

# COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AND COVID19

## THREE WAYS TO SUPPORT ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

### BACKGROUND

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) represent nearly 5.6% of the US Population and are expected to grow to 10% by 2050, faster than any other racial or ethnic group. Far from being a monolith, these communities have diverse cultures, languages and lived experience, and trace their origins to at least 19 countries in East and Southeast Asia. The “myth of the model minority” promotes a belief that AAPI’s have few problems with health and with racism when in fact they share the same disparities as other people of color.

The National Association of Community Health Workers offers three ways that Community Health Workers can inform and advocate for AAPI communities to improve their health and well-being during the pandemic and beyond.

01

**Language Access:** Title VI of the Civil Rights Act requires interpreter services for all patients with limited English

proficiency who are receiving federal financial assistance, however in most states these services are an unfunded mandate.

**What CHWs Can Do:** Inform AAPI communities with Limited English Proficiency of their rights and connect them to high quality resources. Learn more about the Cultural and Linguistic Access Service Standards.

Visit <https://nachw.org/covid-19-resources/> for more COVID19 resources for CHWs



At [Khmer Health Advocates](#) a CHW provides telemedicine services

02

**Data Disaggregation:** Data collection analysis and reporting are needed to understand the impact of COVID-19 and ensure that Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities are visible and heard.

**What CHWs Can Do:** Data collection is one of the critical roles of the CHW profession and can improve services and outcomes. CHWs can advocate with employers and in communities for data collection that reflects the diverse communities we serve.

03

**Racial Discrimination:** AAPIs are more likely to report negative experiences because of their race or ethnicity since the coronavirus outbreak, including being subject to slurs or jokes, and fearing someone might threaten or physically attack them.

**What CHWs Can Do:** Use and share local and national Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center website with AAPI communities and service providers (available in English and 11 other languages).

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Developed in partnership with the [Austin Asian Community Health Initiative](#) and [Khmer Health Advocates](#)