

## THE IMPACT OF AANAPISI FUNDING: STRENGTHENING HIGHER EDUCATION FOR AA&NHPI STUDENTS

The Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander–Serving Institution (AANAPISI) designation represents one of the most significant federal investments in supporting the education of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA&NHPI) communities—a frequently overlooked population due to harmful misconceptions about these students’ educational experiences. Established in 2007 by Congress as one of 11 Minority–Serving Institutions (MSIs), the AANAPISI designation enables institutions with substantial AA&NHPI student populations to apply for federal funding to create and implement culturally responsive programs and services. Federal support for AANAPISIs has been critical to closing educational gaps, increasing student achievement, and strengthening the U.S. workforce, thus spurring economic development. Without continued funding, these critical programs will be dismantled, leading to severe negative consequences for nearly one million undergraduate students nationwide.

### Overview of AA&NHPIs & AANAPISIs

- ✔ **Serving the Fastest-Growing Student Population**
  - **AA&NHPI students are one of the fastest-growing racial groups in U.S. higher education**, with enrollment projected to grow **12% in the next four years**.
  - AANAPISIs **enroll over 40% of all AA&NHPI undergraduates in the nation**, playing a critical role in their access to and success in higher education.
  - **Funded AANAPISIs enroll over 980,000 total undergraduates** in 2023, with **nearly 1 in 5 being an AA&NHPI undergraduate**.
- ✔ **AANAPISIs Drive College Completion & Economic Mobility**
  - AANAPISIs **award nearly half of all associate and bachelor’s degrees** earned by AA&NHPI students.
  - These institutions are **critical for first-generation, low-income, and immigrant students**, providing tailored academic, financial, and social support that improves **retention, graduation, and workforce success**.
- ✔ **A Growing, Proven, Yet Underfunded Federal Investment**
  - The number of **eligible AANAPISIs has grown by 81% since 2018**, reflecting the increasing resource demand for institutions that equitably serve AA&NHPI students. Currently, **funded AANAPISIs represent 32 public four-year, 19 public two-year, and 4 private four-year institutions across the United States**.
  - Although AANAPISIs represent the **second-largest group of MSIs eligible for federal funding**, they remain the **least funded** MSI designation.
  - Despite their impact, **only a fraction of eligible AANAPISIs receive federal grants**, limiting their ability to expand programs and services for AA&NHPI students.

### CONGRESS MUST ACT TO PRESERVE & EXPAND AANAPISI FUNDING

- **AANAPISIs are a proven federal investment in student success**. Without continued funding, the nation risks reversing decades of progress supporting AA&NHPI students in higher education.
- **Defunding would disproportionately harm low-income, first-generation, and underserved AA&NHPI students**, exacerbating racial inequities in postsecondary education.
- **Congress must ensure continued investment in AANAPISI programs** to support equitable access, student achievement, and workforce readiness for the fastest-growing racial population in the U.S.
- **Investing in AANAPISIs is an investment in America’s future**.

## AANAPISI FUNDING EXPANDS STUDENT SUCCESS

- ✓ **Increasing Retention & Graduation Rates**
  - The **Hunter College AANAPISI Program (HCAP)** supported students had **higher retention** (98.3% first year retention) **and graduation rates** (76.1% six-year graduation) than non-HCAP students.
  - **University of Connecticut at Hartford's Transformation, Equity, Access, and Sense of Belonging project** doubled student engagement, supporting 460 students through culturally tailored academic support.
- ✓ **Providing Critical Academic & Career Support**
  - **Oakton College** has served over 3,500 students by increasing the retention and completion of first-time, full-time AA&NHPI degree-seeking students, including in STEM fields.
- ✓ **Creating a Sense of Belonging & Mental Health Support**
  - **South Seattle College's AANAPISI Center** serves **20-30 students daily** as a culturally **relevant community space** for academic and social support.
  - **University of Massachusetts Boston's (UMass Boston) Asian American Resource Office** has implemented **wellness chats led by mental health professionals**, serving an average of **30 students per month** and creating a **supportive space to address mental health challenges** disproportionately affecting first-generation and low-income AA&NHPI students.
- ✓ **Strengthening Workforce Pipelines & Leadership Development**
  - **Northern Marianas College's Project PROA** has supported **over 10,000 students through campus resources, access to transfer pathways, academic advising, peer mentoring, academic tutoring, and student employment opportunities**. On average, 76% of these students are first-generation college students and 84% receive Pell Grants.
  - **Irvine Valley College's ELEVATE AAPI program** has maintained **88% student persistence rates**, far exceeding the campus average (60%).

## DEFUNDING AANAPISIs CAN LEAD TO DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES

- ✖ **Massive Loss of Academic & Career Services**
  - **Cosumnes River College** would lose **workshops, mentorship, and financial aid guidance** for 4,369 AA&NHPI students.
  - **Fullerton College's newly established APIDA student center** would close, cutting off **key retention programs and career support**, which includes the loss of 4 staff positions for a center that serves 20-30 students daily.
  - **Palau Community College** would struggle to maintain **professional tutoring, supplemental instruction in math and English, and career counseling**. Without AANAPISI funding, **student retention and success rates would decline**, disproportionately impacting **low-income and first-generation students** in the region.
- ✖ **Exacerbating Equity Gaps for First-Generation & Low-Income Students**
  - **San Francisco State University's Access, Relevance, Community Transfer Pathways Initiative** serves 1,800 students over five years—without funding, these services **would be eliminated**, deepening disparities in academic success.
- ✖ **Elimination of Culturally Responsive Faculty & Staff Professional Development**
  - **Hunter College's faculty training** on culturally relevant teaching practices **would be reduced**, leaving faculty unequipped to support diverse students.
  - **Faculty workshops at North Seattle College** have **100% positive feedback**, with 88% saying it broadened their knowledge of AA&NHPI issues. Without funding, these faculty workshops would end and negatively impact faculty's understanding of AA&NHPI students.
- ✖ **Closure of AANAPISI Student Centers & Learning Spaces**
  - **The AANAPISI Center at South Seattle College** would **encounter uncertainty** as vital operations and activities that increase students' sense of belonging will be directly impacted. Loss of dedicated personnel and collective energy that provide momentum for AANAPISI to continue its services would affect **200+ students in dedicated cohorts** and jeopardize a space that **welcomes 20-30 students daily** for academic advising, mentorship, and cultural programming.
  - **Laney College's only AA&NHPI-serving program** would disappear, impacting **over 800 English as a Second Language (ESL) and low-income AAPI students** who rely on its services.
- ✖ **Layoffs & Institutional Instability**
  - **University of Colorado Denver's AANAPISI program**, which offers support and strategies to offices across the university for better serving AA&NHPI students and delivers AA&NHPI Cultures dual enrollment courses at no cost in Denver area high schools, **would be eliminated after limited emergency funds are depleted, leaving a significant gap** in dedicated, culturally-responsive support for AA&NHPI students.
  - **Northern Marianas College** would **lose five staff positions**, directly impacting over **700 students annually**.

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