

Asian & Pacific Islander Americans and Homelessness

FAST FACTS

Federally Defined Homeless Individual: *An individual who lacks housing (without regard to whether the individual is a member of a family), including an individual whose primary residence during the night is a supervised public or private facility (e.g., shelters) that provides temporary living accommodations, and an individual who is a resident in transitional housing.* -U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

NATIONAL

Primary cause of homelessness is lack of affordable housing. Others include: eviction; doubled-up or severely overcrowded housing; domestic violence; job loss; and hazardous housing conditions; followed by serious mental illness, addiction disorders, and other severe health problems.

Mental illness and addiction are strongly associated with homelessness, among Asians, mood disorder was a risk factor as were health problems and receiving welfare in the past.

From 2016 to 2017, Asian & Pacific Islander Americans (APIA) experienced the highest growth in homelessness among all racial groups.

On a single night in 2018, roughly 553,000 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States;

- Out of those, 6,643 were identified as Asian and 8,039 were Pacific Islander;
- 1,724 Asians and 3,911 Pacific Islanders were identified as homeless people in families with children and 4,919 identified as individuals;
- Together, Asian Americans accounted for 5% percent of unaccompanied youth who are homeless;
- 324 Asians and 206 Pacific Islanders identifying as veterans

STATE & CITY

In 2018, California and New York had the highest rates of homelessness, at 33 and 46 people per 10,000.

Half of all people experiencing homelessness were in one of five states, including California (24% or 129,972 people) and New York (17% or 91,897 people);

And, one in five people were situated in New York City (78,676 people) or Los Angeles (49,955 people).

In 2017, there were 7,500 homeless people in San Francisco county, sheltered and unsheltered, with 4% of people who are chronically homeless identifying as Asian or Pacific Islander.

On a single night in 2018, 352 Asians and 77 Pacific Islanders make up of 1.2% of the 31,285 homeless population in the city of Los Angeles.

In December 2018, of 63,498 homeless people who were sheltered, less than 1% were Asian American in New York City.

In 2019, Project by Project (PbP) will join philanthropic organizations, educational institutions, community and business leaders, public officials, faith-based organizations, and community members to address the growing issue of homelessness in our cities across the nation. Homelessness is an issue that has become pervasive in our communities, but is one that is deeply connected to many other systemic social challenges and issues.

PbP seeks this opportunity to highlight and assist the important work being done by Asian & Pacific Islander American (APIA) community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide support and resources for people experiencing and/or impacted by homelessness. We aim to raise awareness of the unique issues, concerns, and experiences of our APIA communities while bringing the skills and resources of PbP volunteers to further the impact, capacity, and sustainability of our CBOs.

Each local chapter (Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco) will identify an organization that is the best fit for PbP while bearing in mind the interests, concerns, skills, and resources the volunteers that we bring and provide to our partner organization. Potential partners must demonstrate a commitment to serving the needs of individuals, youth, and families in the APIA communities to prevent and combat homelessness in any of the following ways:

- Addresses factors contributing to chronic homelessness, such as substance abuse, physical and mental health, extreme poverty, lack of affordable housing, etc.
 - Provides placement into permanent supportive housing
 - Connection to physical and mental health services
 - Rehabilitation services for homeless individuals struggling with substance abuse
 - Provides job training and life skills, as well as workforce development and employment opportunities
- Addresses factors contributing to transitional homelessness, such as unemployment, sudden loss of income, medical condition or injury, domestic violence, eviction, lack of income to pay for rent and basic necessities, etc.
 - Provides access to emergency shelters and placement into stable and secure housing, such as rapid re-housing
 - Provides supportive social services, such as child care, direct access to healthcare, transportation assistance, hygiene services and facilities, and other case management services
 - Provides legal services or aid to homeless individuals and families in crisis or who are battling injustice
 - Provides transitional support to incarcerated individuals re-entering society
- Provides resources to meet the immediate tangible needs of people currently experiencing homelessness, including food, shelter, clothing, access to health care, etc.
- Protects residents by preserving affordable housing and implementing anti-displacement strategies from the impacts of gentrification in APIA communities and neighborhoods

- Advocacy for policy and social change on laws and systems that affect the city's ability to address homelessness
 - Supports the development of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing
 - Supports the development and preservation of affordable housing
 - Fights against institutional racism contributing to greater levels of homelessness in the APIA community
 - Educate APIA communities by addressing the misconceptions and negative narratives of homelessness to further the support of social services for people experiencing homelessness, as well as the development of emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing