



## **APPEAL Newsletter: June - October 2011, Volume 11, Number 4**

### **In this month's issue:**

1. APPEAL Awarded Community Transformation Grant through CDC
2. APPEAL Staff News
3. APPEAL Convenes National Policy Symposium
4. Highlighting the APPEAL Research & Data Subcommittee
5. LAAMPP II Fellows Graduate at Capstone Leadership Summit
6. HEAL Webinar on Building Communities around Healthy and Responsible Food

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### **Organizational News**

#### **APPEAL Awarded Community Transformation Grant through CDC**

We are pleased to announce that APPEAL has been awarded a 5-year grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), contingent upon annual federal appropriations. This award of \$1.5 million is made through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Dissemination and Support Initiative of the Community Transformation Grants (CTG) program. APPEAL is honored to be one of the seven national networks to receive awards through the CTG program, which has an overall goal to support, disseminate, and amplify the evidence-based strategies of the CTG program in communities nationwide.

Specifically, the funding will go towards implementing the Empowering Communities for Health Opportunity, Equity and Sustainability (ECHOES) project that aims to increase awareness and advance implementation of promising practices on tobacco-free living, healthy eating and active living, as well as healthy and safe physical environments among Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities and other priority populations.

We would like to thank our partners for helping us build a strong national network and for your commitment and expertise in leading our communities to implementing policy change toward the elimination of health disparities. We are pleased to have the opportunity through the CTG grant to continue this important work.

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## Staff Update: APPEAL Welcomes its Newest Staff Members

APPEAL would like to welcome its two newest staff members, Christina Bui and Divya Ramamurthi to the team!

Christina joined APPEAL in April 2011 as Program Assistant and is also now serving as Acting Executive Assistant. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, she received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia in Biology. Before moving to San Francisco, she worked with the Center of Pan Asian Community Services in Atlanta tutoring youth. There she began focusing on public health issues, particularly on the prevention of alcohol-related traffic crashes and deaths among Asian American youth and adults in Gwinnett County.

Divya Ramamurthi joins APPEAL as Health Data and Communications Coordinator. Prior to joining APPEAL, she worked as a research assistant at the Center for Community Based Research at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, focusing on eliminating tobacco disparities. Divya received her Masters in Health Communication from Emerson College, Boston. She also holds a Masters in Newspaper Journalism from Syracuse University, NY, and a Masters in Communication from MOP Vaishnav College for Women, India.

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## APPEAL Convenes National Policy Symposium

On June 24, 2011 in San Francisco, California, APPEAL convened its National Policy Symposium titled, "Leading with Heart: Tobacco, Food and Active Living Justice for Asian Americans (AA), Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). The goal of the Policy Symposium was for AA and NHPI community leaders to share APPEAL's policy recommendations and have a dialogue with selected policymakers on ways to implement the recommendations. The policy recommendations are a framework for reducing cancer, obesity, cardiovascular disease and tobacco-related death and disease in AA and NHPI communities. APPEAL's subcommittee members presented and testified on the importance of taking action on these key issues.

Policymakers who attended the event included representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office on Smoking and Health (OSH), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the White House

Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, representatives from the Office of Pacific Health, Office of Minority Health, and Office on Women's Health from the U.S. Dept of Health and Services Region IX, and Legacy Foundation. Policymakers also presented information about their respective organizations, how their agencies have been addressing health disparities and opportunities for partnership.

APPEAL will continue to advocate for recommendations to key decision makers and welcomes any additional input on our policy recommendations. We will be collecting additional feedback until the end of October. To view APPEAL's policy recommendations please visit:

[http://www.appealforcommunities.org/media/docs/0656\\_APPEALPolicyRecsFINAL.pdf](http://www.appealforcommunities.org/media/docs/0656_APPEALPolicyRecsFINAL.pdf)

To share any comments, please email: [appeal@appealforhealth.org](mailto:appeal@appealforhealth.org).

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## **PROMISE Network – Tobacco Control**

### **Highlighting the APPEAL Research and Data Subcommittee**

In this month's newsletter we would like to highlight, the APPEAL Research and Data subcommittee, which provides expertise and leadership to APPEAL on issues pertaining to tobacco research and data in Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities. Subcommittee members include distinguished leaders from the community, academia, and philanthropy. This subcommittee is chaired by Dr. Elisa Tong, Assistant Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Tong has published numerous studies on tobacco control in the Asian American community.

Over the past few months, this subcommittee has been working diligently to develop National Policy Recommendations on Research and Data. Subcommittee members advocated to policymakers at APPEAL's 2011 Policy Symposium for the need to conduct surveillance studies and collect data on tobacco that accurately represent AA and NHPI communities.

The Research & Data Subcommittee will also be instrumental in helping APPEAL to disseminate data on tobacco and AA and NHPI communities more widely. APPEAL has recently been discussing plans for publishing a special supplemental journal issue on tobacco issues in AA and NHPI communities with Health Promotion Practice. Health Promotion Practice is an official journal of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and publishes authoritative, peer-reviewed articles devoted to the practical application of health promotion and education. Please stay tuned for further details of

the journal. For more information on APPEAL's subcommittees as well as a complete list of members, please visit APPEAL's website: [www.appealforcommunities.org](http://www.appealforcommunities.org)

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## LAAMPP II Fellows Graduate at Capstone Leadership Summit

On May 21-23, 2011, APPEAL's second Leadership and Advocacy Institute to Advance Minnesota's Parity for Priority Populations (LAAMPP II) Fellows and Coaches participated in a 3-day Capstone Summit which was held at the Minnesota Humanities Center in St. Paul, MN. The Summit served as the final convening for the LAAMPP II Fellows and Coaches. It also provided the opportunity for Fellows to reflect upon their journey and celebrate their accomplishments achieved throughout the Institute.

The first 2 days of the Summit featured community leaders from each of the priority populations sharing their personal story about being a leader and advocate in their community. Through their stories, these inspirational speakers, offered words of encouragement which inspired and motivated Fellows to continue their work beyond the Institute. One Fellow commented, "The inspirational speakers were spot on...they were all engaging, informative, and motivational."

On Day 3 of the Capstone Summit, the LAAMPP Fellows presented policy recommendations to the leaders of the largest mainstream tobacco control organizations in Minnesota. These policymakers included Jeanne Ayers, Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health, David Willoughby, CEO, ClearWay Minnesota, and Dr. Marc Manley, Vice President and Chief Prevention Officer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. These policy makers responded to recommendations and participated in a dialogue about sustaining programs like LAAMPP.

To acknowledge the hard work of the LAAMPP II Fellows and as way to close the LAAMPP II Institute, a graduation and celebration dinner with family and friends was hosted on the evening of Day 2. That evening, Fellows received awards enjoyed music from a live band, and danced the night away. Congratulations to all LAAMPP II Fellows!

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LAAMPP III Coming Soon!

APPEAL is excited to announce the upcoming LAAMPP III Institute for Minnesota! Application information will be available soon. Please visit [www.appealforcommunities.org](http://www.appealforcommunities.org) for updates.

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## Healthy Eating & Active Living

### Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Webinar Features Work of Partners on Building Communities around Healthy and Responsible Food

APPEAL hosted its first HEAL Webinar on July 21, 2011 which explored strategies on building community through the improvement of food systems. Featured speakers included MA`O Organic Farms in Hawai`i and the Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women in Minnesota. They shared stories of how two communities began producing, distributing, and consuming culturally appropriate food through sustainable agricultural practices.

For those who missed this webinar and interested in viewing it, this webinar has been recorded and made accessible online at:

<https://www124.livemeeting.com/cc/appealforcommunities/view?id=W4D7N5&pw=gFN2p.k>. Presentation slides from this webinar are also available on APPEAL's website at: <http://www.appealforcommunities.org/presentations>.

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For information on joining any of the APPEAL Networks, click [here](#).

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