



Governor's Office and Commission on South Asian American Affairs



ANNUAL REPORT
2012





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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report of the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs. This report describes the Commission's outreach efforts, initiatives, accomplishments and provides valuable resources for the South Asian American community.

The South Asian American population is growing in Maryland, and accordingly, the need for a South Asian Commission to have a voice in my administration was becoming evident. The Commission is charged with expanding social, political and economic opportunities for Maryland's South Asian community. It also serves as an important conduit between Maryland's growing South Asian American population and Maryland's State agencies and departments.

I am also very pleased to welcome all the Commissioners for the South Asian American Commission and thank all the Commissioners for their hard work and dedication for the Asian American community.

We are striving to make Maryland the best place to live, work and raise a family. I invite you to read the annual report and contact the Commission staff to partner with our office in supporting the activities of the South Asian American community.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSION CHAIR

On behalf of the Commission on South Asian American Affairs, I am pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report.

According to the 2010 Census, there are more than 110,000 South Asian Americans living in the State of Maryland. That is one third of the total Asian American population of the State. The Commission is formed to give a wider voice in State government to reflect the increasing population of the South Asian American community in Maryland. Previously, South Asians Commissioners had been represented on the Governor's Asian Pacific American Commission.

The Commission meets once every two months, during which the Commissioners hear testimony from community leaders, government officials, and subject-matter experts on a wide variety of issues which concern the South Asian American community. We would like to extend our appreciation to those who gave testimony and shared information with the Commission in 2012.

Finally, we thank Governor Martin O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown for establishing the South Asian Commission, and their vision, leadership, and continued support for the South Asian American communities throughout Maryland.

Jesse Singh, Chair
Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs





COMMISSIONERS (ETHNICITY AND COUNTY OF RESIDENCE IN PARENTHESES):

Chanhok Jasdip “Jesse” Singh, Chair (Indian, Anne Arundel County)

- President of Maximum Assisted Living, LLC
 - Former President of the Sikh Association of Baltimore
-

Amjad Riar, Vice-Chair (Pakistani, Montgomery County)

- Director of the Inpatient Hospital Pain and Palliative Care Consultation Service
 - Member of the Montgomery Cares Advisory Board
 - Member of the Wellness and Prevention WG for Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council department of Health and Mental Hygiene
-

Anis Ahmed (Bangladeshi, Montgomery County)

- Coordinator of the Office of Human Rights at Montgomery County
 - Secretary of the Montgomery County Muslim Council
-

Arthur Pavan Bezwada (Indian, Montgomery County)

- Assistant Registrar at University of Maryland, Baltimore County
 - Director, and past Vice President of the National Council of Asian Indian Associations, Inc.
-

Ishani Chowdhury (Indian, Montgomery County)

- Senior IT Project Manager at the US Food and Drug Administration
-

Rani David (Indian, Prince George's County)

- Indian Dance Instructor at the Bharatanatyam Dance Academy
-

Sharad Doshi (Indian, Frederick County)

- Franchisee of 6 Subway restaurants in Maryland
 - Owner of an investment company and a gas station
 - President of the Indian Association of Frederick
-

Kamala Edwards (Indian, Montgomery County)

- President of Indian American Leadership Council
 - Vice President, Maryland Homeowners Association
-

Mohan Grover (Indian, Anne Arundel County)

- Owner of Renno's Market
 - Commissioner of Human Relations Commission of Anne Arundel County
-

Suresh C. Gupta (Indian, Montgomery County)

- Self employed solo physician
 - Vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees at Durga Temple
-

Irma Hafeez (Pakistani, Montgomery County)

- Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation Inc.
-

Tahira Hussain (Pakistani, Howard County)

- Representative for Women's Lawyer's Association at the United Nations in New York
 - Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Howard County
-

Seema Iyer (Indian, Baltimore City)

- Associate Director & Research Assistant Professor at Jacob France Institute at the Merrick School of Business, University of Baltimore
-

Sheila Khatri (Indian, Montgomery County)

- Founder and President of Moti International, LLC
- Member and Legal Advisor of the Global Alliance of Indian Biomedical Professionals



Nirmal Pahadi (Nepali, Prince George's County)

- Adjunct Faculty at Prince George's Community College

Shailesh "Sly" Patel (Indian, Baltimore County)

- President of Tulsi Management, Inc.
- Vice President of Holiday Inn King Express, LLC
- Vice President of North Star Travel Plaza, Best Western
- Vice President of Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore

Asoka Ranaweera (Sri Lankan, Montgomery County)

- Managing Partner of Grid2Grid, LLC

Kia Scherr (White, Baltimore City)

- President and Co-Founder of One Life Alliance International

Devang Shah (Indian, Montgomery County)

- Partner at the Law Offices of Shah and Kishore

Rana Shaikh (Pakistan/Kashmir, Baltimore County)

- Vice President at Bank of America

Baljinder Singh (Indian, Baltimore County)

- Assistant HIPPA Privacy Officer at Baltimore County Government
- Board Member of the Sikh Association of Baltimore

STAFF

Yi Shen
Assistant Director

Agnes M. Smith
Administrative Assistant

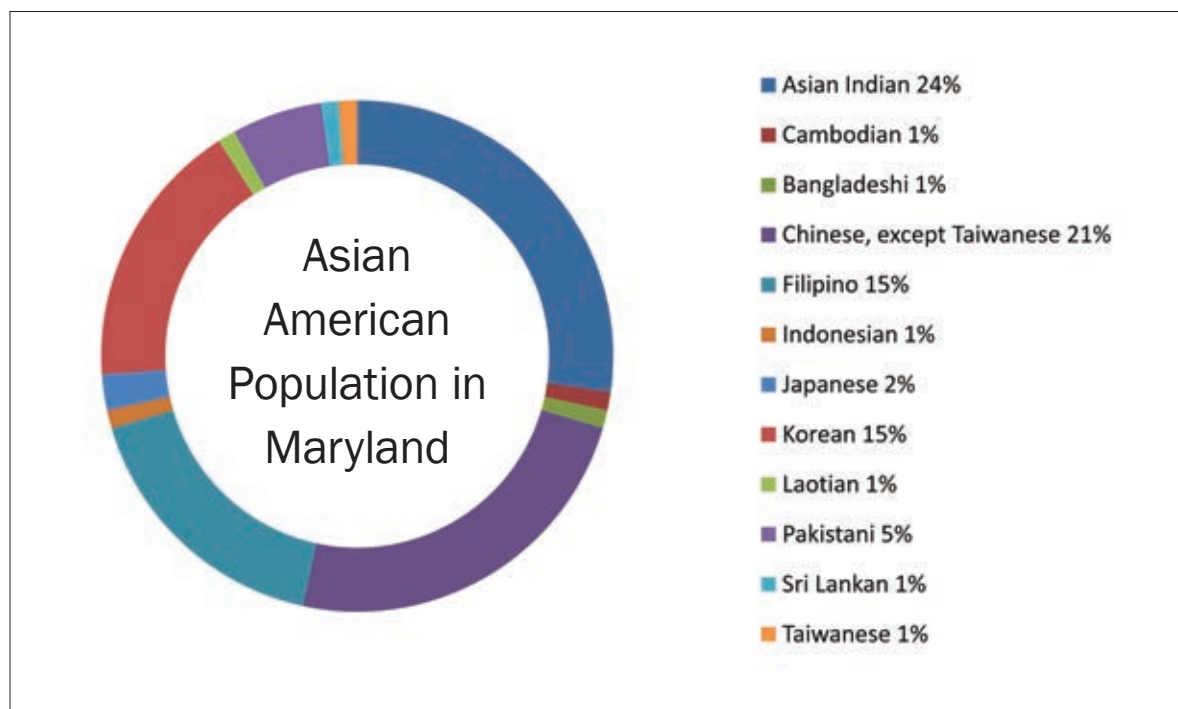


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to the 2011 American Community Survey, there are more than 110,000 South Asian Americans (SAA) living in the State of Maryland. That is one third of the total Asian American population of the state. It is estimated that the SAA community will continue to grow at a fast pace in Maryland in years to come. Governor O'Malley sought to give a bigger and louder voice to the South Asian Community, which is why he signed an executive order creating the South Asian Commission on August 29, 2012.

Although this Commission was not fully formed until August 2012, the Chair and members of the Commission had a full and eventful year. Members attended the Asian American Business Conference, helped organize the New Americans Street Festival, and attended the Joint Commission and Community Partners Assembly.

The Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs looks forward to serving the community and furthering the economic, educational, health, political and social well being of the South Asian American community of Maryland.



THE NEW COMMISSION

Full Commission

- Create a resource guide for the South Asian American community and disseminate to the community
- Create a partnership with the community
- Promote community organization events
- Promote cultural awareness and religious tolerance of the South Asian American community
- Assist with the Pan Asian Community Summit
- Assist with the Asian American Business Conference

Health Care Committee

(Members: Ishani Chowdhury [Chair], Sharad Doshi [Vice Chair], Tahira Hussain, Suresh C. Gupta)

- Identify State Policy on health care regarding the South Asian American community
- Assist with the Joint Commission “Data Collection by Country of Origin” Initiative
- Identify health issues in the South Asian American community
- Attempt to have language access for hospital and health care providers
- Disseminate “End of Term/End of Life” information to the South Asian American senior citizens
- Provide religious contact information for hospital and health care providers
- Provide health care information for the community in both digital and print format

Education Committee

(Members: Kamala Edwards[Chair], Seema Iyer[Vice Chair], Arthur Pavan Bezwada, Ishani Chowdhury, Nirmal Pahadi, Baljinder Singh, Tahira Hussain)

- Identify English Second Language programs for new immigrants and seniors
- Introduce cultural education/cultural awareness in school and work place
- Promote language access and literacy
- Identify resource for parents and children for higher education

Legislative Committee

(Members: Devang Shah [Chair], Shailesh Patel [Vice Chair], Sheila Khatri, Anis Ahmed, Rana Shaikh, Tahira Hussain, Irma Hafeez)

- Identify and support bills that affect the South Asian American community
- Support eligible South Asian candidate for appointed positions
- Develop relationship with elected officials
- Meet with local delegations
- Encourage and organize voter registration



Community Development Committee

(Members: Sheila Khatri [Chair], Tahira Hussain [Vice Chair], Rana Shaikh, Anis Ahmed, Seema Iyer, Mohan Grover, Rani David, Kia Scherr)

- Support the development and promotion of South Asian American leadership in the government
- Promote equal opportunity and civil rights for the South Asian community
- Identify and address barriers that the South Asian community faces at all levels
- Create initiatives that deals with hate crimes
- Promote religious tolerance and awareness
- Promote cultural awareness for the Maryland population

Economic Development Committee

(Members: Sharad Doshi [Chair], Shailesh Patel [Vice Chair], Devang Shah, Arthur Pavan Bezwada, Irma Hafeez, Nirmal Pahadi, Asoka Ranaweera)

- help the business community navigate the licensing process
- Identify and rectify issues that the South Asian American businesses face
- Provide a resource guide for the South Asian business community
- Connect the business community to various government agencies for procurement, funding and financing
- Create a dialogue and connect the various South Asian trade organizations
- Collect South Asian business data

EVENTS

BAISAKHI CELEBRATION

Baisakhi is an extremely important celebration for the Sikh population in Maryland. It is combination of harvest festival, New Year, and religious holiday. The Governor hosted this celebration at the Government House for the second year in a row. This year's Baisakhi celebration was attended by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Delegation, which is the oldest and largest business organization that Governor O'Malley signed an MOU with his India trade mission. The FICCI Delegation was in Maryland to establish partnerships in biotechnology, renewable energy and infrastructure. The event was attended by the Lt. Governor, Paul Monteiro from the White House, Delegate Aruna Miller, Delegate Sam Arora and over 200 guests.

At the Baisakhi celebration, the Governor O'Malley took the opportunity to announce plans to form a South Asian American Commission.



A Sikh priest singing a prayer for the Governor and all the attendees at the Baisakhi event



The New Commission Posing for Picture with the Governor

THE NEW COMMISSION

Prior to the establishment of the South Asian Commission, there were several South Asian Commissioners on the Asian Pacific American Commission. When the Governor went on the 2011 trade mission in India, he decided that the South Asian Community needed their own voice in State government. His signature trip to India resulted in Executive Order No. 01.01.2012.17.A, creating the South Asian American Commission on August 29, 2012.

The Commission is made up of twenty-one Commissioners from all over the State of Maryland with varying ethnic, age, gender, and occupational background. The Commission advises the Governor on the issues in the South Asian Community regarding health, education, business development and community development. We will work to strengthen our communities by identifying and addressing their needs and concerns.



ASIAN AMERICAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Over 350 business people from all parts of the State participated in the May 21-22nd Asian American Business Conference (AABC). The conference, which featured seminars on state, federal and non-profit business resources, officially started on the evening of May 21, 2012 with a networking dinner. The dinner was designed to build on the Governor's 2011 Asia trade missions to China, India, Korea and Vietnam. Embassy officials from those countries attended, providing an opportunity for Maryland's small and mid-sized companies to further build export connections abroad.

The AABC is the only Asian American business conference in Maryland. Its main goal is to promote and support Asian American businesses by offering seminars and a trade show. This year's AABC has been completely reworked from the AABC of the years past. This year the AABC had eight workshops running on two tracks, a new website, and a new way of getting the attendees to engage the exhibitors. This year's AABC is by far the largest and most successful AABC since its inception.

Featured speakers at the conference included: Dominick E. Murray, Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development; Linda L. Chang, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of PharmAthene; Zenita Wickham Hurley, Special Secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs; Congressman John Sarbanes; and Dr. Ashok K. Thareja, CEO and President of A&T Systems.

Over 30 sponsors supported the conference, including Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, Maryland Department of Labor Licensing and Regulations, Bank of America, Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, State Farm, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, ARINC and Lockheed Martin.

The planning committee was largely composed of members of the Maryland Governor's Commission on Asian American Affairs and various leaders and key organizations from the business and civic-oriented Asian-Pacific community in Maryland, including the Foundation for the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce. Under Governor O'Malley's leadership, the State of Maryland has an unwavering commitment to ensure the prosperity and further expansion of all Maryland-based companies, with a special focus on minority, women-owned, and disadvantaged enterprises.



Secretary Edward Chow addressing a large crowd at the Networking Dinner of the AABC

SIKH CANDLELIGHT PRAYER CEREMONY

After the tragedy of the Wisconsin Sikh temple shooting on August 5, 2012, lawmakers, politicians, police officials and religious leaders from all over Maryland attended various vigils around the State to mourn the loss of the Sikh community.

The Governor attended the Sikh Association of Baltimore vigil on Thursday August 9th, and gave the following remarks: “As we come together in the wake of unthinkable tragedy, and unimaginable heartache, it is humbling to think that this very gathering is a testament to our collective strength as a people. We come together today from many diverse backgrounds, from all walks of life, to stand with our friends in Wisconsin and throughout the Sikh community, shoulder to shoulder in solidarity.

Because in our great State, where our diversity is our greatest strength, we choose to be bound together by the common thread of human dignity.

While we may never truly be able to understand such senseless violence, we are left instead with a renewed resolve to stand up to hate in all its forms, ... to remember the victims, and refuse to go on as if nothing happened.

We are reminded today of the words of the first Guru, “In the whole wide world that I see around, nothing can be gained without good actions.”

Although nothing we can do will ever ease this pain we feel, we will remember those who were lost through our own service to others. And we will honor them through our own efforts to stand up to evil throughout our world.”



Chairman Jesse Singh addresses the crowd at the Sikh vigil in Baltimore

Lt. Governor Anthony Brown attended the vigil at the Guru Nanak Foundation of America Vigil in Silver Spring on Friday August 10 and gave a similar message of solidarity, unity and condolences.

It was heartwarming to see many different communities stand together during an extremely sad and harsh time to show support for one another. To quote one of the speakers, “This was not the first time that [Sikhs] have been attacked and this will not be the last, but during difficult times like these, we have to keep wearing our turbans proudly... we will get through this.”

Maryland values diversity and stands with our Sikh community.



THE GOVERNOR'S JOINT COMMISSION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS ASSEMBLY

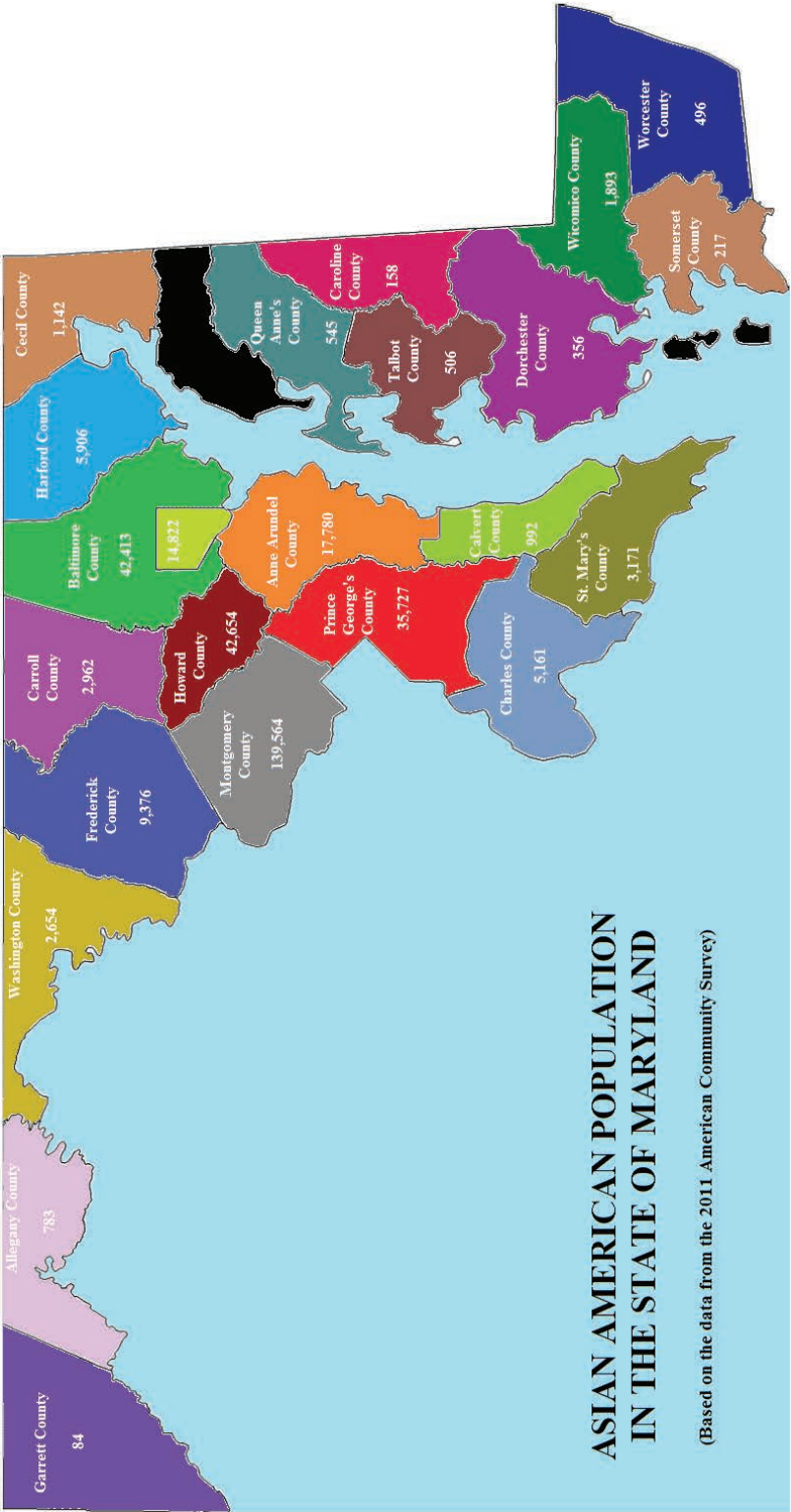
On December 12, 2012, the newly formed Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs joined the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs, the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs, the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern Affairs, the Governor's Commission on African Affairs, the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism, and the Maryland Commission Asian Pacific American Affairs for the Joint Commissions Assembly.

Commissioners were treated to a great speech from actor Tony Plana on the importance of diversity. Commissioners were then asked to attend three workshops: Cross-Cutting Commission Concerns, Impacting Maryland Policy and Commission Tasks, and Federal Reforms and Maryland Expectations. In the Cross-Cutting Commission Concerns, all of the commissioners identified three areas where issues affect all ethnic communities. They were Health, Education and Business. As a result of the Assembly, there are currently multiple projects in the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives that are being worked on collaboratively by commissioners from every Commission.

The evening ended with the Chairs of each Commission giving a debriefing of the achievements in the year past and the Commission's future goals to the Governor's Chief of Staff, Matt Gallagher.



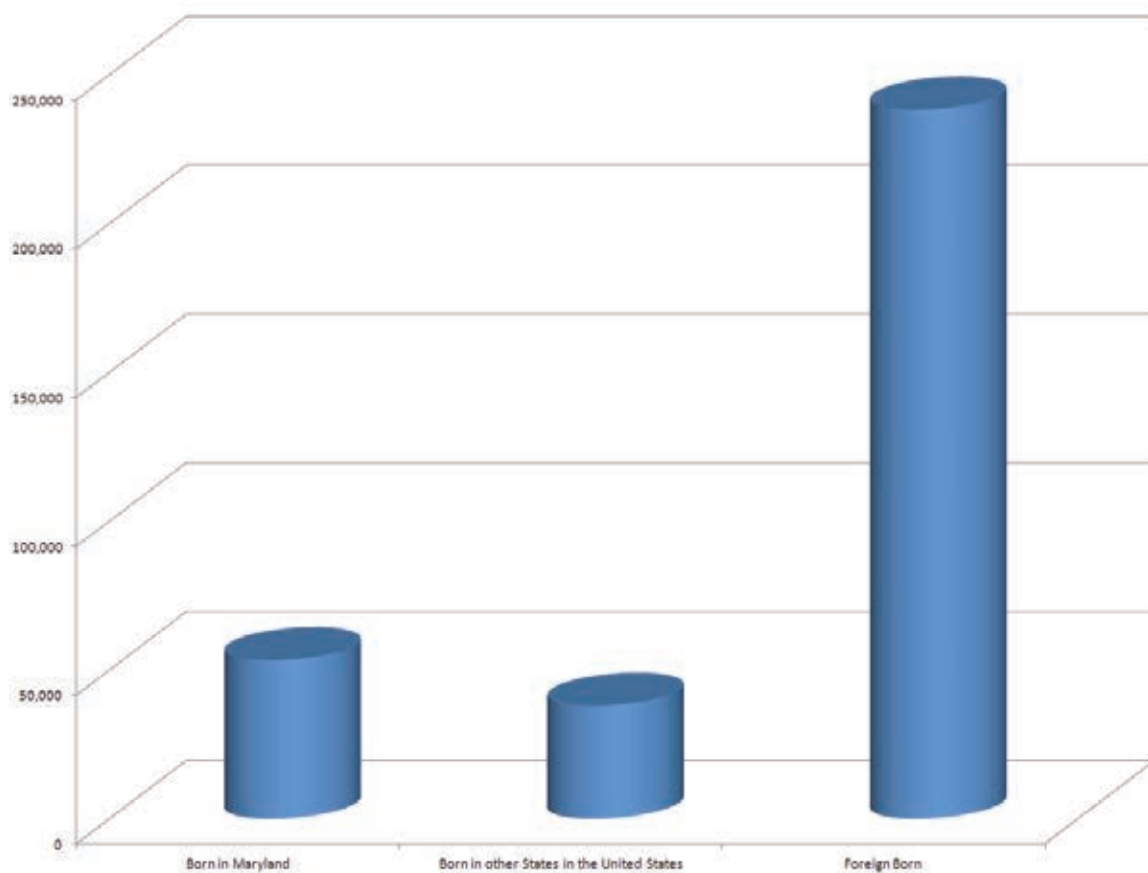
DEMOGRAPHICS





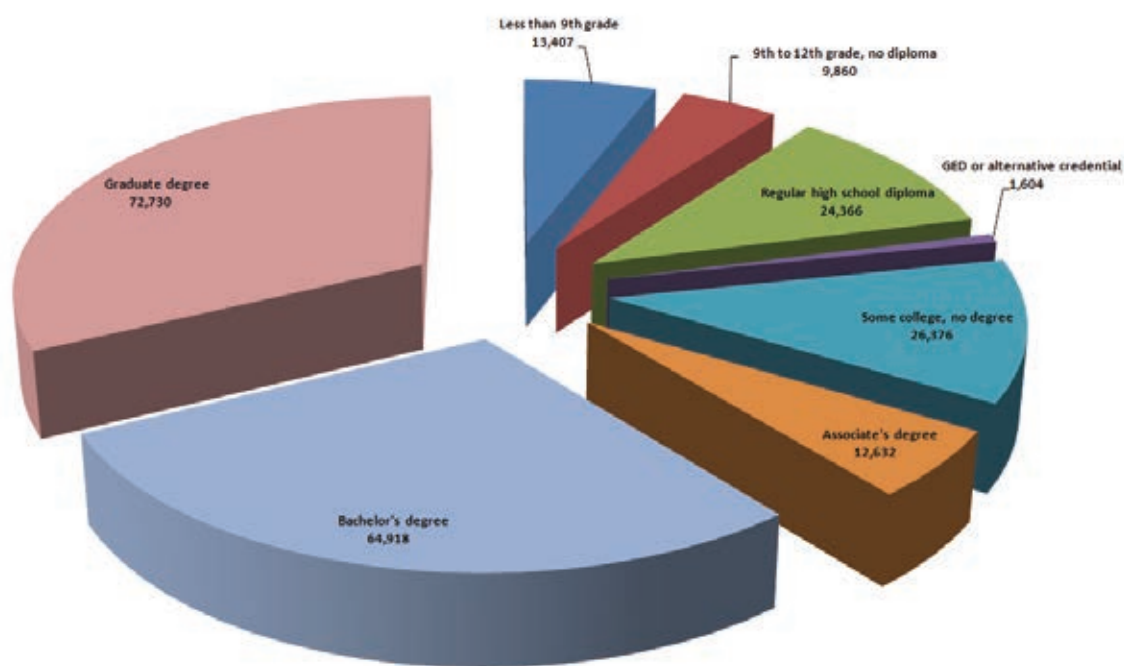
Asian American Place of Birth in the State of Maryland

(According to the 2011 American Community Survey)

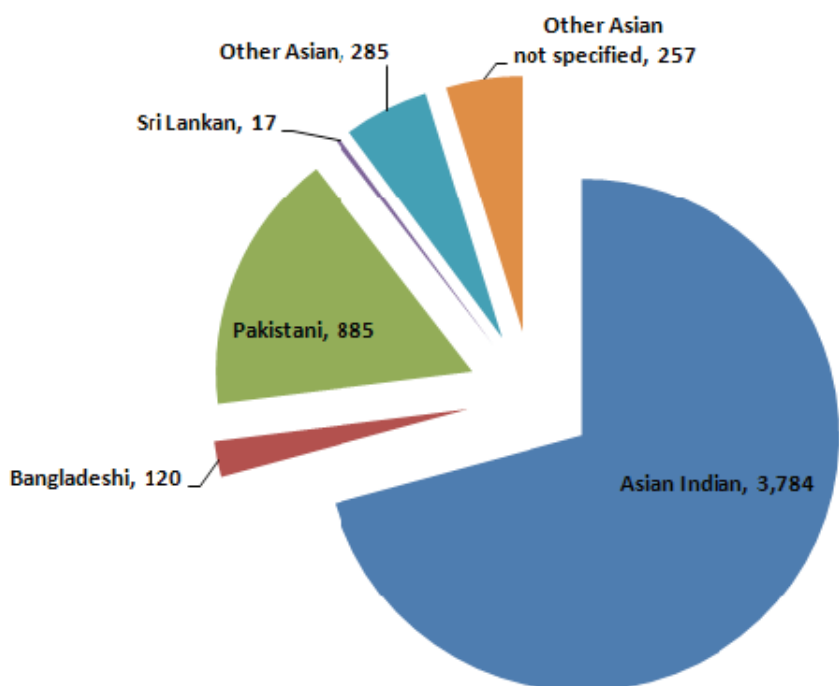


Asian American Education Attainment Level in the State of Maryland

(Based on the 2011 American Community Survey)

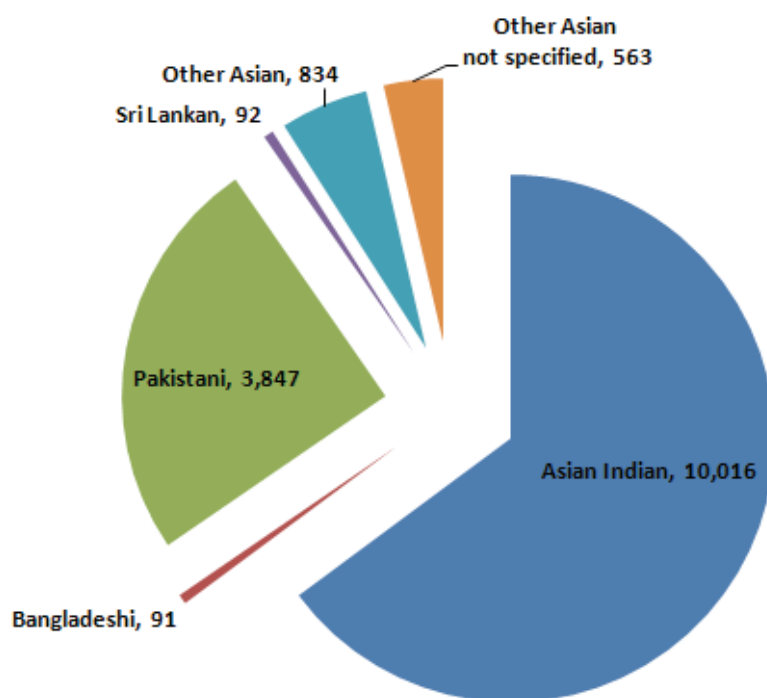


South American Population in Anne Arundel County

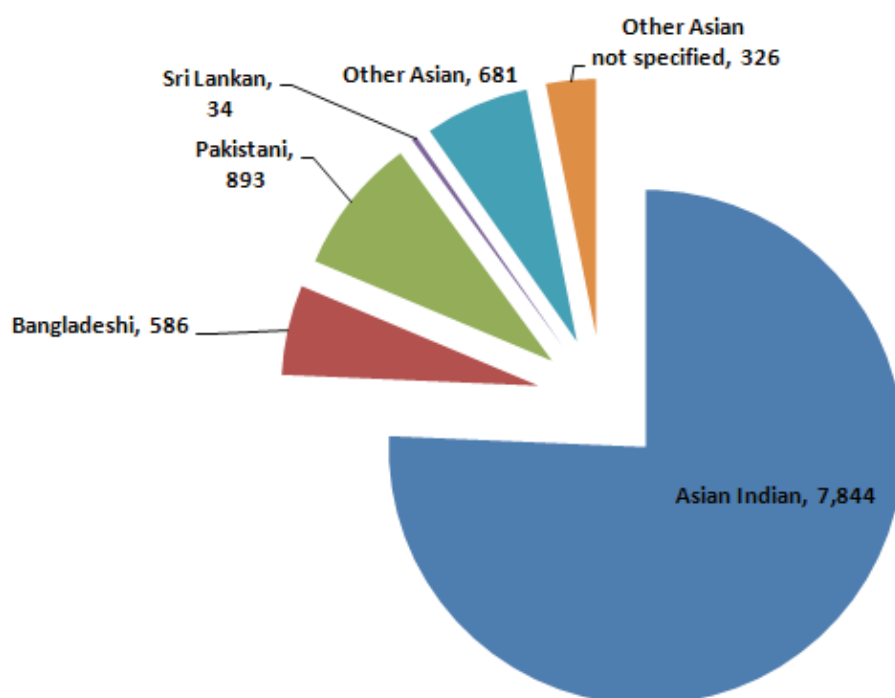




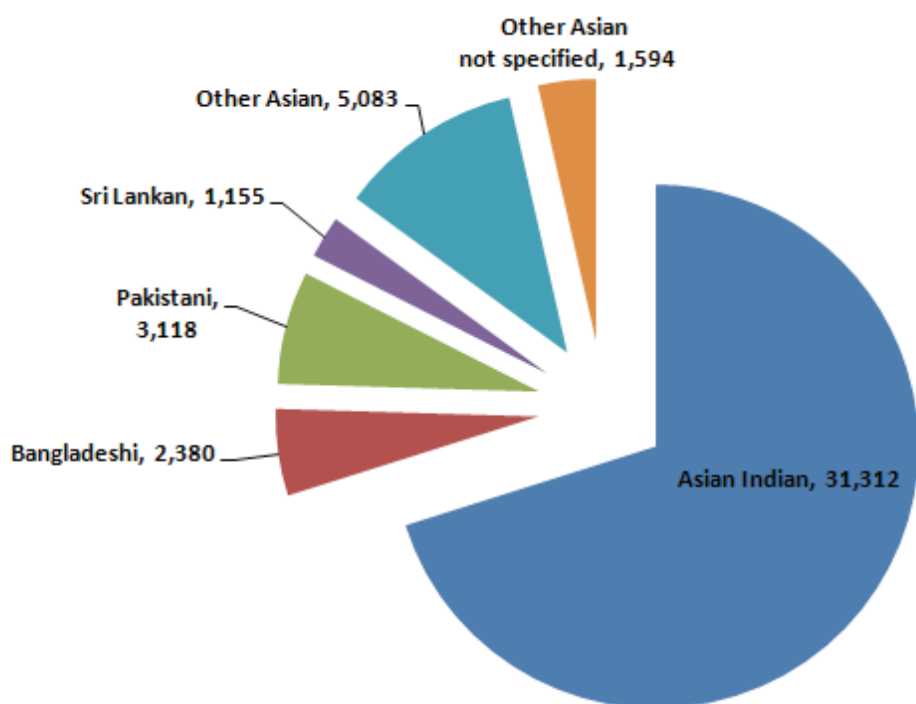
Asian American Population in Baltimore County



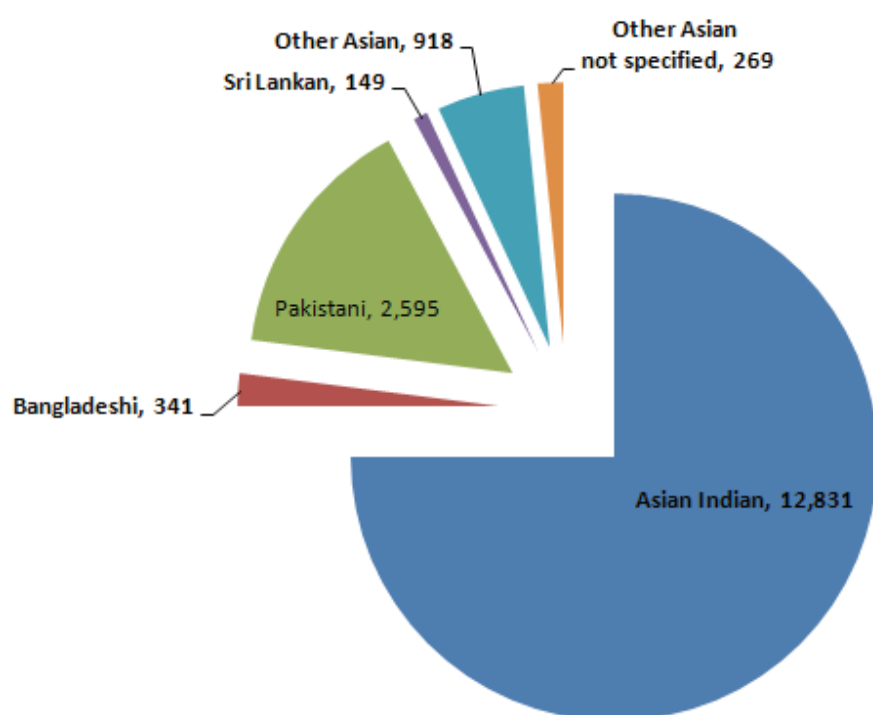
Asian American Population in Prince George's County



Asian American Population in Montgomery County



Asian American Population in Howard County





RESOURCES

Advocacy

Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma

Karen Hanscom,
Director of Development
431 East Belvedere Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21212
(410) 464-9006 (Phone)
(410) 464-9010 (Fax)
development@astt.org (E-mail)
www.astt.org (Website)

Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project

Jessica Li,
Executive Director
P.O. Box 14268
Washington, DC 20044
202-464-4477 (Phone)
Jessica@dvrp.org (E-mail)
www.dvrp.org (Website)

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1575 Eye Street, NW, Suite 325
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(202) 833-2742 (Phone)
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www.asiasociety.org (Website)

Business

Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce

John Young, MD
255 Rockville Pike, Ste L10
Rockville MD 20850
301-424-1471 (Phone)
jyoung@apachamber.us (e-mail)

Governor's Office of Small Business Resources

James McLean, Executive Director
217 E. Redwood Street, 10th Floor
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410-767-0095 (Phone)
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Korean American Grocers Association of MD (KAGRO)

Kwang Lee, President
101 W. North Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-244-5802 (Phone)
kagromd@gmail.com (Email)

Korean Dry Cleaners Association of Maryland

Tae Min Kim, President
5746 Falls Road
Baltimore MD 21209
410-323-3181 (Phone)
kdam@kdam.us (Email)

Maryland-China Business Council, Inc.

Clay E. Hickson, President
7201 Wisconsin Avenue, #703
Bethesda MD 20814
202-293-6866 (Phone)
www.mcabc.net (Website)

Rockville Economic Development, Inc.

Laurie Boyer, Executive Director
95 Monroe Street
Rockville MD 20850
301-315-8096 (Phone)
301-315-8097 (Fax)
boyer@rockvilleredi.org (Email)
www.rockvilleredi.org (Website)

TowsonGlobal, Business Globalization Center

Clay E. Hickson, Director
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7801 York Road, Suite 342
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410-769-6448 (Phone)
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US Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce

Susan Au Allen
1329 18th Street NW
Washington DC 20036
202-296-5221 (Phone)
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www.uspaacc.com (Website)

US Thailand Business Council

Dennis Grace
3050 K Street NW
Washington DC 20007
202-337-5973 (Phone)
202-337-0039 (Fax)
www.ustbc.org (Website)

World Trade Center Institute

Deborah M. Kieilty, Executive Director
401 E. Pratt Street, #232
Baltimore MD 21202
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Kieilty@wtci.org (Email)
www.wtci.org (Website)

Cultural

Asian Arts & Cultural Center

Suewei Shieh, Executive Director
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8000 York Road
Towson MD 21252
410-704-2807 (Phone)
sshieh@towson.edu
www.towson.edu/asianarts/index.asp
(Website)

National Philippine Cultural Foundation

Corazon Dones, Deputy Director
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301-567-2280 (Phone)
cdones@hotmail.com (Email)

Sumi-e Society of America

Richard Kaufman
6311 Friendship Court
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301-564-1429 (Phone)
rkaufman@erols.com (e-mail)
www.sumie.org (Website)

US Japan Cultural Center

Mikio Kanda
2600 Virginia Ave NW #711
Washington DC 20037
202-342-5800 (Phone)
202-342-5803 (Fax)

Education

Asian American Education Association of MCPS

Donna Shimoda Hollingshead,
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Donna_Hollingshead@mcpsmd.org
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[hjlee@aalead.org](mailto:hjee@aalead.org) (Email)
www.aalead.org (Website)

Asian American Studies Program

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301-314-6575 (Fax)
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C.P.L. Youth Center

Judy Cheng, Director
12 South Maple Avenue
Brunswick MD 21216
240-818-8708 (Phone)
judy@cplyouthcenter.org (Email)

Howard County Public School System

Min Kin, International Student Director
Faulkner Ridge Center
10598 Marble Faun Court
Columbia, MD 21044
410-313-1294 (Phone)

LIFE and Discovery

Elizabeth Chung
1 West 2nd Street
Frederick MD 21701
301-631-6838 (Phone)
info@lifeanddiscovery.com (Email)
www.lifeanddiscovery.com (Website)

Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education

Selene Almazan, Advocacy Services
7484 Candlewood Road, Suite R
Hanover MD 21076
410-859-5400 (Phone)
410-859-1509 (Fax)
selene@mcie.org (Email)
www.mcie.org (Website)

Office of International Programs University of Maryland

1122 Holzapfel Hall
College Park MD 20742
301-405-4772 (Phone)
301-405 4773 (Fax)
internationalservice@umd.edu (Email)
www.intprog.umd.edu (Website)

Government

Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods

James Kwak, Korean Liaison
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Baltimore MD 21202
410-396-4735 (Phone)
James.kwak@baltimorecity.gov (Email)

Baltimore City Police Department

Namhyun C. Kim, Korean Liaison
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410-396-2372 (Phone)
Namhyun.Kim@baltimorepolice.org
(Email)

Governor's Grants Office

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Annapolis MD 21401
410-974-5090 (Phone)
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(Website)

Governor's Office of Community Initiatives

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Director
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Howard County Department of Citizen Services

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Maryland Office of New Americans

Pat Hatch, Program Manager
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Montgomery County Government

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Middle Eastern American Liaison
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240-777-2517 (Fax)
Lily.Qi@montgomerycountymd.org
(Email)

Prince George's County Office of Community Relations

Beth Wong, Division Chief
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bawong@co.pg.md.us (Email)

White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

1401 Constitution Ave NW Room 5612
Washington DC 20230
202-482-3949 (Phone)
202-219-8809 (Fax)
www.aapi.gov (Website)

Healthcare

Asian American Anti-Smoking Foundation Inc.

Sherman Yen, President
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410-290-8201 (Fax)
drshermanyen@yahoo.com (Email)

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Association of Philippine Physicians in Maryland

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410-354-0175 (Fax)
Laurel.G.Yap@medstar.net (Email)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Anne Hyeson Avery, AAPI Outreach Coordinator
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Baltimore MD 21244
410-786-6557 (Phone)
Anne.avery@cms.hhs.gov (Email)

Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

Dr. Carlessia Hussein, Director
Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
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Baltimore, MD 21201
410-767-7117 (Phone)
huseinc@dnhm.state.md.us (Email)

Philippine Nurses Association Maryland Chapter

Dino Doliente II, President
4700 Coyle Road, #102
Owings Mills, MD 21117
410-902-1487 (Phone/Fax)
president@pnamd.org (Email)
www.pnamd.org

Information Referral

FIRN, Inc.

Hector Garcia, Executive Director
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Columbia, MD 21044
(410) 992-1923 (Phone)
(410) 730-0113 (Fax)
hgarci@firnonline.org (E-mail)
www.firnonline.org (Website)

Legal

Asian American Justice Center

Jacinta Ma, Deputy Director
1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-2300 ext. 121 (Phone)
jma@advancingequality.org (Email)
www.advancingequality.org (Website)

Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center

Jayne Park, Executive Director
1012 14th St. N.W., Suite 450
Washington, DC 20005
202-706-7150 (Phone)
202-315-0375 (Fax)
Jayne.park@apalrc.org (Email)
www.apalrc.org (Website)

Professional

Asian Pacific American Bar Association, MD Chapter

Ben Yhim, President
PO Box 1441
Baltimore MD 21203
(410) 659-4435 (Phone)
info@apaba-md.org (Email)
www.apaba-md.org (Website)

Asian Pacific American Employees Association

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National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

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National Association of Asian American Professionals, Washington D.C. Chapter

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Social Services

Boat People SOS - Adelphi

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The Korean American Community Association of Howard County

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Chinese Culture and Community Service Center

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Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County

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Domestic Violence Center of Howard County

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Senior

ARIRANG Adult Medical Day Care Center

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Brooklyn Park Senior Center

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Living Heart Medical Day Care Center

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Maryland Avenue Adult Medical Daycare Center

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Philippines Home for Senior Citizens

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The Commission's Website

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