

12% AND GROWING COALITION

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY FIGHTING FOR A FAIR BUDGET

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Community Needs

Asian Pacific Americans are by percentage the fastest growing group in New York City, nearly doubling every decade since 1970 and making up nearly 12% of the population. In fact, New York City has the largest Asian Pacific American population of any U.S. city. Of the over 960,000 Asian Pacific Americans in New York City:

- 73% of Asian Pacific Americans are foreign-born.
- Asian Pacific Americans have the highest rate (28%) of linguistic isolation, meaning that no one over the age of 14 in a household speaks English well.
- Asian Pacific Americans have the second highest rate of poverty (25.9%).
- 1 out of 4 Asian Pacific Americans 25 years and older do not have a high school diploma.
- 1 out of 3 Asian Pacific American high school students do not graduate on time or at all.

Despite these needs, the Asian Pacific American community does not receive a fair share of public and private resources. In New York City, the Asian Pacific American community receives 0.24% of the City's social service contract dollars and 0.38% of the City's foundation grant dollars. New York City has the largest number of Asian-owned businesses in the nation, generating over \$22 billion in receipts annually. Tourists from Asia conducting business and visiting family and friends in New York City have generated over \$100 million a year. Unfortunately, as the Asian Pacific American population in New York City has rapidly increased and has been an economic driver, the needs in the community have been met with inadequate financial resources and services. These needs are substantial barriers to education, health care, employment, civic participation, and other factors critical to becoming contributing members of this City and State.

Statement of Principles

The Asian Pacific American community is united with other communities calling to ensure that our State and City governments support the most vulnerable in our communities. Because the Asian Pacific American community already receives so little public funding, any budget cuts will disproportionately and negatively impact our community. The Asian Pacific American community demands that we receive our fair share in the State and City budgets to ensure that our community's needs are met. Therefore, we put forward the following principles in how our State and City governments should address the economic situation.

The State and City should address both the revenue and expense sides of the budget. There are always two sides of the budget (revenues and expenses), and the State and City must focus on balancing the budget. Instead of only cutting expenses, the State and City must find progressive ways to increase revenue. Increasing revenue is the only way to ensure much needed services remain intact while also achieving a balanced budget.

The most vulnerable New Yorkers must be protected during these tough financial times. Budget cuts should not disproportionately affect those New Yorkers with the greatest needs. According to New York City's Center for Economic Opportunity, Asian Pacific Americans have the second highest rate of poverty (25.9%) among all racial groups. Those struggling with poverty are also more likely to be recently arrived immigrants, limited English proficient individuals, children, and seniors. The State and City must preserve supportive services that promote the health and safety of our most vulnerable members. Investments in these services will avoid much costlier expenditures in the future.

The State and City must support the economic vitality of the community. Asian Pacific Americans are a largely immigrant community with many limited English proficient individuals. Many find themselves in jobs that lack stability and have limited upward mobility. Funding for programs like workforce development, small business development, ESOL, GED, adult education, public education, and child care should be preserved to allow New Yorkers to move toward economic self-sufficiency. Investment in these services will increase income tax revenues, encourage participation in the consumer economy, and reduce public charge expenses.

The State and City should ensure that small, community based organizations (CBOs) that serve emerging immigrant communities are supported. Small CBOs have the trust of their community members and have much more flexibility to respond to emerging needs. Vulnerable members of the Asian Pacific American community rely on these organizations because they offer services that are culturally competent and linguistically appropriate. Investment in these organizations will ensure that individuals facing cultural and language barriers will have equitable access to the support services they need.

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The 12% and Growing Coalition is comprised of over 25 Asian-led and –serving organizations in New York City aiming for the State and City governments to have fair budgets that protect the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

- APEX
- Asian Americans for Equality
- Asian American Federation
- Asian Outreach Clinic, Child Center of New York
- Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS
- Asian Youth Center of NY
- Chinatown Manpower Project
- Chinese-American Planning Council
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
- Damayan Migrant Workers Association
- Family Health Project
- Filipino American Human Services, Inc.
- Greater Chinatown Community Association
- Hamilton Madison House
- Indochina Sino-American Community Center
- Immigrant Social Services
- Kalusugan Coalition, Inc.
- Korean American Family Service Center
- Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.
- Korean Family Counseling and Research Center
- MAAWS for Global Welfare, Inc.
- New York Asian Women's Center
- NYU South Asian Health Initiative
- SAKHI for South Asian Women
- South Asian Council for Social Services
- South Asian Youth Action
- United Chinese Association of Brooklyn
- YKASEC

List in formation (as of 12.29.2008)