



PRESS RELEASE

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White House Calls Action for Health Justice a “Champion of Change”

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WASHINGTON—Speaking at a ceremony today at the White House, Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, recognized Action for Health Justice and eight of its partners as Champions of Change for outreaching and enrolling Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPI) in the Affordable Care Act.

“You gave people a fighting chance for better health,” said Dr. Koh. “That is something you should be proud of.”

Action for Health Justice (AHJ) and partners were named as one of 11 White House [Champions of Change](#). AHJ was formed to ensure that eligible AAs and NHPs are able to learn about their coverage options under the ACA and enroll. The initiative has nationwide reach and was formed by four national partners—the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC and Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Los Angeles.

Priscilla Huang, policy director at APIAHF, accepted the award on behalf of AHJ.

“I am honored to represent the tremendous dedication, hours and perseverance of AHJ and our partners,” said Huang. “When I hear stories of the individuals and families that we have helped get coverage—some for the very first time—I am humbled. Today is a reminder of the power that collective action can have to better our communities.”

For the past six months, AHJ has worked with over 70 community-based partners and health centers in 21 states and helped AAs and NHPs learn about their coverage options, assisted families in applying and helped the newly covered understand how to use their insurance plans. More than 8 million Americans signed up for coverage during the first enrollment period, including over 230,000 AAs and NHPs in California.

The eight AHJ partner organization awardees include: Asian American Health Coalition/HOPE Clinic, Asian Health Coalition of Illinois, Asian Services In Action, Inc., Hmong American Partnership and Hmong National Development, International Community Health Services, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc., SEAMAAC and the South Asian Network.

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Action for Health Justice (AHJ) is a coalition of more than 70 Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander national and local community-based organizations and Federally Qualified Health Centers dedicated to educating, empowering and enrolling AAs and NHPs in health coverage. ZeroDivide serves as the initiative's technology counsel. AHJ's partner organizations are active in the following 21 states: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah and Washington. For more information and health reform resources in English, Asian and Pacific Islander languages, visit www.apiahf.org. Visit www.healthcare.gov for more information about the Marketplace and how to enroll.