumer does not have any income and has been seeking stable health insurance coverage. She was a single lady and barely knew anything about the healthcare system or benefits that she could take advantage of as a resident in NJ. As a navigator, I provided her with general information regarding the terminologies of healthcare plans and the process we should go through. Having a language barrier, it took me extra time to communicate with her, however, throughout the entire process, she was relying on my help, and I was content to be able to provide her the essential help she actually needs.”

Korean Community Services Metropolitan New York (KCS NY)  
Palisades Park, NJ



Capacity for Health Program (C4H)

Develops the skills and capacity of mid-to-senior level CBO staff to manage HIV prevention and treatment activities.

Impact:

- Hosted four Regional Leadership Institutes in Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, and Miami, training 147 participants from various organizations.
- 90% of participants reported improved team collaboration, and 70% continued using problem-solving tools post-course.
- Enrolled 261 HIV CBO managers into the C4H Learning Community courses, surpassing the annual goal of 75 participants.
- Produced four CDC-reviewed podcasts as part of the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative.

Engaging AANHPI Communities in Adult Vaccination (EVAC)

Expands adult COVID-19 and flu vaccination coverage with increased access to immunization services among AANHPI communities in partnership with CDC.

Impact:

- Partnered with 5,123 trusted community leaders to communicate the importance of flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Produced 6,859 communication products, resources, and campaign products driven by community-level needs such as COVID-19 misinformation in AANHPI communities.
- Hosted 421,744 community members at 710 campaign events to increase awareness about flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Administered 10,114 COVID-19 or influenza vaccines to community members.
- Deployed community-based, culturally-tailored, and linguistically appropriate messages on the flu, COVID-19, and the importance of vaccination translated in up to 37 languages.





## Health Equity Awards July 18, 2024

Our annual Health Equity Awards ceremony honors the work that our community partners, healthcare providers, and policymakers do in the course of serving their communities. Honorees included:

### Policymaker Award

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure,  
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS),  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

### Narrative Change Award

UCLA Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (NHPI) Data Policy Lab

### Partner Advocate Awards

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)  
Asian Pacific Community in Action (APCA)  
Boat People SOS (BPSOS) Gulf Coast  
We Are Oceania (WAO)



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

This one-of-a-kind convening brings together healthcare and policy professionals, social justice advocates, and community leaders to amplify the stories and experiences of AANHPI communities.

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 2024 conference, held October 1–2 in Washington, D.C., welcomed over 250 attendees from across the country, fostering meaningful dialogue, collaboration and advocacy.

Highlights of VOICES 2024 include:

- Illuminating learning sessions about timely and relevant topics including the importance of diversity in clinical trials, making our voices count at the ballot box, complex mental health challenges across generations and how to engage with Gen Z members of our communities.
- Remarks from Administration officials Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator of CMS, and Krystal Ka'ai, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders about the AANHPI health landscape, as well as author and activist Schuyler Bailar on his book, *He/She/They: How We Talk About Gender and Why It Matters*.
- Networking opportunities with like-minded health advocates from across the nation and U.S.-affiliated Pacific jurisdictions.



Our VOICES 2024 Conference was possible due to the generous support of our corporate sponsors.

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HEALTH EQUITY SUPPORTER

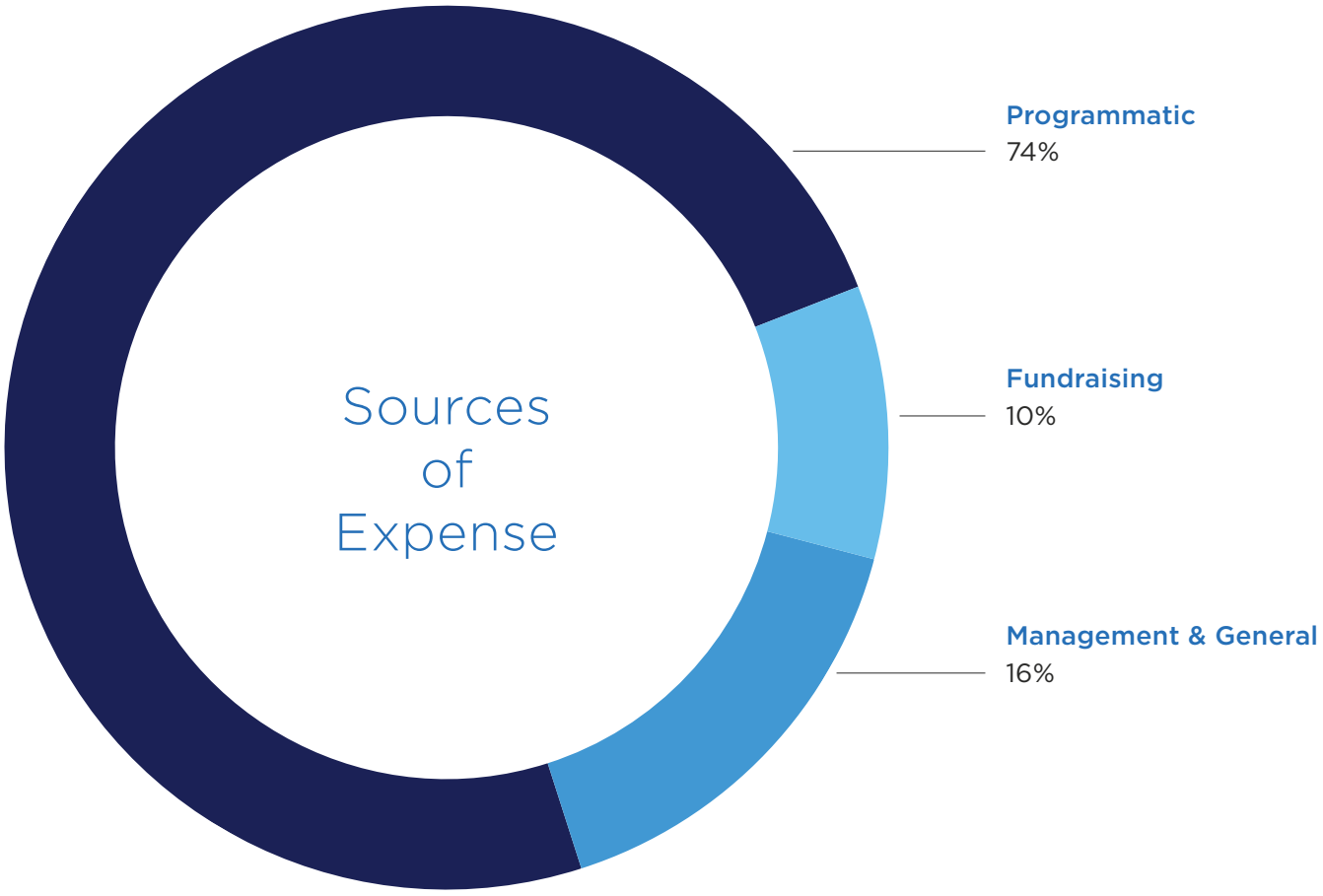
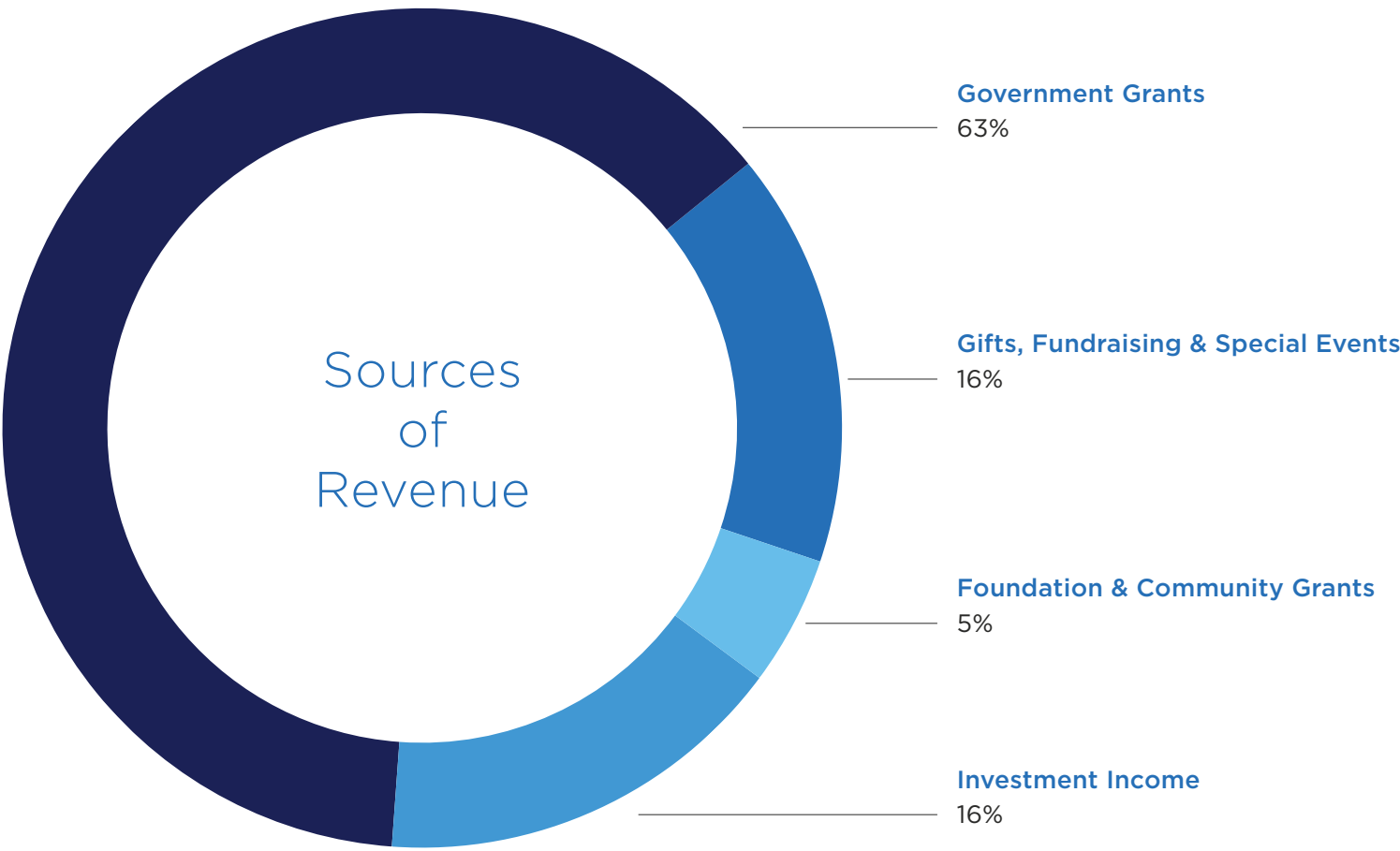






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Fiscal Year 2024 (January 1 - December 31, 2024)









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# Business Leadership Circle

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

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

GOLD LEVEL MEMBERS



SILVER LEVEL MEMBERS





# Supporters

In addition to our BLC and VOICES partners, APIAHF appreciates the following donors whose support has helped us champion better health outcomes for our communities.

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