



ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL. ADVOCACY FOR THE UNDERSERVED.

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Contact:

NEWS ADVISORY

ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES ISSUES STRONG SUPPORT OF BIDEN/HARRIS \$10 BILLION FOR EQUITY IN COVID19 RESPONSE

***Statement of Support from Asian Health Services
Trusted Multilingual, Multicultural Source for Vulnerable
Asian American and Pacific Islanders***

OAKLAND, CA -- Thursday, March 25, 2021 -- Sherry Hirota, CEO of Asian Health Services community health center in Oakland, California, spoke today in support and deep appreciation of the newly announced Biden/Harris Administration's Action for Equity.

"We are grateful and aware of the deep responsibility we have as health centers to reach the underserved." said Hirota. "Asian Health Services continues to be on the frontlines as a sole and trusted source for our tens of thousands of vulnerable AAPI community members. Our care and services are provided in twelve Asian languages and cultures. From outreach and testing to vaccines and mental health services, and important wraparound care. This strong commitment by the Biden/Harris Administration is a powerful endorsement of the impact and efficacy of community health centers to tackle the complex equity issue. It shows the understanding of the essential role that language and cultural access holds in our national COVID19 response."

Asian Health Services addresses language access and cultural barriers by providing care, services, and advocacy in 12 Asian languages, including, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog, Mongolian, and Japanese. AHS patients are 90% low income and Limited English Proficient and a large portion are elderly.

Vaccine Outreach, Uptake, and Distribution DESCRIPTION + photos

Community Testing DESCRIPTION + photos

Mental Health Services DESCRIPTION

Contact Tracing and Wraparound Services DESCRIPTION

The numbers – how many, which languages, what proportion

An Asian Health Services frontline staff conveyed her first-hand experience at this week's Mass Vaccination Day when AHS provided 1,000 patients their second dose in Oakland Chinatown. Vaccines

and care were provided in ten Asian languages. “We had a State Official to walking around and observing our mass event this morning. He said he learned something from AHS today. That it was not only the scale of the event but how our staff was talking and assisting the patients; it showed in our eyes and that came from our heart. He said: without AHS, the community would not get this type of care.”

On behalf of its 50,000 patients, and broader community, Asian Health Services continues to advocate on a regional, state, and national level for removing language and cultural barriers to care. The advocacy includes language and cultural translations and partnerships with national and state Vaccine Uptake advertising campaigns, social media videos and podcasts, and ongoing community public health messaging, in multiple Asian languages and cultures.

Hirota spoke of the critical importance of President Biden’s announcement today. “President Biden’s support and his administration’s lifeline funding will begin to address the disproportionate COVID19 hit on the AAPI community when it comes to illness, hospitalizations, and death. But also fear, isolation, and what has been an overall lack of visibility and understanding. The Biden/Harris Administration is stepping up with proactive and very significant support on a systemic scale. Vulnerable AAPI lives are at stake and this commitment and funding signals a profound understanding and a partnership that we are honored to uphold. Together we must address the urgency and complexity of our shared mission to address the inequities in this pandemic.”

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Asian Health Services is a federally qualified community health center in the East Bay. Founded 43 years ago, AHS provides primary health care services—medical, dental, and behavioral health—to low-income families in Oakland and Alameda County, serving 50,000 patients. Our staff are fluent in English and 12 Asian languages: Cantonese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Korean, Khmer (Cambodian), Mien, Mongolian, Tagalog, Lao, Burmese, Karen, and Karenni. Our mission is to serve and advocate for the medically underserved, including the immigrant and refugee Asian communities, regarding their health rights, and to ensure equal access to health care services regardless of income, insurance status, language, or culture.

www.asianhealthservices.org.