

Founded in 1965, the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) promotes the social and economic empowerment of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI), immigrant and low-income communities. We advance our communities through more than 50 programs in childhood development services, education and career services, senior services, and community services, serving over 60,000 community members across New York City each year. CPC transforms our communities through social services that lead to social change. To build that transformative change, we have created a policy agenda that addresses persistent needs and emerging trends in our communities.

Social and Economic Empowerment

Strong Nonprofits for a Better New York: CPC is a steering committee member of the Strong Nonprofits campaign, a statewide coalition of more than 350 nonprofit human services providers calling for systemic changes and key investments in the nonprofit workforce and infrastructure. Working under contract with the State, human services agencies provide crucial services to uplift New Yorkers, and the State must ensure they can continue their vital work through:

1. **Investing \$25 million** to fund the minimum wage increase for State contracts not yet adjusted to reflect the increased wages, leaving nonprofits to fill the gap of yet another unfunded mandate
2. **Investing \$100 million** in nonprofit infrastructure, recurring annually. This investment is critical for nonprofits to address necessary building repairs, technology upgrades, and other capital needs not supported by current contracts
3. **Restoring the inclusion of the \$140 million** Cost of Living Adjustment, which is statutory, to the Executive Budget

Settlement House Program: The Settlement House Program is a State-level funding stream that provides flexible funding support for settlement houses across New York State. At CPC, this funding stream provides the critical walk-in language, translation, and interpretation services that many of our other contracts do not cover, but which the majority of our community members need. CPC supports the restoration of and an increase in the Settlement House Program from \$2.45 million to **\$5 million**

Investing in Homecare: New York State faces urgent demands for home care, with the population over age 60 growing by 40% over the next decade, and over a million New Yorkers living with disabilities. At the same time, we face a severe workforce shortage of 23,000 home care workers by 2025. This is largely due to chronic low wages and poor working conditions throughout the sector, which is primarily comprised of women, people of color, and immigrants. New York State must stabilize a sector in crisis and meet the needs of a growing population of seniors by:

1. **Addressing retroactive compensation of home care workers in the FY19-20 budget:** The State must stand with workers and providers to ensure that its court decisions are reflected in the budget, lest The State face devastating industry collapse, job loss, and a public health crisis as seniors and New Yorkers with disabilities are forced into institutionalization.
2. **Fully fund 24-hour care through Medicaid reimbursement rates moving forward:** ensuring that workers are compensated for all hours worked and those hours are reflected in Medicaid reimbursement rates to providers. Additionally, Medicaid reimbursement rates should be adjusted cover the full and actual cost of providing home care services, providing a living wage, and incentivizing innovation.
3. **Create a short term task force to implement a comprehensive set of recommendations to implement in FY20-21:** In order to determine best practices for the industry moving forward, the State should establish a 6 month taskforce to create and implement a comprehensive set of recommendations to stabilize the home care sector, create high quality jobs for its workers, and ensure that recipients receive high quality, dignified care in their homes. This short-term taskforce can also

advise on the need for a permanent office or home care public advocate to act as a central liaison and resource hub for employers, employees, and home care recipients.

Advancing Our Community

New York Health Act: Inequitable access to healthcare is a key issue in our communities, where one in five Asian Americans is uninsured, and many more are underinsured. **CPC supports the passing of the New York Health Act (A4738/S4840)**, which would establish a universal, publicly financed single pay health plan to provide comprehensive health coverage for all New Yorkers. This legislation will extend health insurance to all New York State residents regardless of employment, immigration status, financial status, age, disability, pre-existing condition, and create a truly affordable and equitable health care system for all. We also strongly support **full inclusion of long term care**, which would meet the needs of older adults (1/3 of AAPI seniors live under the poverty line) and people living with disabilities.

Census 2020: A Complete Count for All New Yorkers: CPC is a steering committee member of NYCounts 2020, a statewide coalition of over 100 business groups, local governments, social service, faith based, labor, housing, and community organizations to ensure a complete census count. New York is poised for a 2020 Census undercount, affecting our state's share of federal dollars, our influence in Washington, and the redistricting of our communities. A New York undercount will have a devastating effect on communities and economies that rely on census-guided data, including city planning, emergency response plans, business development, private giving, and other critical initiatives.

1. **Include \$40 million in community-based census outreach:** The 2020 Census will not include federal funding for community-based outreach. Digital literacy divides, broadband access, and heightened fears of government and law enforcement in communities of color and immigrant communities make community-based organizations the best-positioned to reach hard-to-count communities.
2. **Appoint AAPI representatives to the State Census Taskforce:** Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) come from over 30 countries, speaking over 100 languages and are one of the fastest growing racial groups in New York. AAPI communities face barriers like high poverty (growing by 50% in from 2000 - 2016 in NYS), Limited English Proficiency & Linguistic Isolation (70% of AAPI immigrants in NYC), displacement and refugee resettlement. Despite the communities' growth, only 4 AAPIs are elected to the state legislature. CPC recommends the appointment from the AAPI community to State Census Taskforce to guide decision making for AAPIs and other new and emergent immigrant groups across the state.

Fix the Subway: CPC's 60,000 community members commute from all five boroughs because of a lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services throughout the city and because neighborhood affordability and gentrification have pushed our communities further away from their homes, families, and workplaces. Low-income, immigrant New Yorkers and New York's communities of color are disproportionately affected by transportation deserts, ADA inaccessible stations, and disrupted service. These communities are hit again when burdened with fare hikes that rise faster than wages and overly punitive turnstile evasion ticketing that does little to fix the system, but much to harm individuals. New York needs a better strategy to fix the subways, one that does not balance repairs on the backs of those who already carry more than their fair share of burden. New York can Fix the Subway by enacting:

1. **Congestion Pricing:** Divert driver tolls in the busiest part of the city toward MTA infrastructure
2. **A Bus Turnaround Plan:** Re-examine bus routes that use outdated streetcar lines and create dedicated bus lanes to keep riders on schedule and out of traffic.

Civic Engagement, Voters Rights, and Electoral Reform: New York State's antiquated voter policies lead to low turnout across the State and disproportionately bar low-income, people of color and immigrants from political power. By reforming election laws, modernizing voting systems, and backing publicly financed

elections, New York State can make voting access more equitable and democratize all levels of government through the following systems:

1. **Easier to Register:** New York State's registration system lags behind 14 other states and the District of Columbia. Overly burdensome registration systems make it difficult to even clear the first hurdle to voting. New York should streamline our registration system and automate it for eligible voters through:
 - a. Automatic voter registration, with a front-end opt out designs that use provided identification to protect New York immigrants and LEP individuals whose naturalization application could be hurt by accidental registration
 - b. Eliminate the early change in party affiliation deadline
2. **Easier to Vote:** Once New Yorkers are registered, it should be easy to vote. The Voter Friendly Ballot Act was written alongside graphic designers and disability advocates to make sure ballots are easy to read, easy to understand and easy to use. New York is in the minority of states that require voters to have an excuse to vote early or vote absentee. Only having one day of voting in NYS makes it difficult for people that work shift jobs, multiple jobs, have mobility or transportation barriers, or are caretakers for dependents. New York can create an easier voting experience for all through:
 - a. Voter Friendly Ballot Act
 - b. No-excuse absentee ballots
3. **Easier Elections and Operations:** As long as people of color, immigrants, and low-income New Yorkers are systematically barred from participating in our electoral system -- whether getting to the polls or running for office ourselves -- then New York will never have a government that truly represents all New Yorkers. We can reduce barriers to civic and political participation across the spectrum through:
 - a. Easier, Equitable Elections: Allow open primaries and consolidate primary election dates, investing the saved costs into updated machines, poll worker training, and universal non partisan poll watchers
 - b. Language Access: Lower the threshold for language assistance and require translation of all voting materials and ballots
 - c. Enfranchisement: Allow non-citizen resident voting in local and state elections
 - d. Campaign Finance: Protect elections from private interest by closing the LLC loophole, lower barriers to public office by publicly matching small dollar donations 6:1 so that the voices of under-represented New Yorkers are amplified

CPC Policy and Advocacy Support Agenda

New York State FY 2019-2020

CPC is an active lead or supporter of the following campaigns and coalitions. We invite further conversation on:

Liberty Defense Fund: Increasing funding from \$10 million to \$20 million to ensure all immigrants have access to high quality legal services

Office of New Americans Opportunity Centers: Increase the budget to \$10 million to fully fund existing centers based on the successful ESOL gateway model, and establish new centers in high need areas.

Green Light NY: Increase mobility and economic opportunity by providing state drivers' licenses for all immigrant New Yorkers

Early Childhood Education: While early childhood education has been proven critical to lifelong economic and social success, only 17% of eligible families are served in New York State. New York State can invest in making sure all children have this critical support by:

1. Creating a new fund which allows localities that use 100% of their State child care allocation without meeting the needs of all income-eligible families to access funds to serve more families
2. Allowing Economic Development Funds to be used to support child care programs
3. Continuing expansion of the Child Care Tax Credit
4. Allocate \$5 million to Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies to provide additional hours of programming, training, and support.

Child Welfare: increase the Open-Ended Preventive/Protective Services State-funded portion to 65/35.

Adult Literacy: For many of our immigrant community members, the first step towards economic empowerment is literacy and language access. To ensure that all community members have the literacy skills and resources to participate and contribute to our economy, we urge the State to invest:

1. **\$15.3 million** in adult literacy funding in Adult Literacy Education (ALE) in order to counteract the planned replacement of the English Language Civics program with new programming designed to serve higher-skilled individuals as a result of changes in the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. New York is also eliminating English Language instruction through its own Office for New Americans, leaving many of New York's most limited-English proficient immigrants behind.
2. **\$10 million investment** in family literacy programs, which allow family members across generations to build literacy skills concurrently
3. **\$10 million** for Office for New Americans legal services and ESOL classes, to restore the original model of ONA that uses ESOL as a welcoming gateway to legal services, naturalization, and deportation reprieve

Senior Affordable Housing Services: invest **\$10 million** to provide service coordination in senior affordable housing to help older adults to age successfully in place.

Housing Stability Support: Invest **\$40 million** in this statewide rental supplement for public assistance-eligible families and individuals facing eviction, currently homeless, or facing loss of housing.