



**Chief
Executive
Office.**

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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December 9, 2024

To: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chair
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From: Fesia A. Davenport *FAD*
FAD (Dec 9, 2024 23:02 PST)
Chief Executive Officer

REPORT ON STATE OF ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY (ITEM NO. 21, AGENDA OF MAY 21, 2024)

On May 21, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the motion, "State of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles County," which directed the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative to:

1. Collaborate with the Human Relations Commission (HRC) to consult with a representative group of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) stakeholders and academic and/or research institutions to create a State of AANHPI Los Angeles County report;
2. Partner with the Department of Public Health and Chief Executive Office (CEO)-Chief Information Officer to report back on a Countywide data justice policy that standardizes racial, ethnic, cultural, and sociolinguistic data collection, disaggregation, and reporting practices; and
3. Apply for and accept local, State, and federal grants to support the above efforts, as well as execute any agreements needed to carry out the motion's directives provided that any such agreements are approved as to form by County Counsel.



Background

Los Angeles County (County) is home to more AANHPI community members than any other county in the United States. More than 1.5 million County residents identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific islander, excluding those of mixed ethnic/racial heritage.¹ However, data collection and reporting practices often reduce this diverse community to one racial category that can mask important findings by ethnic group. In 2017, *The Portrait of Los Angeles County* reported a nearly 12-year difference in life expectancy between Asian and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander residents,² while a 2020 study conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Center for Health Policy Research discovered at least one health disparity in every Asian subgroup that was previously hidden by data aggregation.³ These findings make the case for creating a Countywide data justice policy that reduces data invisibility and accurately represents the needs and assets of AANHPI and other ethnic communities through the standardization of racial, ethnic, cultural, and sociolinguistic data collection, disaggregation, and reporting practices.

Countywide Data Justice Policy

To advance a Countywide data justice policy, ARDI is integrating efforts to align County demographic data practices with recent revisions to the *Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD 15)*. Revisions to the SPD 15 guidelines include using a single combined race and ethnicity question – enabling multiple responses – and collecting more detailed information beyond the minimum race and ethnicity categories, making data disaggregation among AANHPI and other racial groups possible. Previously, the United States Census (Census) limited the collection of racial categories for each group, which caused many AANHPI County residents to be counted as “other”, and more than a quarter of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander County residents still report belonging to a group not listed on the latest Census forms.⁴ ARDI also met with a data justice expert from UCLA’s Center for Community Engagement Los Angeles Data Justice Hub to discuss issues around demographic data collection, disaggregation, and reporting.

1 Los Angeles County, California. United State Census. Online at: https://data.census.gov/profile/Los_Angeles_County,_California?q=050XX00US06037#race-and-ethnicity.

2 Lewis, k. and Burd-Sharps. S. (2017). A Portrait of Los Angeles County. Measure of America. Online at: <https://ssrc-static.s3.amazonaws.com/moa/PoLA%20Full%20Report.pdf>.

3 News: Invisible in the data: Broad ‘Asian American’ category obscures health disparities. (November 2023). UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. Online at: <https://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/news/invisible-data-broad-asian-american-category-obscures-health-disparities>.

4 Ylanan, A. and Kambhampati, S. May 15, 2024. How Los Angeles County became home to the biggest AAPI communities in the country. Los Angeles Times. Online at: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-05-15/how-southern-california-became-home-to-the-biggest-aapi-communities-in-the-country>.

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To develop a Countywide data justice policy and meet the revised federal *SPD 15* guidelines, ARDI, CEO-Chief Information Officer, and the Department of Public Health launched a survey in September 2024 to determine how the County departments plan to align their data collection practices and databases with the new race/ethnicity standards. ARDI also met with the ARDI Data and Planning Workgroup, a cross-section of individuals from different County departments, to engage in a robust discussion around the departments' race/ethnicity data practices. ARDI is analyzing both the survey and focus group data to inform the development of the data justice policy and recommendations to support federally aligned Countywide data collection practices.

The State of AANHPI Los Angeles County Report

The State of AANHPI LA County Report (AANHPI Report) will disaggregate data by ethnicity to capture the distinct needs of Asian subgroups, which will allow the County to better identify and serve vulnerable AANHPI community members through improved data quality and granularity. Through this practice, the report will also be able to address longstanding narratives. For example, a 2018 Pew Research Center study found that, "Asian Americans were the most economically divided racial or ethnic group in the U.S., with Asian Americans in the top 10th of the income distribution making 10.7 times more than those in the bottom 10th."⁵

To develop the report, ARDI has met with multiple stakeholders to learn about their data needs and how the report might address important issues facing the community. ARDI will continue to engage community and is working with philanthropy to identify resources to support these outreach efforts. ARDI is identifying a university partner that will be responsible for completing the report, including the collection of primary data, analysis of secondary research, and assessment of AANHPI access and utilization of County services. Attachment I provides an update on the planning and development of the AANHPI Report, as well as progress to date.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or D'Artagnan Scorza, Ph.D., Executive Director of Racial Equity, at (213) 974-1761 or dscorza@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:CDM
DS:HJN:TW:es

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Public Health

5 Hanzhang Jin, C. (May 25, 2021). 6 Charts That Dismantle The Trope Of Asian Americans As A Model Minority. NPR. Online at: <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/25/999874296/6-charts-that-dismantle-the-trope-of-asian-americans-as-a-model-minority>.

Progress Update on the State of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders in Los Angeles County Report

On May 21, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the motion directing the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (ARDI) Initiative to create a State of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders Los Angeles County Report (AANHPI Report) and to establish a Countywide data justice policy that standardizes racial, ethnic, cultural, and sociolinguistic data collection, disaggregation, and reporting practices. This report provides an update on the planning and development of the AANHPI Report, as well as the progress made to advance the motion directives.

Phase I: Report Planning and Development

ARDI met with AANHPI leadership and staff from nearly a dozen organizations and entities to ensure the report is informed by and reflects the communities' diverse perspectives and needs. Based on these meetings, ARDI created the project plan outlined below in Table 1, which includes major milestones related to stakeholder engagement activities, completion of the AANHPI Report, and development of the Countywide data policy and data collection practices.

Table 1: AANHPI Report Project Plan

TASK	TIMELINE
Stakeholder Engagement	
Conduct stakeholder outreach and engagement to inform the report's design and development.	May 2024 – April 2025
Host an AANHPI Community Town Hall.	January 2025
Convene an Academic Research Consortium and Community Advisory Group to advise on and support the report's development.	April 2025 – March 2026
Conduct stakeholder outreach and engagement to inform the report's policy recommendations.	December 2025 – February 2026
Report Design and Development	
Execute contract agreement with research institution responsible for coordination and completion of the report and related deliverables.	March 2025

TASK	TIMELINE
Review secondary data sources and complete a data landscape analysis based on findings.	April – August 2025
Conduct primary data collection to supplement secondary research. This includes conducting survey(s), interviews, and focus groups.	April – October 2025
Conduct assessment of AANHPI access and utilization of County services.	June – November 2025
Conduct assessment of the County’s cultural humility, cultural competency, and language access practices.	June – November 2025
Draft and complete the final report; present to Board.	August 2025 – May 2026
Develop draft policy recommendations based on findings from the data report and stakeholder input.	February – March 2026
Create report summary for translation into multiple languages.	May – July 2026
Publicly launch the report.	May – August 2026
Countywide Data Justice Policy	
Conduct a comprehensive review of demographic categories used by analyzing survey and focus group data from departments.	Present – December 2024
Develop a workplan and data collection materials to support implementation of the new standards.	December 2024 - February 2025.
Develop recommendations for new data collection practices as part of the Countywide data justice policy.	March 2025

Additionally, feedback received during the key informant interviews and meetings with community stakeholders have led to the following recommendations for the report:

- Apply participatory research methods when developing the report.
- Practices better approaches to data disaggregation and language access. Represent the diversity of AANHPI communities, including the intersection of characteristics beyond ethnic identities.

- Ensure the inclusion of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander populations. These communities often experience a lack of data visibility.
- Select indicators and metrics that account for the cultural realities of and the context in which AANHPI communities live. For example, reporting household income for intergenerational/extended families can be misleading when measuring economic stability and/or success.
- Address the “model minority” stereotype and its complex history. The “model minority” stereotype characterizes Asian Americans as high-achieving, hard-working, and socioeconomically successful, a generalization that harms Asian communities by masking real disparities within the community and is used to perpetuate discriminatory policies and harmful beliefs (e.g., meritocracy) that harm all communities of color.
- Report on capacity built, not just disparities, to demonstrate progress that has been made.

ARDI will incorporate this feedback and continue to create opportunities that promote stakeholder involvement throughout the report’s development. These efforts will help build community trust and deepen their engagement with the report and other ARDI initiatives.

Deepening Stakeholder Voice and Involvement

As part of the planning phase, ARDI is convening a community planning workgroup comprised of representatives from AANHPI-led organizations to plan an AANHPI Community Town Hall. The purpose of the town hall is to provide an overview of key County initiatives impacting the broader AANHPI community and to gather input on the upcoming AANHPI Report. During the town hall, ARDI will discuss potential report indicators as part of the domains identified in the Board motion and important community issues, including data collection and disaggregation, language access, and culturally relevant service delivery. ARDI received a small grant from the California Community Foundation to event, which is scheduled to for January 24, 2025.

Following the Town Hall, ARDI will host a series of outreach activities that engage community members across the county to discuss and/or collect input on:

- Domain-specific focus areas;
- Community access to County services and resources; and
- Development and implementation of the report recommendations to improve data disaggregation and language access practices, access to services, and service delivery.

Last, ARDI is exploring the feasibility of securing a contractor to assist with the production of the AANHPI report, which will include convening an academic research consortium and community advisory group to provide ongoing consultation from experts who are well-versed on the unique challenges impacting the AANHPI community.

Summary

ARDI is conducting a robust stakeholder engagement process to inform the development of the AANHPI Report. This process has included key informant interviews with community leaders and working with AANHPI-led organizations to plan a town hall focused on gathering recommendations on report indicators and important issues facing the AANHPI community. A work plan is in place to advance the planning and development of the report, and ARDI continues its fundraising efforts to secure additional philanthropic resources for the anticipated outreach and engagement activities identified in the plan. Once funding is in place, ARDI will execute a contract with the identified research institution responsible for completing the report. The report will incorporate recommendations from the final Countywide data justice policy where applicable to reflect best practices related to data collection and reporting, including the disaggregation of Asian ethnicities in the AANHPI report when possible.