



**Joanna Su
Project Manager**

A second-generation Chinese American, Joanna has worked and volunteered extensively in the AAPI community. Prior to joining AAI, she was the founding Executive Director of the Asian Health Coalition of Illinois, overseeing the growth of the organization from a one-person staff with a budget of \$75,000 to a staff of five and a budget of \$380,000. Working with the AHCI board of directors and key staff, she created new community-based programs on cultural competence training as well as smoking cessation services for Korean adults and tobacco prevention for Asian American youth.

Previously, Joanna also worked as the Director/Liaison for the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Asian Affairs, where she helped create an Asian American Hate Crimes Network which mobilized community response to several high-profile hate incidents. Prior to working for the city, she served as the Women's Health Program Coordinator for the Vietnamese Association of Illinois, managing a collaborative prevention program with the Cambodian Association of Illinois, Chinese Mutual Aid Association, Ethiopian Community Association of Chicago, and Lao American Community Services.

Joanna is a founder of the Asian American Suicide Prevention Initiative, which mobilized in 2004 after six Chicagoland Asian Americans died by suicide within one month. Since that time, AASPI has organized public awareness events and trainings for Asian American suicide survivors (those who have lost loved ones to suicide) and for community members at large. As a founding Board member of the Leadership Center for Asian Pacific Americans, Joanna was part of the team that initially established LCAPA's Community Leadership Program in 2001 to develop skills among emerging Asian American leaders and to create a dialogue across the generational divide. In addition, Joanna has served on the board of the Asian American Institute and on the advisory board of Chinese Mutual Aid Association.

Joanna grew up in Farmington Hills, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. She earned a master's degree in social welfare from the University of California at Berkeley and a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. She resides in Chicago with her husband, Elvin Chan.