



COVID-19



Stand Against Hate

Xenophobia and racial scapegoating must be rejected by our leaders, regardless of political ideology. While we should certainly consider the role all world leaders played in preparing and mitigating this crisis, there is clear evidence that capitalizing on fears about China has led to a direct increase in attacks on Asian Americans.

Ensure Access to Relief

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, despite providing nearly \$2 trillion in relief, has provided marginal relief to the AA and NHPI community. Significant implementation flaws have led to many small businesses receiving no emergency aid, and individuals being prohibited from receiving stimulus payments.

Improve Health Access and Data Collection

As with recovery programs, language access is critically important for health access as well. Without dedicated federal funding for in-language resources, parts of the AA and NHPI community will remain at risk during the current and future pandemics. Furthermore, the need for disaggregated data for the AA and NHPI community has never been greater—we cannot fully prepare for future pandemics if we do not have the data that reflects how different communities are disproportionately impacted.

Recommendations

- Unequivocally denounce anti-Asian racism as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes meaningful investment in paid media or other public facing platforms to carry this message.
- Stop racializing COVID-19.
- Create a federal taskforce through the Department of Justice and FBI to improve data collection on hate crimes targeting Asian Americans. Increase investments in programs such as the Community Relations Service to strengthen trust and awareness in impacted communities.
- Ensure that all future stimulus programs and COVID-19 resources are translated into AA and NHPI languages.
- Protect AA and NHPI small businesses. Relief programs must have dedicated funding that reaches communities of color.
- Create incentives for commercial real estate owners to not displace AA and NHPI small businesses that have been forced to close due to COVID-19.
- Create adequate worker protections for AA and NHPI frontline workers.
- Extend relief opportunities and worker protection to undocumented Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- Provide testing and treatment for immigrants, regardless of status that does not jeopardize their current or future immigration status.
- Ensure funding for translating COVID-19 materials; use the FEMA Language Access Plan as a template for at least 19 language translations.
- Disaggregate data collected on the AA and NHPI community related to COVID-19 cases.