

April Lewton
Community Organizer

April is the community organizer with the Asian American Institute (AAI) where she works to involve the wider community in helping to address issues that affect Asian American communities of Chicago. Prior to coming to AAI, April began in organizing through work with Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ), a faith-based organization focused on workers' rights. She actively organized religious leaders and churches to be involved with the Smithfield Labor Campaign and to support workers suffering from deplorable conditions in the meat packing industry. April also worked in the areas of development and program management for a social service, faith-based organization in St. Louis, the National Benevolent Association (NBA). She has also completed specialized training in anti-racism, political organizing in Asian Pacific American communities, and multicultural education for young children. When working at NBA in St. Louis, she became a court appointed special advocate for youth in the foster care system through volunteer work with St. Louis City CASA. Throughout her employment and volunteer work with various agencies, April has remained committed to advocating for individuals and communities that are marginalized and oppressed by the lack of power and public voice. April holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Political Science and Religion from Chapman University in Orange, California, and a Masters of Divinity (MDiv) from the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. She is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The Asian American Institute (www.aaichicago.org) is the region's pan-Asian nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the Asian American and Pacific Islander community through advocacy, by utilizing coalition-building, education, and research.

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