

June 25, 2021

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We, the undersigned Asian American-led and -serving organizational leaders – representing the collective that advocated for this funding package – are grateful for your support of the first-of-its kind \$13 Million State investment in the diverse Asian American community at this challenging time, including \$10 Million for Asian American-serving community-based organizations.

We stand united as an Asian American community and write to share with you a collaborative budget proposal for the \$10 Million of funding for Asian American-led and -serving community-based organizations providing violence prevention and other community-based services to help address the growing needs of our communities across NY State. *In the face of growing anti-Asian violence, our community's recovery and healing must be rooted in the life-affirming community-based organizations (CBOs) that are often the only safety-net for so many Asian American New Yorkers.* Our CBOs have built trust with our diverse communities; hire and employ thousands from within the community; and have the knowledge and understanding of how our communities heal. Yet, Asian American CBOs continue to commit countless un-funded hours and organize thousands of volunteers to help community members.

A \$10 Million commitment by NY State will be invaluable to our CBOs. The proposed budget below reflects 2/3 of \$15 Million, which was the original community-based organization allocation of the \$19.5 Million budget package we collectively advocated for. Our proposal includes multiple lines of funding to specific community organizations, AND also funding to create a Statewide Asian American CBO Fund, which will be distributed through an expedited RFP process open to organizations across all of NY State. The list of potential organizations for this CBO Fund are in progress – we are happy to take suggestions from members across New York State. CACF, as the designated administrator of this fund, has years of experience with sub-awarding State contracts and is prepared to support smaller organizations across our diverse Asian American communities.

Again, our thanks for this clear commitment from NY State to Asian American community-based organizations that stand poised to best support our communities now and into the future, as we heal and recover not only from the COVID-19 pandemic, but also from the recent uptick in anti-Asian violence. Our organizations and communities have been waiting and ready for this allocation since the budget approval. **We look forward to implementing this funding as soon as possible and to ensuring Asian American New Yorkers receive the support they need to recover and heal.**

Sincerely,

Alan van Capelle, Education Alliance

Anita Gundanna and Vanessa Leung, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families

Annetta Seecharan, Chhaya CDC

David Garza, Henry Street

Isabel Ching, Hamilton Madison House

Jeehae Fischer, Korean American Family Services Center

Jennifer Sun and Thomas Yu, Asian Americans for Equality

John Park, MinKwon Community Center

Joyce Moy, Executive Director, AAARI CUNY
 Kaushal Challa, Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
 Kavita Mehra, Sakhi for South Asian Women
 Linda Lee, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc
 Margaret Fung, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
 Melissa Aase, University Settlement
 Pabitra Khati Benjamin, Adhikaar
 Robert Cordero, Grand Street Settlement
 Therese R. Rodriguez, APICHA Community Health Center
 Wayne Ho, Chinese-American Planning Council
 Yasmeen Hamza, Womankind

NY State Package for AAPI-serving Community-Based Organizations 2021-22 (total \$10 Million allocation)		
Organization	Proposed Amount	Explanation
Healthcare		
APICHA Community Health Center	\$800,000	APICHA CHC will use the funding to address health disparities in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities, including but not limited to COVID-19 vaccinations, HIV testing and services, and access to culturally competent primary care.
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center	\$800,000	Addressing disparities in health for the Asian American community.
Senior Services		
Education Alliance	\$400,000	Providing an array of social and mental health services (including home-based services) to Asian American vulnerable seniors to combat growing isolation and fear.
Grand Street Settlement	\$400,000	
Hamilton Madison House	\$400,000	
Henry Street	\$400,000	
University Settlement	\$400,000	
Immigrant Social Services		
Adhikaar	\$360,000	Adhikaar will utilize the funds to ensure that the Nepali-speaking immigrants in NY continue to have access to accurate and language accessible information and support available related to the COVID-19 pandemic and immigration issues, including ongoing Temporary Protected Status (TPS) inquiries and Department of Labor advocacy regarding Employment Authorization validation for TPS holders. The funds will allow Adhikaar to scale up culturally competent legal services and new immigrant services, including adult literacy classes, Know Your Rights sessions, case support, workforce

		development trainings, citizenship classes, legal clinics, etc.
Asian Americans for Equality	\$720,000	<p>AAFE would increase its multiracial community organizing capacity, by hiring a F/T organizer to partner with Latinx and black neighborhood groups for joint cleaning and cultural programming of public parks and plazas in Chinatown/Lower East Side (e.g. Forsyth Plaza), Jackson Heights, and Flushing that would increase safety for residents and local businesses.</p> <p>AAFE would also use this additional investment to formalize an emerging resident services program, to provide trauma-informed services and case management for increasing the housing stability and economic mobility of low-income and formerly homeless AAFE tenants and community members. Increasing housing stability and economic opportunity for low-income Asian, Latinx, and black renters will have the benefit of increasing neighborhood safety and stability. This would require hiring a pair of a F/T social worker and a financial counselor for services in two neighborhoods where AAFE-managed housing are clustered: Chinatown/LES and Flushing.</p>
Chhaya CDC	\$200,000	Chhaya will expand its COVID relief efforts by maximizing access to its social services like financial empowerment, small business technical assistance, tenant counseling, foreclosure prevention and more. Furthermore, Chhaya is developing a program and fund to assist tenants experiencing COVID-related financial hardship deal with landlord issues and pay down rental arrears via its fund and accessing other sources of capital.
Chinese-American Planning Council	\$720,000	CPC will use this funding to serve community members through know your rights trainings on hate crimes, COVID vaccine education and enrollment, public benefits enrollment, and food distribution in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. CPC has served over 15,000 Asian American, immigrant, and low-income New Yorkers with pandemic relief and recovery activities.
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc	\$360,000	To provide a broad range of supportive social services to aid the recovery of seniors and low income families from the aftermath of the pandemic.
MinKwon Community Center	\$360,000	MinKwon plans to conduct in-language and English bystander/upstander trainings but mixed with know your rights training components for potential undocumented victims. We are doing community healing actions and vigils in areas of flushing where hate crimes have happened, a series of in-language videos, and signage and local community outreach and building a flushing hate free zone to ensure local business and places will appropriately act and be empowered to respond, and we are already doing direct engagement helping hate crime victims get connected to the right legal counsel, and local collaborations with local non Asian CBOs on this work, along with longer term existing work like civic participation when so many AAPIs are afraid to leave home and language access, and amplifying the voices of

		the most impacted AAPIs on surrounding issues like housing, health, language access, and of course needing tools like data desegregation to effectively serve the community, and the need for more senior level aapis appointed at city agencies
Gender-Based Violence		
Korean American Family Services Center	\$400,000	For direct support and education to community members facing discrimination and incidents of anti-Asian bias, including linking to available resources, reporting, and the provision of trauma-informed care; Culturally competent and linguistically accessible mental health services for recovery of victims of hate violence; and Support for existing anti-violence work, especially including violence against women work and organizing, violence prevention, bystander and upstander intervention, community based reporting mechanisms, and restorative justice work.
Sakhi for South Asian Women	\$400,000	
Womankind	\$400,000	
Research / Advocacy / Legal		
AAARI CUNY	\$80,000	Public info sessions to Asian American communities and coordinate across CUNY around research efforts to capture the challenges and needs of the APA community.
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund	\$400,000	AALDEF will conduct 10 legal advice clinics and 5 presentations on immigrant rights and proposed new immigration policies; assign more attorneys to legal intakes of anti-Asian violence and harassment; document voting rights problems; and provide legal back-up support to community groups serving Asian American communities.
CBO Fund (open to AAPI organizations across NY State)		
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families	\$2,000,000	To ensure that smaller organizations and organizations that provide culturally competent and language accessible services to diverse AAPI communities across New York State are included, umbrella organizations will be provided with funding to regrant (Statewide). More than 30 organizations can possibly be funded through this CBO Fund (see below). *CACF will solicit member suggestions for community organizations across the State.
CBO Fund, Suggested Organizations (in formation)		
A Place for Kids	Damayan Migrant Workers Association	
Academy of Medical & Public Health Services	DRUM – South Asian Organizing Center	
Apex for Youth	Homecrest Community Services	
Arab American Family Support Center	India Home	
Asian American Arts Alliance	Immigrant Social Services	

Asian American / Asian Research Institute – CUNY	Japanese American Association of New York
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund	Japanese American Social Services Inc.
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance	Mekong NYC
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA-NY)	NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health
Brooklyn Chinese American Association	Sapna NYC
Center for the Integration and Advancement of New Americans	Sikh Coalition
Chinatown YMCA	South Asian Council for Social Services
CMP	South Asian Youth Action
Chinese-American Family Alliance for Mental Health	Turning Point for Women and Families
Chinese Progressive Association	United Chinese Association of Brooklyn
Caribbean Equality Project	United Sikhs
Council of Peoples Organization	Women for Afghan Women