



For Immediate Release
March 30, 2020

Contact: Cally Wong, Director
Cally.wong@apicouncil.org
415-866-7730

API Council Launches a COVID-19 Emergency Fund to Meet Critical Needs in the API Community Including Food Insecurity and More Protective Materials

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The Asian and Pacific Islander Council (API Council), a 55-member coalition of non-profit organizations in San Francisco is raising much-needed funds to address an ever-growing need for resources expressed by its member organizations. API Council has set a goal to raise \$200,000 by March 31st into its COVID-19 Emergency Fund.

“Chinatown CDC owns and operates over 3,000 units of 100% affordable housing,” states Malcolm Yeung, Executive Director of Chinatown Community Development Center. “Well over half of our population are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19, and that is not lost on us. These are live-in, high density, single room occupancy hotels. Many are seniors and extremely low-income families that live in these SROs. Food security is a major concern and we need to be able to continue this service because lives depend on it.”

The COVID-19 Emergency Fund will ensure food availability and security for low-income API families and seniors. Meals provided by API Council’s member organizations represent the only meals that many families and seniors receive. Additional resources to meet the demands and added costs related to trained workers, vehicles, and boxed, culturally favorable foods are needed immediately.

From Anni Chung, President and CEO of Self-Help for the Elderly: “Our programs were severely impacted by COVID-19. But we are dedicated to continuing our services because so many depend on it. Home delivered meals are crucial as some of our most at-risk elders are not able-bodied and do not have the ability to rely on others to bring healthy groceries and produce. They depend on us, and so we are asking for support from the community now to help continue our work.”

Additionally, the COVID-19 Emergency Fund will ensure the availability of protective materials so workers and volunteers are safe. Sarah Wan, Executive Director of Community Youth Center (CYC) San Francisco states, “We are experiencing a shortage of protective equipment such as sanitizing

products, face masks, gloves, and protective suits. All of us who provide direct services to the most vulnerable community members are at risk without access to protective safety equipment.”

From Cally Wong, Director of API Council: “ I think many people are unaware that while a third of our population is comprised of APIs, almost half live in poverty. For so many, our member organizations are their only resource. But today, API Council is asking for help. APIs are largely invisible when it comes to conversations about resources, so we’re calling on the community to help support this effort to raise funds--this is an emergency.”

Contributions to the API Council's COVID-19 Emergency Fund can be made through www.apicouncil.org

About the Asian Pacific Islander Council

The Asian Pacific Islander Council (API Council) is a 55-member coalition of nonprofits in San Francisco that ensure that underserved Asian & Pacific Islanders' needs are visibly engaged, addressed, and represented in policies, research and data collection, and equitable funding allocations to advance overall healthy communities to enhance and shape San Francisco's continued vibrant evolution. Collectively, these organizations serve approximately 250,000 APIs annually.

###