



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 16, 2021

TB Elimination Alliance Marks One Year Anniversary

WASHINGTON – The Tuberculosis Elimination Alliance (TEA), led by the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF), and Stop TB USA, with the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), celebrated its one year anniversary since its launch last year on July 29, 2020. The goal of the Tuberculosis Elimination Alliance is eliminating TB among Asian American (AA) and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NH/PI) communities at risk.

According to CDC [provisional data](#), in 2020, more than 7,100 cases of tuberculosis (TB) were reported in the United States, however, Asian and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander persons continue to be impacted by TB at a greater rate compared to other racial and ethnic groups. Asian populations have the highest TB incidence rate of 13.1 cases of TB per 100,000 persons, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations have the second highest incidence rate of 12.5 cases of TB per 100,000 persons. To address these TB incidence inequalities, TEA has been working closely with community leaders to learn and share culturally and linguistically appropriate best practices focused on outreach to AA and NH/PI communities most affected by TB.

In the past year, TEA convened more than 146 cross-sector organizations at its first annual TB Summit; offered 10 inaugural [mini-grant awards](#) totaling \$100,000; developed its [Strategic Plan](#) that outline priority activities related to collaboration and partnerships, community engagement, access to testing and treatment, provider education, and research and data; and launched its new [website](#), [logo](#), and [brand](#).

“TEA has brought together leaders from local coalitions and national partners to ensure that those affected by TB and latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) have culturally and linguistically appropriate health care they deserve,” Jeffrey B. Caballero, MPH, executive director of AAPCHO said. “The members and partners in TEA are integral in building a strong foundation for future collaborations and partnerships in TB elimination.”

“We at APIAHF would like to thank all our partners for the incredible work they are doing to address TB and LTBI inequities among AA and NH/PI communities,” Jamila Shipp, Managing Director, APIAHF said. “There is always more to be done but TEA has set the groundwork for effective community outreach and collaborative partnerships. We look forward to continuing these efforts in the future.”

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"We are very proud to be part of a strong network of community partners working to reduce TB and LTBI inequities among AA and NH/PI populations," Chari Cohen, DrPH, MPH, senior vice president of the Hepatitis B Foundation said. "TEA is leading the way in identifying strategies to overcome barriers to LTBI testing and treatment and we are excited for the opportunity to explore parallel strategies to address hepatitis B-related health disparities."

"Stop TB USA has a goal of elimination of TB from not only the United States but from the world, and the current work being done by the TEA and all of their outstanding community partners will add tremendously to the fight to eliminate TB and LTBI from the AA and NH/PI populations," said Ed Zuroweste, MD, founding member and former chair of STOP TB USA coordinating board. "We look forward to providing clinical expertise to this ongoing project and the novel community strategies that are being developed at the grass roots levels to achieve our ultimate goal of eliminating this infectious disease scourge from this high-risk community."

"CDC congratulates TEA on its first anniversary, and would like to thank the members and partners for their work to raise TB awareness among communities and healthcare providers," said Philip LoBue, MD, FACP, FCCP, Director of CDC's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination. "Partnerships like TEA, are important to expanding testing and treatment of latent TB infection and improving health equity in communities disproportionately affected by TB."

Today, TEA has 15 local partners that include community health centers, community-based organizations, regional and statewide coalitions, health agencies, and academic institutions located in areas with highest TB incidence rates across the continental U.S., Hawai'i, and the U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands. The local partners demonstrate TB and LTBI expertise in community outreach, clinical research, and providing culturally and linguistically appropriate testing and treatment for vulnerable AA and NH/PI populations. The local partners of the TEA are as follows:

- Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese (Springdale, AR)
- Asian American Health Coalition dba HOPE Clinic (Houston, TX)
- Asian Services in Action, Inc. (Akron, OH)
- California Department of Public Health, TB Free California (Richmond, CA)
- Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. (Atlanta, GA)
- Community Clinic of Northwest Arkansas (Springdale, AR)
- Eastern Michigan University, Center for Health Disparities Innovation and Studies (Ypsilanti, MI)
- Florida Asian Services (North Miami, FL)
- Hep Free Hawaii (Honolulu, HI)
- Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington D.C. (Washington, D.C.)
- Loma Linda University, School of Nursing (Loma Linda, CA)
- Ministry of Health and Human Services (Ebeye, Kwajalein)
- New Jersey Hepatitis B Coalition (Florham Park, NJ)
- North East Medical Services (Daly City, CA)
- SF Hep B Free - Bay Area (San Francisco, CA)

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To advance its mission and vision, the TEA offered a second cycle of 16 mini-grant awards totaling \$175,000 to community providers that increase awareness and build capacity on LTBI/TB testing and treatment. The newly awarded mini-grant recipients are as follows:

- Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese (Springdale, AR)
- Asian American Community Services (Columbus, OH)
- Asian Pacific Health Foundation (San Diego, CA)
- Center for Pan Asian Community Services (Atlanta, GA)
- Colorado Alliance for Health Equity and Practice (Denver, CO)
- DeKalb County Board of Health (Decatur, GA)
- Drexel University School of Medicine - Dr. Ehrlich Lab (Philadelphia, PA)
- Marshallese Women's Association (Seattle, WA)
- Ministry of Health and Human Services (Ebeye, Kwajelein)
- Philippine Nurses Association (Canton, MI)
- Philippine Nurses Association (New York City, NY)
- San Diego County Medical Society Foundation, dba Champions for Health (San Diego, CA)
- Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, Inc. (Worcester, MA)
- The Regents of the University of California, San Francisco (San Francisco, CA)
- Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation (Fountain Valley, CA)
- We Are TB (National)

TEA, our members, partners, and mini-grantees look forward to building on the progress that we have made so far towards TB elimination. TEA launched the second Mini-Grant Program this month, and the annual TB and Hepatitis B Summit, in collaboration with Hep B United, is scheduled for November 2021.

About the Tuberculosis Elimination Alliance

The TB Elimination Alliance (TEA), led by the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO), Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), Hepatitis B Foundation (HBF), and Stop TB USA, with the support of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is a national partnership of community leaders dedicated to eliminating TB and LTBI inequities among Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander populations through education, raising awareness, and innovation. For more information on TEA, please visit www.tbeliminationalliance.org.

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