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OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

A Message from the Mayor



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

October 22, 2014

Dear Community Members:

With the District's population continuing to grow at a rate of more than 1,000 new residents per month, my administration has sought innovative approaches to create and preserve affordable housing. This includes a record investment of \$1.3 billion in affordable housing to create nearly 6,500 affordable housing units across the District.

Through partnerships with various District government agencies, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) was able to announce funding for additional affordable housing projects. A total of \$142 million in Housing Production Trust Fund dollars will be used to finance 2,097 affordable units, in addition to \$2.8 million in annual Low Income Housing Tax Credits towards affordable housing this year, representing a 59 percent increase from last year. My administration has also employed a wide variety of tools, including the Housing Production Trust Fund, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and tax-exempt bonds to create and maintain affordable housing.

Additionally, my Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) has helped ensure that our most vulnerable Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) residents, those with limited English proficiency, understand their rights as renters in the District through the AAPI Tenants' Rights Awareness Campaign, in partnership with the Office of the Tenant Advocate. OAPIA has also worked closely with the DC Housing Authority to help individuals with language barriers find affordable housing. Additionally, OAPIA has worked closely with DHCD and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to address the housing concerns of AAPI residents.

As the District becomes an economically diverse community, we want to ensure that all people who want to call our city home can find quality affordable housing. By the year 2020, we will exceed the goal of producing or preserving 10,000 units of affordable housing. With these continued efforts, I hope to ensure that affordable housing in the District remains attainable for years to come.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Announces FY2015 AAPI Community Grant Awardees

OAPIA Funds Seven Grants for Over a Quarter Million Dollars

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) awarded \$278,895.38 in community grants to community-based organizations (CBOs)

providing direct services to the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, including low-income, culturally and linguistically isolated residents.

"These community grants help support CBOs in their mission to continue serving and enriching the District's AAPI residents through high level, supplemental services," said Soohyun "Julie" Koo, OAPIA Director.

Seven CBOs received the community grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$75,000 in awards. The CBOs that received awards include:

- Asian American Leadership, Empowerment, and Development for Youth and Families
- Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund
- Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
- Chinatown Service Center
- Hepatitis B Initiative of DC
- Many Languages One Voice
- Moving Forward

For the entire press release, please visit [here](#).

Spotlight: DC South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) Circle



South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) Circles are bimonthly community-driven discussions around issues affecting South Asians in the US and your local community. It is a way to connect with other community members to strategize ways to address issues as well as an opportunity to create change in your community.

The DC SAALT Circle is a safe space for DC metropolitan area community members to come together and learn about issues affecting the South Asian community and to share personal experiences.

For more information on the [DC SAALT Circle](#), please visit [here](#).

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month



Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

Initiatives under the DC Department on Disability Services (DDS) assist those with disabilities with customized employment services to seek fair wages and equal treatment, through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).

For more information or resources concerning disability rights and developmental disabilities in the District, please visit:

- [DC Office of Disability Rights](#)
- [DC Department on Disability Services](#)
- [DC Developmental Disabilities Council](#)

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