



# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

August 27, 2021

Office of the President  
1111 Franklin St.  
Oakland, CA 94607

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 553  
Sacramento, California 95814

[universityofcalifornia.edu](http://universityofcalifornia.edu)

Dear Senator Skinner:

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Pursuant to Item 6440-001-0001 Provision 20(c) Committee on Budget, Budget Act of 2020 (AB85, Chapter 4, Statutes of 2021), enclosed is the University of California’s preliminary report to the Legislature on UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

If you have any questions, Associate Vice President David Alcocer would be pleased to speak with you. David can be reached by telephone at (510) 987-9113, or by email at [David.Alcocer@ucop.edu](mailto:David.Alcocer@ucop.edu).

MEDICAL CENTERS

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Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, MD  
President

Enclosure

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

- [Lawrence Berkeley](#)
- [Lawrence Livermore](#)
- [Los Alamos](#)

- cc: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review  
The Honorable John Laird, Chair  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #1  
(Attn: Ms. Anita Lee)  
(Attn: Ms. Jean-Marie McKinney)  
The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2  
(Attn: Mr. Mark Martin)  
(Attn: Ms. Carolyn Nealon)  
Mr. Hans Hemann, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Ms. Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate  
Ms. Amy Leach, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Ms. Sue Parker, Office of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
Mr. Jeff Bell, Department of Finance  
Mr. Chris Ferguson, Department of Finance  
Ms. Rebecca Kirk, Department of Finance

Mr. Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst Office  
Ms. Jennifer Pacella, Legislative Analyst Office  
Mr. Jason Constantouros, Legislative Analyst Office  
Provost and Executive Vice President Michael Brown  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom  
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Associate Vice President David Alcocer  
Associate Vice President and Director Kieran Flaherty

## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Preliminary Report on Anti-Asian Racism and Post-Pandemic Recovery Research in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities

UCLA Asian American Studies Center

April 1, 2021 to August 10, 2021

#### Introduction

The following report is forwarded in compliance with Assembly Bill 85 (Chapter 4, Statutes of 2021) that included a one-time allocation to the Asian American Studies Center at the University of California Los Angeles campus. The bill states in Section 14, provision 20:

*(a) Of the funds appropriated in this item, \$1,400,000 in one-time funding shall be available to the Asian American Studies Center at the University of California Los Angeles campus. This funding shall support the Stop Asian American Pacific Islander Hate website, the COVID-19 Multilingual Resources website, analysis and research associated with hate incidents experienced by Asian Pacific Islander communities, and policy research projects on COVID-19-related challenges directly impacting Asian Pacific Islander communities. Funding may be distributed to the Asian American Studies Department at California State University, San Francisco and other entities involved in the Stop Anti-Asian Hate collaborative.*

*(b) The University of California and the University of California Los Angeles campus shall not assess administrative costs or charges against the funds described in subdivision (a).*

*(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the research and analysis supported by the funding described in subdivision (a) provide actionable recommendations for local and state officials whenever possible. A preliminary report describing activities and projects undertaken with this funding, along with recommendations for policy or budgetary changes, shall be submitted to the Department of Finance and relevant committees of the Legislature by September 1, 2021. A final report shall be submitted by April 1, 2022.*

This preliminary report covers the 3-month period from April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

Established in 1969, the UCLA Asian American Studies Center (AASC) is a national research center dedicated to advancing historical, transformative and interdisciplinary scholarship that bridges research with community voices. Our mission is “to expand our scholarly capabilities and deepen the public understanding of Asian American and Pacific Islander lives towards a more just, democratic, and compassionate society.” The Institute for American Cultures houses the AASC

along with the American Indian Studies Center, Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, and Chicano Studies Research Center. The centers are the only ethnic studies organized research units (ORU) among the 10 University of California campuses.

The Asian American Studies Center (AASC) has a faculty advisory committee of over fifty professors who teach and conduct research on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, making UCLA home to the largest concentration of Asian American Studies scholars in the nation. The AASC's Policy Initiative includes over 20 faculty and researchers who conduct public-facing, policy-oriented, and applied research. The policy research expertise of the Asian American Studies Center and its faculty include but are not limited to the following:

- Population Projections and Data Visualization
- Economic well-being
- Housing
- Climate change
- Mental health
- Health
- Political participation
- Urbanization
- Aging
- Gender and LGBTQ Communities
- Migration and immigration
- Criminal justice
- Labor
- Media
- Institutional diversity
- Urban conflict
- Disabilities
- Education

The UCLA AASC used \$1.1 million from the \$1.4 million state funding allocation to launch its policy initiative, build a community of engaged scholars, and strengthen partnerships with community organizations, government agencies and policy makers to ensure that the needs and voices of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are a visible part of civic discourse and public decision-making processes. The majority of funding was used to support research projects that are described below, in particular the hiring of graduate student researchers. One of the goals of AASC's policy initiative is to train the next generation of researcher and public sector leaders.

### **UCLA AASC Pandemic recovery research projects concerning Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**

So far, State funds have been allocated to 15 policy research projects to inform COVID recovery efforts in California, including some to address the rise in anti-Asian violence and harassment. All of these projects are being conducted by UCLA faculty and research staff. Research projects will be completed by March 1, 2022 and will produce policy briefs and reports that will be

disseminated in various formats and shared in a spring policy summit as well as in numerous policy webinars. Additional research projects will be funded based on stakeholder feedback. The current roster of projects includes:

1. Pandemic impacts on employment, businesses and housing  
*Paul Ong, Professor Emeritus, Urban Planning, Luskin School of Public Affairs*  
\$45,000
2. Food insecurity and AAPI elderly in California  
*May Wang, Professor, Community Health Sciences, Fielding School of Public Health*  
\$40,400
3. Economic impacts of COVID-19 on Southeast Asians (Cambodian, Hmong, and Laotians and other racial groups)  
*Chhandara Pech, Researcher, UCLA Center for Community Knowledge*  
\$45,000
4. Economic, educational, and health impacts among undocumented populations  
*May Sudhinaraset, Associate Professor, Community Health Sciences, Fielding School of Public Health*  
\$35,000
5. Theatrical labor in the wake of COVID-19, the state of Asian American theater in California, and innovative possibilities for recovery  
*Sean Metzger, Professor, Theater and Performance Studies, School of Theater, Film and Television*  
\$33,500
6. Impacts of COVID-19 on AAPI voter registration and turnout in 2020 and its implications  
*Natalie Masuoka, Associate Professor, Political Science and Asian American Studies*  
\$35,200
7. Anti-Asian racism and implications for higher education  
*Robert Teranishi, Professor, Social Science and Comparative Education, Graduate School of Education and Information Sciences*  
\$35,000
8. Impact of the pandemic on the arts  
*Lucy Burns, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies*  
\$25,000
9. Impacts of COVID-19 on Los Angeles Koreatown and Koreans in Southern California  
*Kyeyoung Park, Professor, Anthropology and Asian American Studies*  
\$10,000
10. Stressors facing Filipino American families in the era of COVID-19 and beyond  
*Cindy Sangalang, Assistant Professor, Social Welfare, Luskin School of Public Affairs*

*\$35,000*

11. Immigration law and impacts on undocumented populations and anti-Asian racism  
*Hiroshi Motomura, Professor, School of Law*

*\$35,000*

12. Demographic distribution of negative COVID-19 impacts on Pacific Islander communities  
*Keith Camacho, Professor, Asian American Studies*

*\$25,000*

13. Community response, aid networks, and COVID relief gaps among immigrant workers in Los Angeles' Koreatown

*Jennifer Chun, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies and International Institute*

*AJ Kim, IAC Postdoctoral Fellow, Asian American Studies Center*

*\$20,000*

14. A longitudinal study of hate crimes in Los Angeles, 2003-2020

*Karen Umemoto, Professor, Urban Planning and Asian American Studies*

*\$35,000*

15. Health, health care and social determinants of health related to the COVID-19 pandemic

*Ninez Ponce, Professor, Fielding School of Public Health*

*\$75,000*

### **Educational and Creative Projects to Combat Anti-Asian Racism**

Funding has also been provided for three creative projects led by UCLA Faculty to combat anti-Asian racism. The projects include:

1. May 19 solidarity project media campaign videos

Production of mini-documentaries for a public media campaign on Asian American history and racial solidarities, with a May 2021 launch as part of the *SeeUs* campaign

*Renee Tajima-Pena, Professor, Asian American Studies*

*\$10,000*

2. Macroaggression: Anti-Asian violence during COVID-19

An augmented reality project produced with UCLA students to address hate incidents

*Gina Kim, Professor, Theater, Film & Television*

*\$36,200*

3. *Vanessa Umuted: A Storybook* for Grades 4-12

Online [storybook](#) launched on June 1 addressing anti-Asian hate with curriculum; developed in collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District and the May 18 Solidarity Project

*Karen Umemoto, Professor, Urban Planning and Asian American Studies*

\$20,000

### **Distribution of Funds to StopAAPIHate Collaborative**

In accordance with AB 85 recommendation to distribute funding to other entities involved in the Stop Anti-Asian Hate collaborative, \$300,000 was distributed to the Asian American Studies Department at California State University, San Francisco (SF State), the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (AP3CON), and Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) in the amount of \$100,000 per organization. These three entities comprise the StopAAPIHate Coalition. They established a reporting site ([stopaapihate.org](http://stopaapihate.org)) in March 2020 that tracks and responds to incidents of hate, violence, harassment, discrimination, shunning, and child bullying against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

For the State of California, the Stop AAPI Hate Coalition partners work collaboratively to achieve the following 1) Document and analyze incidents of hate 2) Connect people and organizations to resources 3) Develop and promote community centered safety initiatives 4) Shape public policies to address anti-Asian hate and 5) Advocate for local and state policies that reinforce human rights and civil rights protections. For more information about Stop AAPI Hate [www.stopaapihate.org](http://www.stopaapihate.org).

Partial achievements to date:

- Prepared special California reports and met data requests from local and state government agencies, community based organizations, educational institutions and media outlets.
- Advised the Governor Newsom's Office, Attorney General's Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus members, Commission on APIA Affairs, Department of Fair Employment and Housing, Superintendent of Public Instruction and numerous city and county agencies throughout the state regarding policy recommendations.
- Developed a wide range of informational resources for impacted individuals including parents, students, CBOs.
- Provided direct assistance to individuals wherever possible.
- Developed community based and government approaches to violence and hate in San Francisco and Los Angeles.
- Mobilized over 150 AAPI organizations to shape holistic governmental response to combat hate.

### **COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub ([TranslateCovid.org](https://translatecovid.org))**

Funds in the amount of \$100,000 have been allocated to the maintenance and development of the COVID-19 Multilingual Resource Hub ([TranslateCovid.org](https://translatecovid.org)), which provides information about COVID-19 in over 60 languages, and contains over 1,000 informational resources. Over the past two months, a new FAQ on vaccines was developed and translated into 20 languages, including Marshallese, Tongan, Chuukese, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Thai, Hmong, Japanese, Spanish and Hindi. An online webinar was held on June 9, 2021, entitled “TranslateCOVID: Online COVID-19 Information in Over 50 Languages” in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Additional statewide outreach activities are planned to promote vaccine awareness in highly impacted AAPI communities with community partners.

### **Policy Briefing Webinars**

The first of the series of Policy Briefing Webinars co-sponsored with the API Legislative Caucus was held on May 26, 2021 on the “Impacts of the Pandemic on Asian American Businesses in Southern California.” This webinar featured a new survey conducted by the Asian Business Association with data analysis led by Research Professor Paul Ong and Alicia Cheng. The event spotlighted major findings on how the pandemic affected Asian American businesses, their efforts to get assistance and relief, ways they adapted to the disruption, and their recovery plans. This survey also covered the impact of anti-Asian hate on Asian American businesses. The final published report is forthcoming in Fall 2021.

The webinar series will highlight findings, recommendations and key takeaways from the research projects listed above. We are currently working on the schedule for the webinars.

### **Project Planning**

Discussions with stakeholders have resulted in the identification of the following policy and research priorities areas: addressing anti-Asian Hate Crimes and Incidents; economic disparities in accessing benefits and relief related to employment, housing, and small business resources; protections and policies for immigrants; best practices for mitigating anti-Asian racism in schools; recovery resources for nonprofit arts organizations, and civic engagement.

A policy summit will be held in March 2022 that will feature presentations by UCLA faculty and researchers on their respective projects (listed above). The panels will discuss actionable



recommendations for local and state officials whenever possible, in order to better inform policy-making, advocacy organizations and service providers on how to reach and serve the most impacted Asian American and Pacific Islander communities struggling from the pandemic and decades of racial and gender inequity. We stand at a critical moment in history to reimagine California by developing structural solutions that establish a more equitable economy, political and civic engagement systems, and social justice for all.

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