



ASIAN PACIFIC POLICY & PLANNING COUNCIL

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U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez and Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Organizations Urge AANHPI Communities to Complete the 2020 CENSUS

LOS ANGELES, April 15, 2020 – Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON) joins U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez (CA-34) and members of the Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Census 2020 Collaborative in reemphasizing the importance of filling out the 2020 Census in the face of low census response rates in Los Angeles County. The current overall response rate of 44.4% in Los Angeles County to the 2020 Census is below the California average of 48.7%.

Los Angeles County has the highest percentage of AAPIs and the third highest percentage of NHPis in the country; our communities can drive the count. Our member organizations are using innovative methods to reach out to community members, despite no longer being able to hold events in person. We ask our communities to continue completing the census to ensure our communities receive the funds and representation we deserve.

Organizations that are part of our AANHPI Census 2020 Collaborative in Los Angeles include Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles, API Equality – Los Angeles, API Forward Movement, Asian Youth Center, Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment, Chinatown Service Center, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC), Filipino Migrant Center, Khmer Girls in Action, Korean American Coalition, Korean American Federation of Los Angeles, Korean Resource Center, Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance, Koreatown Youth and Community Center, Little Tokyo Service Center, Pilipino Workers Center, South Asian Network, Thai Community Development Center, United Cambodian Community, and Visual Communications.

“The Census – an important democratic process enshrined in the Constitution – only occurs once every ten years, and there are no do-overs. Millions of dollars in federal funding to our communities hang in the balance, and it’s critically important that everyone is counted and every voice is heard. I’d like to extend my appreciation to A3PCON for holding their virtual 2020 Census press conference and thank them for underscoring the necessity to increase self-response rates in the AANHPI community and across Los Angeles County,” said U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez.



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“API Equality-LA is working to make sure lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Asians and Pacific Islanders are counted in the 2020 Census. LGBTQ people exist within all populations, including the API community, and we are undercounted and underserved. We have filmed a PSA video with our community partners, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities and Visual Communications, which will be released later this week. Although the Census questionnaire is not inclusive of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we are still encouraging API LGBTQ people to fill out the 2020 Census the best they can and be counted,” remarked Tracy Zhao, Executive Director, API Equality – Los Angeles.

“Sa panahon ng COVID-19 (coronavirus) ang pondo para sa kalusugan ay katumbas ng pagligtas ng mga buhay ng ating mga kababayan. Ang pondo na pang-edukasyon ay katumbas ng mabuting kinabukasan para sa ating lahat. Kaya’t siguradihin natin na ang bawat Pilipino ay maisasama sa bilang ng census. EveryFilipinoCounts.org

With this crisis, we can see how important it is for our communities to get the resources they need. This is why it is so important to have our community counted. EveryFilipinoCounts.org,” shared Aquilina Soriano Versoza, Executive Director, Pilipino Workers Center.

“APIFM is leveraging our trusted community-based relationships to target hard to reach, limited English proficient, immigrant communities in central LA and West SGV through in-person and broad based outreach. We’re including census reminders during weekly phone calls, and in emergency produce bag deliveries to individuals and families. We are also grateful to partner with the team at the Alhambra Source to develop animated census videos in Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Spanish, which will be viewed on the Alhambra Source website and shared through our social media platform,” said Linda Huynh, Community Engagement Coordinator/Lead Health Educator, SSG/API Forward Movement.

“The Coronavirus is teaching that we’re an integrated community. Korean and Asian Islander communities need to work alongside other vulnerable communities so that we can get through this pandemic. The leaders from KIWA have been working with the Korean and Latino communities. We’ve been conducting leadership meetings in three languages: English, Korean and Spanish. We’ve been working together with rapid response to restaurant workers, retail workers, and residents in Koreatown, and we continue to locate new resources for those that need them,” Jose Roberto Hernandez, Deputy Director, Koreatown Immigrant Workers Association.

“We see now, more than ever, during this pandemic, how important it is for our communities, many of which are designated as hard to count, to be properly counted so that we have access to all the public health and social services resources we need. To those who have not yet responded to the census, it is not too late to respond by mail, online or by phone.” said Ruthann Chou, Program Manager, Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council.

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Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of more than 40 community-based organizations that serve and represent the 1.5 million Asian-American and Pacific Islanders that live in Los Angeles County.