

AADI Announces 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Status to Combat Ableism and Racism in Asian American Communities

Filling the gap of a lack of disability support platforms for the younger AAPI community, The Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative launches as the first of its kind

Dec. 13, 2021 – The Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative, or AADI, is proud to announce it is now officially a nonprofit with tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. AADI is also now eligible to apply for government and foundation grants, which will further expand its access to resources and strengthen its ability to amplify disabled Asian American voices.

“I’m ecstatic to announce that AADI is an official 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. This team has grown tremendously since our establishment in July 2021, and I truly could not be prouder of the work we have accomplished together”, states Jennifer Lee, the founder and executive director of AADI. “Moving forward, AADI will continue to work closely with advocacy nonprofits and local community partners to amplify the voices of disabled Asian Americans on our rapidly growing platform. Acquiring 501(c)3 status, while a crucial milestone for our team, is just the first step in the exciting journey ahead for AADI,” she adds.

The intersection of disability and Asian American identity presents a complex sphere of cultural and social nuances that are yet to be properly explored, both in academia and in advocacy. The CDC estimates that 1 in 10 Asian Americans have a disability, yet nearly no research or resources exist in response to the specific challenges of being disabled in the Asian Pacific Islander and Desi American (APIDA) community.

Since its formation in June 2021, AADI has been creating a much-needed space in the disability and Asian advocacy sphere by providing the next generation of disabled Asian American leaders with accessible resources to combat anti-Asian racism and ableism in their own communities. To help guide this organization and ensure the mission is fulfilled, a Board of Directors and executive committees from the disabled AAPI community were assembled.

AADI launches its resource guide on Monday, January 3, 2022 on its website, www.aadinitiative.org.

Join the community:

Join the AADI mailing list, learn about upcoming events, and become a member of the community through the website, www.aadinitiative.org.

About AADI:

The Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative, or AADI, is a youth-led organization that aims to amplify disabled Asian American voices. AADI was founded in the spirit of intersectionality, creating the much-needed space to explore the ways in which disability and Asian American identity interact. Their mission is to provide the next generation of disabled Asian American leaders with accessible resources so that they can combat anti-Asian racism and ableism in their own communities.

For additional information:

Website: www.aadinitiative.org

Instagram: [@aadinitiative](https://www.instagram.com/aadinitiative)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aadinitiative

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/aadinitiative

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