



API  
C O U N C I L

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2020

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### **Asian and Pacific Islander Council Receives \$75,000 from AT&T to Support Grantmaking to San Francisco Small Businesses**

**San Francisco, CA** — The Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Council announced today that AT&T California contributed \$75,000 to support grants to API owned small businesses in San Francisco.

Founded in 2013, the API Council is a coalition of 50 San Francisco-based nonprofits that support underserved Asian and Pacific Islanders' needs. The API Council works to ensure that the API community has a voice and that their needs are addressed in policy, research, and data collection as well as funding allocations. Their mission strives to strengthen racial equality and improve economic justice for the 250,000 APIs the coalition serves annually.

San Francisco's Chinatown has long been a vibrant community. However, Chinatown's small merchants and restaurants were severely impacted before shelter in place order due to anti-AAPI rhetoric related to COVID-19. The API Council is offering grants to assist the numerous merchants and restaurants in Chinatown affected in these unprecedented times.

"As our Chinatown restaurants and shops have struggled in 2020, we are working harder than ever to make sure that our small business owners can weather this devastating time. The API Council's grantmaking will be enhanced with this generous donation from AT&T. We admire the company's commitment to economic empowerment and diversity," said **Cally Wong, director, API Council**.

"This pandemic and recession have hit our community hard, but I am hopeful that by coming together, we can support Chinatown's struggling small businesses. I'm grateful that AT&T has committed resources to the API Council's grantmaking initiative. These grants offer more than just hope. With this funding, AT&T will be helping to build Chinatown's futures," said **Assemblyman David Chiu, D-San Francisco**.

"COVID-19 has disproportionately affected the API community and their businesses need our help. We recognize the incredible work the API Council is doing in the wake of this crisis and these grants will help give Chinatown's small, local businesses a greater chance to recover," said **Cammy Blackstone, Director-External Affairs, AT&T California**.

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated social justice issues for Asian Americans and AT&T is committed to supporting opportunities that foster upwards mobility for underserved communities. AT&T's support of the API Council is part of [AT&T Believes<sup>SM</sup>](#), a company-wide effort to make a meaningful impact in local communities. The program combines company resources and employee engagement to help local initiatives that address substantial societal issues. Nationally, AT&T is dedicating \$10 million to economic opportunity in underserved communities and communities of color.

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#### **About the Asian Pacific Islander Council**

The Asian Pacific Islander Council (API Council) is a 50-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.

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