

CAA FACTSHEET

www.caasf.org

Chinese for Affirmative Action was founded in 1969 to protect the civil and political rights of Chinese Americans and advance multiracial democracy in the United States. Today, CAA is a progressive voice in and on behalf of the broader Asian and Pacific American (APA) community. We advocate for systemic change that remedies racial injustice, ensures equal opportunities, and reduces the language barriers and nativist hostilities facing immigrants.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Our grassroots work prioritizes the needs of low-income, immigrant, and limited-English proficient (LEP) individuals.

Leadership development: Through the Visitacion Valley Parents Association (VVPA), an education and advocacy group for limited-English proficient parents, CAA provides leadership development to improve LEP parental involvement in the San Francisco Unified School District.

Employment services: CAA places hundreds of primarily immigrant jobseekers in construction and hospitality work, as well as vocational training programs. Current special projects include outreach to dislocated garment workers and improving access to opportunities in the higher-wage plumbing and electrical trades.

Community education: CAA is a leading progressive voice in the ethnic and mainstream media on issues such as stereotyping in the media, APA political participation, and emerging public policy debates. By providing walk-in hours and maintaining updated referral lists, CAA is also a critical resource for community services and activities.

ISSUE ADVOCACY

CAA advocates for programs, policies, and legislation to meet our communities' needs, as well as to change or eliminate those policies that are harmful and discriminatory.

Language Rights: CAA fights for equal access to critical social services for limited-English proficient immigrant residents.

Immigrant Rights: As a founding member of the San Francisco Immigrant Legal Services and Education Network, CAA works with over a dozen agencies to provide and promote critically needed legal and social services for immigrants. CAA is also a leading member of Friends of Educational Opportunities in Chinatown (FEOC), an association of community leaders and organizations committed to a permanent City College campus in San Francisco Chinatown.

Racial Justice: CAA speaks out against harmful stereotypes, identifies and addresses discrimination, and advances policies such as affirmative action and anti-hate crime legislation that promote inclusion and equity.

PROMOTING SOCIAL CHANGE

CAA seeks to build alliances that grow and sustain a progressive Asian and Pacific American movement.

Asian Americans for Civil Rights and Equality (AACRE): AACRE is a collaborative CAA-led effort that works with Sacramento policymakers, advocates, and community members on budget and legislative proposals impacting Asian and Pacific Americans in California.

API Equality: CAA's newest project seeks to address marriage discrimination and the struggles of same-sex couples within the context of the APA civil rights agenda.