



**ASIAN AMERICAN QUALITY-OF-LIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDATION #: 20230321-010**

Date: March 21, 2023

Subject: Mental Health Services

Motioned by: Commissioner Fang Fang

Seconded by: Commissioner Hanna Huang

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**DESCRIPTION**

The Asian American Quality-of-Life Advisory Commission would like to request increased funding of existing Asian Pacific Islander (API) focused mental health services at \$250,000 annually through APH's Health Equity contracting portfolio.

For the FY 2020 City Budget, the AAQoL Advisory Commission submitted a budget recommendation for mental health education, outreach, and service provision in the amount of \$200,000. This item was funded in the FY 2020 Approved Budget at \$100,000. This funding is ongoing. The need in the community is increasing and the Commission recommends ongoing funding of \$350,000 ongoing, an increase of \$250,000.

Data from the City's Asian American Quality of Life Initiative study showed higher levels of mental distress and serious mental illness across all of Austin's largest Asian American ethnic groups when compared to the general U.S. population. Growing political tensions with China results in increased need for mental health services in the community. In addition, these groups also exhibited low utilization levels of psychiatrists, psychologists, and other mental health professionals (counselors, marriage therapists, social workers).

According to data from APH's community surveys, respondents consistently rank additional access to behavior health services as a top need. An increase of funds would allow APH to identify and potentially contract with additional behavioral health providers that provide services, especially in underserved communities.

Cost is \$250,000 ongoing (total ongoing cost of \$350,000 inclusive of the current \$100,000 funding level).

**DEPARTMENT**

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**ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Health & Environment: Healthy conditions among individuals (absence of unhealthy conditions).

VOTE

For: Kirk Yoshida, Kuo Yang, Vincent Cobalis, Fang Fang, Mohsin Lari, Meena Mutyala, Hanna Huang, and Sarah Chen.

Against: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Lily Trieu, Anna Lan, Zahra Shakur Jamal-Hassan, Azra Siddiqi, and Pramod Patil.

Attest: Jeremy Garza, Staff Liaison, Equity Office

x: Jeremy Garza