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**SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN POLICY AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SAAPRI)
AND INDO-AMERICAN CENTER (IAC) HOST
WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ROUNDTABLE IN CHICAGO**

Chicago, IL – South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI) and the Indo-American Center (IAC) hosted a White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAPPI) community roundtable in Chicago on June 17 featuring Asim Mishra, Chief of Staff of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Mr. Mishra described the dual role of service programs in our community: to engage South Asian Americans in service and to assist South Asian Americans in need. Mr. Mishra explained to several prominent leaders from the South Asian community that organizations seeking federal funding should present research on the community's needs and the programs that effectively address those needs.

Leaders from the Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi communities expressed the growing needs of seniors, youth, and individuals of all ages who do not feel integrated in American society. Participants in the roundtable also discussed the increasing challenges in recruiting and utilizing volunteers to help solve problems in the community.

“We thank the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and Asim Mishra from the Corporation for National and Community Service for holding this roundtable with us. We ask for their help to address the unique issues facing South Asians and other immigrants in the Chicago area,” said Basanti Banerji, president of IAC. “SAAPRI continues to research the needs of South Asian Americans in Illinois, and input from the roundtable helps make that research as relevant and useful as possible. With the community's support, SAAPRI hopes to publish additional research that can help organizations serving South Asian Americans to more effectively secure funding for their crucial work,” said Ami Gandhi, executive director of SAAPRI.

SAAPRI (saapri.org) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established in 2001 to improve the lives of South Asian Americans in the Chicago area, by using research to formulate equitable and socially responsible public policy. IAC (indoamerican.org) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the well-being of South Asian immigrants through services that facilitate their adjustment, integration, and friendship with the wider society, nurture their sense of community, and foster appreciation for their culture and heritage.

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