

March 26, 2021

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We stand in solidarity with the Asian American community and are deeply disappointed with your statement from March 17, 2021 in response to the tragic shootings in Atlanta.

(<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/video-audio-rush-transcript-governor-cuomo-denounces-rise-hate-crimes-against-asian-american>).

The words and framing reinforce the hateful and racist rhetoric that has scapegoated Asian American communities throughout this pandemic. That was a missed opportunity to address the real fears that Asian American communities are experiencing right now with the rise of anti-Asian hate and violence in our state. **We support the first-of-its-kind \$19.5 Million budget package in support of Asian American New Yorkers in FY21-22.**

We are concerned with your actions over the past years that have also dismissed Asian American communities, the fastest growing community which makes up 10% of New York State. You vetoed a bill to collect critical data on Asian American New Yorkers' real and diverse challenges and needs. These improved data-collection measures would have allowed New York to have a more equitable COVID-19 response and vaccination plan.

The State has failed to provide language accessible and culturally relevant information on COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines. This has left Asian American communities less safe, and our already under-resourced nonprofit organizations to pick up the slack in order to ensure Asian American seniors and families have equitable access to testing and vaccination.

And at the same time, the State has not prioritized funding for Asian American nonprofit organizations, which receive less than 1% of contracted human services funding. Asian American nonprofit organizations are vital partners in our work and provide culturally competent and language accessible services that are critical to supporting our Asian American communities struggling immense trauma from the COVID-19 pandemic, the severe economic fallout experienced two months before New York went on PAUSE and exacerbated by xenophobia, as well as the spike in anti-Asian hate and violence.

We urge you to be accountable to Asian American families and communities, especially now as they face severe challenges. We stand in solidarity with the NYS Asian Pacific American Legislative Task Force, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF), and Asian American community based organizations in their FY21-22 budget priorities of **\$19.5 Million. This budget package is the first of its kind in the nation to provide community based services and to support the disaggregation of data that**

would strengthen the State's response in supporting a very diverse Asian American community:

- 1. Allocate \$15 Million to Asian American community based organizations** to support short term and long term solutions to address inequities, support racial healing, and promote relief and recovery (see APA Legislative Task Force list).
- 2. Support data disaggregation efforts by allocating \$2.5 Million** within the NY State Department of Health
- 3. Invest \$2 Million to support in-language public education campaigns** to address COVID-19 and sharing community based resources for community healing.

Thank you,

UNION ALLIES

District Council 37, AFSCME-AFLCIO
Doctors Council, SEIU

BUSINESS ALLIES

Asian Boss Ladies
Capalino
Cristina Herrera Consulting
Haydan Consultants Inc
Laura Shmishkiss Consulting
Products Plus
Sampreshan Inv
The Hudson Companies

PHILANTHROPY ALLIES

Korean American Community Foundation
North Star Fund
Robin Hood
The Ong Family Foundation

NONPROFIT ALLIES

ACCESS of WNY
ADL NY/NJ
AHRC New York City
Astor Services for Children & Families
Barrier Free Living
Birch Family Services
BRC
Broadway Housing Communities

Bronx House
BronxWorks
Brooklyn Community Foundation
Brooklyn Community Services
Brooklyn Workforce Innovations
Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC
CAMBA, Inc.
Campaign for NY Health
Care Design NY
Cayuga Centers
Child Development Support Corporation
Citizens' Committee for Children of NY
Commission on Economic Opportunity
Commission on the Public's Health System
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
Communities Resist
Cool Culture
Coro New York Leadership Center
Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies
Curio
Day Care Council of New York
DREAM
East Side House
Educational Video Center
Faith in New York
First Chinese Presbyterian Community Affairs Home Attendant Corp
FPWA
GAPIMNY—Empowering Queer & Trans Asian Pacific Islanders
Girl Vow, Inc.
Goddard Riverside
Golden Horizons Partners, Inc.
Good Enough Now
Good Old Lower East Side.
Good Shepherd Services
Govner's House LLC
Grand Street Settlement
Greenwich House
Henry Street Settlement
Her Justice Inc.
Hetrick-Martin Institute
Human Services Council
Hunger Free America

Japanese American Citizens League - New York Chapter
JobsFirstNYC
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
Korean American Family Service Center
Laal NYC
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Lifespire
Literacy Assistance Center
LiveOn NY
Lower East Side Employment Network
Lutheran Social Services of NY
Make the Road NY
Manhattan Youth
MercyFirst
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
National Federation of Filipino Americans NY Chapter (NaFFAA-NY)
New Settlement
New York Math Academy and Coaching Services (NYMACS)
NMIC
Northern Rivers Family of Services
NYC Employment and Training Coalition
Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow
Partnership for After School Education
Pride Center of Staten Island
Project Hospitality
Public Prep
Queens Community House
Rebuilding Together NYC
RiseBoro Community Partnership
Safe Horizon
Samaritan Daytop Village
Schenectady ARC
Seamen's Society for Children and Families
Services for the UnderServed
Shorefront YM-YWHA of Brighton-Manhattan Beach, Inc.
Showing Up for Racial Justice NYC
Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center
Stop Mass Incarceration Network
STRIVE NY
SustyQ
Syracuse Northeast Community Center
The Center for Workforce Inclusion

The Children's Village & Harlem Dowling
The Door
The Fresh Air Fund
The Ghanaian Association of Staten Island NY Inc
The Knowledge House
Total Care Inc
Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region
Two Bridges Neighborhood Council, Inc.
UJA-Federation of NY
United Black Men of Queens
United Community Centers
United Neighborhood Houses
United Way of New York City
University Settlement
Urban Pathways
Volunteers of Legal Service
Westcott Community Center
Women Creating Change
YAI, Inc.
Youth Communication