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Community Coalition Granted \$800K to ‘Help Stop the Hate’

Funds Will Bolster Continuing Work to Build Vital Multi-Racial Solidarity Throughout Los Angeles’ Communities

LOS ANGELES—The California Department of Social Services’ (CDSS) Civil Rights, Accessibility and Racial Equity (CARE) office recently announced the recipients of “Stop the Hate” Funding (STH) for fiscal years (FY) 2022-23 and 2023-24. CDSS will allocate \$91.4 million in funding. Community Coalition (CoCo) is one of 173 organizations throughout the state awarded for this effort over the next three years to provide support and services to victims, survivors of hate incidents and hate crimes, and their families. The grant can also be used to facilitate education about hate incidents or hate crime prevention measures.

Under STH, CoCo will 1) leverage a three-part arts series to deepen understanding/empathy and foster community interconnectedness and alliances across racial groups in South LA, 2) provide capacity-building training to its staff and community members that will examine racial biases and facilitate conversations to prevent hate crimes/hate incidents, and 3) leverage grassroots organizing to foster multiracial unity, build everyday South LA residents’ collective power, and address the circumstances in their communities that enable hate, inequity, and poor material conditions to exist.

As a core value, Community Coalition was founded on the principles of Black and Brown solidarity. For the last 18 months, the social justice organization has also been working with the Korean American Federation of Los Angeles (KAFLA, another STH grantee) to bring the Korean and African American communities together. This grant will allow CoCo to further its work as it endeavors to build community and educate against hate.

"Dismantling structural racism requires systemic change, economic investment, deep education, and opportunities to engage and interface with one another," said Marsha Mitchell, Senior Director of Communications at Community Coalition. "To combat hate, everyone must challenge ourselves to identify and overcome our own implicit biases."

Last year, in acknowledgment of the 30th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Civil Unrest, the City of Los Angeles’ Civil+Human Rights & Equity Department invited community leaders to participate in "Forward Together," a series of community dialogue events commemorating the April 29, 1992 ("4/29") Civil Unrest. The dialogues were intimate, small group conversations between influential leaders from the African-American and Korean-American communities. These talks discussed the environment and events that led to the 1992 Civil Unrest as well as its economic and social impact.

Taking its name from the dialogue series, several organizations decided to form the **4/29 Forward Together Committee**—a workgroup that has met semi-weekly since the inaugural discussions hosted by

the City. The 4/29 Forward Together Committee is comprised of leaders from Community Coalition, First A.M.E. Church (FAME), and KAFLA.

"The leaked audio tapes from City Hall leaders only affirmed our **4/29 Forward Together Committee** members' belief that now is the time to double down on multiracial solidarity and education," said James An, President of KAFLA.

For the Stop the Hate funding, CDSS uses five regional leads to facilitate the grant to community-based non-profit organizations. The five regions are:

- Northern California / San Joaquin Valley / Statewide Projects
- Bay Area / South Bay / Central Coast
- Los Angeles County
- Orange County / Inland Empire
- Border Regions

As part of the grant program, there is also a collaboration between the CDSS-funded Stop the Hate grantees and the California State Library-funded Ethnic Media Outreach Grantees to build public awareness about the Stop the Hate Program.



BREAKING BREAD—The **4/29 Forward Together Committee** talks strategy. Pictured from left: Emile Mack, retired Fire Captain, LAFD, and Exec. Vice President, KAFLA; Robert Ahn, President of the Cannabis Regulation Commission; Steve Kang, Exec. Vice President, KAFLA; Francisco Ortega, Senior Project Coordinator, LA Civil+Human Rights & Equity Department; Marsha Mitchell, Senior Director of Communications, Community Coalition; James An, President of KAFLA; (standing) Maria Rutledge, Community Coalition Member Leader; Charlene Cyrus, First A.M.E. (FAME) Church's Executive Secretary and Special Events Coordinator and J. Edgar Boyd, FAME's Immediate Past Senior Pastor.