



Hmong National Development, Inc.

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PRESS RELEASE

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Hmong National Development Meets with the Obama Transition Team

Washington, DC—Hmong National Development (HND) Chief Executive Officer, Nou Vang and other leaders from the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community met with the Obama-Biden Transition Team this morning. The meeting was to discuss the diverse needs and priorities of the AAPI community. As part of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), HND helped draft a set of policy priorities for the AAPI communities, the NCAPA 2008 *Call to Action*. This policy platform served as the foundation for Barack Obama's *Blueprint for the Change We Need for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders*.

There were many priorities discussed at today's meeting that greatly impact the Hmong community:

- Fair and reasonable citizenship application fees;
- Reform of the immigration bureaucracy to decrease application delays;
- Increase language access to Medicaid services through enforcement of Title VI provisions; and
- Disaggregation of data to better reflect and identify community needs and challenges.

The meeting provided details about goals and mission of the Transition Agency Review, Personnel and Domestic Policy Teams. The Transition Team stated their value in ensuring transparency in all processes. The Transition Team have created many web-based tools to engage in dialogue with community on the change.gov website.

“This meeting demonstrates the new Administration's commitment to meeting the needs of Hmong Americans” stated HND CEO Nou Vang. “It represents a shift in governmental relations policy and we must take advantage of it to ensure that Hmong community voices are heard. We encourage the Hmong community to go to change.gov and share their concerns and comments with the new Administration.”

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Hmong National Development, Inc. (HND) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to “building capacity, developing leadership and empowering the Hmong American community.” HND works with local and national organizations both public and private as well as with individuals to promote educational opportunities, increase community capacity, and develop resources for the well-being, growth, and full participation of Hmong in society. Currently, HND sits on the NCAPA Executive Committee.