



## 2021 Impact Report

Founded in 1990, the Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF) is the only community-based fund of its kind, created to increase philanthropic giving toward Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) nonprofit organizations. Our mission is to cultivate philanthropists to invest in organizations that empower underserved AAPIs to prosper. APCF is focused on transforming lives and meeting the diverse needs of AAPIs by 1) building healthier communities, 2) developing leaders, 3) creating a stronger voice, and 4) providing the foundation for a brighter tomorrow. **Together with our 62 Network Agencies, we serve over 2.57 million people annually**, primarily low-income, immigrant AAPIs, with programs and services in **34 AAPI languages**, as well as English and Spanish.

### APCF Response to COVID-19 & Anti-Asian Hate

Faced with twin public health crises of an ongoing pandemic and dramatic rise in hate incidents, 2021 continued to be a challenging year for AAPI communities. Since the start of the pandemic, **over 10,000 hate incidents targeting AAPIs were reported, with about half from California and affecting 1 in 5 AAPIs**. Many AAPI nonprofits are on the frontlines to both emergencies, delivering food to homebound seniors, helping children with virtual learning, providing PPE to those most at-risk, assisting small businesses apply for relief, educating on how to report anti-Asian hate incidents, and vaccinating our community members. These organizations have been active in long-standing multiracial coalitions on shared issues while also addressing anti-Blackness in our communities.

As an AAPI-focused community fund, APCF believes that our diverse communities are best served by nonprofits that speak our languages, know our cultures, and have the trust of our community members. Prior to COVID, AAPI communities were chronically underinvested; this pandemic and recent racist attacks have highlighted racial inequities in funding for AAPIs. APCF's own genesis was to address this need at a time when less than 0.3% of local funding went to AAPI nonprofits; our mission continues as still [nationally only 20 cents per \\$100 in grant funding go to AAPI communities](#), despite being the fastest growing demographic nationally and locally. Even within APCF's Network of AAPI nonprofits, over 75% have budgets of less than \$1M and fewer than 10 staff. APCF continues to be responsive to meet the evolving needs of our AAPI nonprofit sector with the following:

1. Created [new grant funding](#) in response to our call for philanthropy to make timely, significant investments in our local AAPI nonprofit – resulting in 2021's [SoCalGas API Racial Equity & Solidarity Fund](#), [API COVID-19 Recovery Fund](#), and [Women Leadership in Philanthropy Fund](#).
2. Co-hosted the [#GiveInMay campaign](#) to raise funds nationwide for AAPI communities during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month – **over \$725,000 was raised for 170 nonprofits+ in 2021**, nearly tripling the previous year.
3. Developed an [AAPI nonprofit programs matrix](#) to help **donors navigate and direct their giving for the greatest impact to local AAPI communities**, with categories that include COVID-related services such as vaccinations and food deliveries as well as addressing anti-Asian hate.



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4. [Comprehensive Online COVID-19 Funding & Resource Directory](#) as a **one-stop guide to help our nonprofits, small businesses, and community-at-large impacted by COVID-19**. Updated regularly, APCF vets and posts timely sources of rapid response funds, utility bill relief, small business assistance, public health updates, and more.
5. [Community Events](#) page to include **free webinars and other capacity building/technical assistance virtual workshops**.

**Grantmaking:** Since its inception in 1990, APCF has made over \$11M in grants to support nonprofit organizations to provide programs and services to communities in need. APCF continued our popular annual [Operating Grant Program](#) with a focus on AAPI nonprofits with budgets less than \$1 million. In 2021, APCF made a significant investment through unrestricted funds to 14 AAPI nonprofits, ranging in ethnic diversity of underrepresented groups and programs/services – including immigrant small business support, civil rights advocacy, civic engagement, mental health, youth empowerment, food justice, vaccine equity, and families with disabilities. In addition, APCF also provided capacity support by having a representative from each grantees’ board to participate in our Board Leadership Program. By having the board member participate, APCF was able to offer training and leadership skills development to help sustain and grow the nonprofits beyond our traditional grantmaking.

**Giving Circles:** In 2021, APCF offered grant opportunities via the Giving Circles it administers, with \$15,000 in grants distributed to three organizations serving the AAPI community. To date, our Giving Circles have collectively distributed almost \$390,000 in 120 grants to local nonprofits.

**Scholarship Programs:** In 2021, APCF nearly doubled its scholarships to 10 programs, which invested \$274,000 in 100 low-income students locally and nationwide. By maintaining a 2,250+ contact database of schools, clubs, counselors, administrators, and teachers, spanning nationally across all 50 states, APCF maximized outreach to ensure that students have the opportunity to apply for APCF scholarship programs. To date, APCF has awarded a total of \$1,282,000 in scholarships to support over 370 low-income students nationally with college tuition assistance.

**Capacity Building Workshops:** APCF’s unique position as an AAPI-focused community fund allows us to be responsive to the needs of our network of AAPI nonprofits through capacity building workshops with topics such as fundraising, program evaluation, marketing, HR/risk management, financial management, and more. Due to the relationship we have with 200+ AAPI nonprofits, we have had significant participation and continued high demand for future sessions. Offered at no cost to attendees as long as they serve the AAPI community, our workshops also have the AAPI cultural relevancy that may be lacking in other nonprofit workshop curricula.



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In 2021, 300 unduplicated staff, board members, and volunteers from 148 different nonprofits attended 14 webinars that went beyond our usual curriculum to respond to the evolving needs of our AAPI nonprofit sector due to COVID-19. For example, we hosted webinars on the future of events, PPP 2.0, how nonprofits can leverage social media platforms like Instagram and LinkedIn, impact evaluation, COVID considerations for HR, and the latest reopening guidelines featuring LA County Department of Public Health and a local hospital.

**Meet the Funders:** In 2021, APCF hosted two virtual “Meet the Funders” event with Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy-LA (AAPIP-LA) in order to increase access to funding opportunities. These events were designed with the added component of 1-on-1 meetings with the funders following the general panel discussion, allowing nonprofits to meet the funder and ask very specific questions about potential grant proposals. This year, 83 people from 54 nonprofits serving AAPI communities attended the events, which featured AARP Foundation, APCF, California Community Foundation, Durfee Foundation, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and Weingart Foundation. To date, APCF helped facilitate 262 of these 1-on-1 meetings between funders and nonprofits, which resulted in \$1,418,709 in new/additional funding to the AAPI community.

**Board Leadership Program:** In 2021, in collaboration with the Asian American Professional Association, APCF co-implemented this annual program for the sixth consecutive year to train and develop AAPI leaders to serve on AAPI nonprofit boards. In response to the pandemic, the program was offered virtually for 41 participants in 2021. Since its inception in 2015, the program has trained over 200 professionals from 67 companies, as well as successfully matched and placed about half of participants with the AAPI nonprofits that they interned with. Continuing to develop leaders to effectively serve on AAPI nonprofit boards will be a crucial component to sustaining and growing these organizations.

**Funders Briefings on AAPI Communities:** In partnership with OC Grantmakers, OC Community Foundation, and Asian American Futures, APCF helped host a series of funder briefings focusing on AAPI communities in Orange County, with sessions covering historical overviews, civic engagement, ecosystem of the AAPI nonprofit sector, COVID-19 response, and targeted philanthropic investment in AAPI communities. The first three events were virtual, with the last event culminating as an in-person conversation between funders and nonprofits on next steps to address funding inequities.

**AAPI Nonprofit Executive Directors Peer-to-Peer Network (AAPI NP ED P2P):** Piloted in 2020 with four AAPI nonprofit executive directors, this support group was established with the purpose of sustaining newer leaders who have been in their roles for at least four years and are approaching a crucial juncture in their nonprofit careers. As this sector faces increasing challenges in succession planning and leadership transitions, APCF considers it crucial to support emerging leaders to not only remain but to thrive in their positions. In 2021, APCF continued this program with a second cohort of another four AAPI nonprofit executive directors.



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**AAPI Nonprofit Financial Leadership Project:** From feedback we received from AAPI NP ED P2P participants, in the Fall of 2021 APCF launched an exciting new initiative on the financial capacity of local AAPI nonprofits to strengthen their impact as it relates to mission delivery in the face of uncertainty. In partnership with the Nonprofit Finance Fund, APCF invited all eight members of our AAPI NP ED P2P cohorts to join in cohort-based learning convenings as well as customized financial analysis and individual coaching. With a focus on smaller nonprofits with less than \$1 million budgets, these executive directors represent a new generation of AAPI leaders who are poised to strengthen their nonprofit's financial health management capacity while understanding the strengths and challenges of their current business model and capital structure.