



# ADVANCING OUR COMMUNITY

The **Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)** promotes social and economic empowerment of Chinese American, immigrant and low-income communities. Today, CPC is the nation's largest Asian American social services organization and is the trusted partner to more than 200,000 individuals and families in all 51 Council Districts. CPC is responding to our community members' most critical needs during COVID-19, providing meals for seniors, home care, and up-to-date information and resources in language. We believe that the City's budget is critical to not only addressing this emergency but also supporting long-term recovery. To that end, we are advancing the following City Policy Agenda to ensure that the needs of Asian American, immigrant, and low-income New Yorkers – those hit hardest by COVID-19 -- are centered in legislative and budget decisions.

## **Provide relief for essential human services staff through the Just Pay campaign**

New York City's 40,000 contracted human services workers have been essential workers throughout this crisis, providing critical services on the frontline as well as remotely. We urge the City to:

- Establish, fund, and enforce an automatic annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on all human services contracts in order to begin to chip away at the poverty wages the City pays the majority of the workforce.
- Set a living wage floor of no less than \$21 an hour for all City and State funded human services workers.
- Create, fund, and incorporate a comprehensive wage and benefit schedule for government contracted human services workers comparable to the salaries made by City and State employees in the same field.

*CPC is a member of the Human Services Council and the Just Pay campaign and endorses their platform.*

## **Maintain social services and safety net programs**

Our organization and programs have always been critical in supporting vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities, but during the COVID-19 response and recovery, CPC is key to ensuring that communities of color, immigrants, and low-income New Yorkers are not further isolated or marginalized. We urge the City to:

- **Restore and enhance funding to critical programs**, including early childhood and youth programs, senior services, and all Council Initiatives (such as Access Health NYC, Adult Literacy Program, Geriatric Mental Health Initiative, and legal services initiatives).
  - Ensure that care agencies (DFTA, DOE, DYCD, MOIA, DCWP) are kept whole by resisting PEGs.
- **Prioritize funding for support services and programs that keep communities whole, rather than funding the continued over-policing of communities of color and immigrants.**
  - Pass the How Many Stops Act to bring transparency to NYPD's activities in NYC communities, and end collaboration between NYPD and ICE.
- **Expand eligibility of CityFEPS**, a rental assistance supplement and other voucher programs that help families find and keep housing.

*CPC is a member of United Neighborhood Houses, Live On New York, Coalition of Asian American Children and Families, New York Immigration Coalition, and FPWA and endorses their platforms.*

## Support Limited English Proficient communities and Asian Americans facing discrimination

Since COVID-19, many community members are unable to receive the resources and services they need because of the lack of translated materials and interpreters. At the same time, the increase in anti-Asian discrimination is causing deep harm in Asian American communities, approximately half of whom are limited English proficient. We urge the City to:

- **Enhance the AAPI Community Support Initiative to \$7.5 million** to address anti-Asian discrimination by investing in Asian American led organizations that have deep roots and track records in the most impacted communities.
- **Invest in community-based organizations that bridge the language divide** to provide essential services, information and access to City resources. These organizations must be kept whole in order to reach communities living in linguistic isolation.
- **Fully fund Adult Literacy programs**, the gateway to all other services for LEP New Yorkers by restoring baselined funding to \$20.4 million, doubling the Adult Literacy Pilot funding to \$5 million and renewing \$4 million for Adult Literacy Council Discretionary Funding, and ensuring the RFP reflects the rate necessary to provide high quality services.
- **Expand the Summer Youth Employment program** to ensure universal summer jobs to every young person that wants one, including fully funding program costs and good wages for program staff and youth participants, including undocumented young people.
- Invest \$10 million in emergency legal services for the City's newest immigrant residents
- Renew and expand undocumented childcare funding (Promise NYC) to \$20 million.

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## Build a collective vision for dignity, justice, and care through the People's Plan platform

CPC is an anchor organization of the [People's Plan](#), a platform on intersectional issues from housing to education to anti-criminalization built by over a hundred organizations citywide. We endorse the People's Plan and call for its implementation in the budget to ensure deep investments in services used by all New Yorkers:

- **Education:** build a public education system that prioritizes the most marginalized students through decriminalizing schools, supporting student mental health, investing in culturally responsive education, keeping schools public and fully funding equitable education, and centering student inclusivity, and providing universal full day education options from birth to graduation.
- **Housing:** ensure safe, accessible and affordable housing for all by offering rental assistance programs, prioritizing supportive and low income housing, repairing NYCHA buildings, creating a collaborative land use process, and establishing protections for immigrant tenants.
- **Anti-criminalization:** investing in support and resources outside of the criminal legal system including creating alternative crisis response systems, reallocating funding from policing to safety net and supportive services, ending surveillance especially of immigrant communities, and focusing on harm reduction.
- **Economic Justice:** ensuring a shared, caring economy through pandemic relief programs, expanding labor protections, ensuring good jobs for all, protecting small businesses and offering universal childcare.
- **Healthcare:** building an affordable, culturally and linguistically affirming healthcare system through equitable vaccine distribution, a comprehensive mental health system, and funding public hospitals and community health providers.
- **Transit:** improving street and signal design for better bus and public transit, funding low cost public transit and fair fares, promoting accessible transit for all New Yorkers, reorganizing parking and street space for sustainable transportation



- **Climate:** investing in environmental justice and green infrastructure through a climate resiliency plan, green jobs package, reducing waste emissions, and investing in renewable energy.