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INFORMATIONAL HEARING

State of Hate in California: Progress on Addressing Hate in California

February 24, 2026 – 1:30 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 437

Background

Overview of the Stop the Hate Program

California's Stop the Hate Program provides a statewide framework to combat hate crimes and hate incidents. Established in statute under [Government Code 8260](#) and administered by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in consultation with the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA), the program has invested over \$150 million since its inception in 2021 to provide direct services, prevention activities, and intervention measures to vulnerable communities across the state.

The Stop the Hate Program was established as a state grant program in response to the alarming increase in anti-Asian hate crimes and other related incidents during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to data provided by the California Department of Justice, in 2020, there was a 107% increase in reported anti-Asian hate crimes in California, rising from 43 in 2019 to 89 in 2020. The surge continued the following year, with reports rising from 89 to 247. To address these injustices, the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus initiated a request to the Legislature seeking dedicated funds to provide victim-centered, community-led solutions such as legal aid, mental health support, and education to affected community members. As a result of their efforts, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the API Equity Budget, which formalized a three-year investment totaling \$166.5 million.

The Stop the Hate Program prioritizes victims, survivors, and vulnerable populations with high or increasing levels of hate incidents or hate crimes who have historically faced barriers to accessing appropriate care and services. As such, these grant funds are administered by CDSS in consultation with CAPIAA to qualified nonprofit entities to provide support and services to victims and survivors of hate crimes and their families, and to facilitate hate crime prevention measures.

Legislative Foundation and Program Authority

The Stop the Hate Program required CDSS to develop the grant program criteria, in consultation with CAPPIAA, along with a process to award grants to qualified grantees. The grantees must use these funds to provide community-based supports and services to victims and survivors of hate crimes, and their families, which include health care services, mental health services, legal services, or hate crime prevention measures. These services also encompass community engagement and education, community conflict resolution, in-language outreach, services to escort community members in public, community healing, collaboration, cross-racial building, and community diversity training.

To be considered a qualified grantee, applicants are required to hold 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(5) nonprofit status and must have experience providing supports and services to victims and survivors of hate incidents and hate crimes and be able to provide prevention measures in a linguistically and culturally competent manner. All qualified grantees that are awarded funds through the Stop the Hate Program are required to comply with tracking and reporting procedures that have been determined by CDSS.

CDSS has been authorized to use up to 5% of the appropriated funds for administrative costs and can contract with an independent evaluation and research agency to evaluate the impacts of the program.

Statute additionally required, beginning on October 1, 2022, and annually thereafter until October 1, 2025, CDSS, in consultation with CAPPIAA, to submit a report for the prior fiscal year to the budget committees of both houses. To-date, the Stop the Hate program has submitted one major impact report to the Legislature that covers Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24. The report includes a list of the grant recipients, and the amounts allocated to each grantee, the supports and services and hate incident and hate crime prevention measures provided by each grantee, and the geographic location of each grantee.

The Stop the Hate grant program is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2026.

Commission on the State of Hate

The Commission on the State of Hate (Commission) is distinct from the Stop the Hate grant program but plays a complementary role in California's anti-hate infrastructure. The Commission was created to provide resources to various state agencies and the public to inform them on the state of hate and has an advisory role to the Legislature, the Governor, and state agencies on policy recommendations to promote inter-social education designed to foster mutual respect and understanding among California's diverse population. The Commission was originally enacted through AB 1126 (Bloom), Chapter 712, Statutes of 2021, and the original sunset date of January 1, 2027, was extended to January 1, 2031, through the passage of AB 822 (Elhawary), Chapter 714, Statutes of 2025.

The Commission serves as a research, monitoring, and policy advisory body and is comprised of nine members variously appointed by the Governor, the Assembly, and the Senate. The

Commission's 2023-24 Annual Report provides critical context for Stop the Hate's work, documenting that between 2020-22, California experienced substantial year-over-year increases in reported hate crimes ranging from 20% to 32%. The Commission has made 19 interim policy recommendations and developed three sets of tools designed to combat hate in California.¹

Program Structure and Implementation Model

The Stop the Hate Program operates through a three-tier structure designed to ensure statewide reach and local responsiveness. In Round One, the Pilot Year of the program (FY 2021-22), there was a total of \$14.3 million of funding that was disbursed to 80 grantees. The focus of these grants was to establish service delivery infrastructure and regional networks.

During FYs 2021-25, Transformative Grants totaling \$30.3 million were disbursed to 12 organizations demonstrating capacity for transformative impact and the ability to serve priority populations at high risk for hate crimes and incidents.

Round Two, which encompasses FYs 2022-24 and 2023-26, has a total of \$91.5 million going to 173 organizations to provide services to victims of hate incidents, including, but not limited to, legal services, health care, mental health, victim's compensation, counseling, or statewide coalition development. The focus of these grants is on expanded geographic coverage with priority given to underserved regions, including the Inland Empire, San Joaquin Valley, and Northern California rural counties.²

The Stop the Hate Program uses a Regional Lead structure to coordinate service delivery across California. Regional Leads serve as intermediaries between CDSS and Program Service Providers, executing sub-grant agreements and providing technical assistance. The regional leads were selected from five regions:

- **Northern California/San Joaquin Valley:** Sierra Health Foundation
- **Bay Area/South Bay/Central Coast:** Asian Health Services
- **Orange County/Inland Empire:** Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Inc.
- **Border Region (San Diego/Imperial Counties):** Catalyst of San Diego and Imperial Counties
- **Los Angeles County:** AAPI Equity Alliance.

Regional leads provided a variety of different support in each region. Each regional lead reported to this Committee the following roles each took within their designated regions.

¹ California Civil Rights Department. (2024). Commission on the State of Hate 2023-2024 Annual Report. <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/commission-on-the-state-of-hate/commission-reports/Commission-Reports/>

² California Department of Social Services Civil Rights, Accessibility, and Resource Equity Office (2025). State of California Stop the Hate Programs 2023-2024 Report

Sierra Health Foundation described the following:

“As regional lead, [Sierra Health Foundation] provides a number of services in support of our partners and the goals of the STH program, including:

- Execute grant agreements with Program Service Providers (Subcontractors) identified by CDSS;
- Collect, review, and approve all programmatic and financial reports from Subcontractors and submits consolidated reports to CDSS;
- Convene Subcontractors and other relevant organizations on a quarterly basis to share information, provide training, and facilitate learning and collaboration regarding STH services and other programmatic activities and administrative requirements related to contract management;
- Coordinate program evaluation and related activities.
- Regular communication and periodic meetings with CDSS regarding Subcontractor performance, issues related to the STH program overall, and other matters;
- Administer additional funds, when available, including partnering with CDSS to identify additional subgrantees”

Asian Health Services reported the following:

- “Asian Health Services (AHS) serves as the Bay Area, South Bay, & Central Coast Regional Lead for 44 subgrantees dedicated to supporting survivors of hate and fostering healthy Asian American, Black, Latinx, LGBTQ+, disabled, and religious minority communities. AHS provided extensive TA and capacity building, which strengthened grassroots organizations’ ability, many for the first time, to manage state-level grants and deliver culturally responsive care. Additionally, AHS supported over 30 staff from STH organizations to receive training from the Lay Counselor Academy, helping bridge mental health workforce gaps with culturally and linguistically competent support.”

Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance, Inc. reported they were able to do the following:

- Administrative Support: Design, distribute, implement, collect, and process both financial and programmatic reports. Monitor grantee compliance with state contract regulations. Advise and build capacity, if necessary, on grantee agency work plan and budget development and modifications.
- Funder Relationship: Liaise between CDSS and grantee agencies. Communicate and carry out all administrative elements of the grant, including reporting, contracting, reporting timeline

changes, multi-lingual pay differential applications, financial regulations, etc. Update on any changes or advocate on behalf of concerns from grantees.

- Programmatic: Advise and connect grantees to resources, partnerships, etc. to advance their work plans. Conduct regular check-ins with grantees to ensure programmatic and financial progress on the grant. Organize and host regional convenings for information sharing, regional collaboration, collective strategic development, and networking. Select relevant contractors and trainers for regional capacity development. Collect data/stories from all grantees to develop an impact report and a clear narrative of regional anti-hate needs and the landscape of hate.
- Statewide: Represent and advocate on behalf of the region with local and state agencies, legislators, media, etc. to advance progress and communicate locally-developed solutions for anti-hate efforts. Collaborate and meet regularly with other RLs to develop statewide strategies or host state-wide trainings. Co-develop and co-host statewide convenings.”

Catalyst of San Diego and Imperial Counties for the Border stated they did the following:

- Compliance: Ensure Program Service Providers are compliant with grant contract (insurance, data & financial reports, etc.)
- Convening: Convene regional partners on a quarterly basis and facilitate learning and collaboration.
- Capacity: Provide capacity support including: one-on-one technical support, storytelling, financial, community safety training, board development, and other customized training as requested.
- Community-building: Expand impact through collaborative partnerships with non-grantee community-based organizations in the region to reach communities not served by Program Service Providers.
 - Imperial Valley: Imperial Valley Social Justice Committee, queercasa, connect Community Based Organizations with State government resources like California Civil Rights Department and CA Department of Justice CARE.
 - Native American/Indigenous community: Indigenous Futures Initiative, Jamul Band of Mission Indians for regional Kumeyaay Nation gathering
 - North County Black community: North San Diego County NAACP, North County African American Women’s Association, Mindfull Movement
 - Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander leadership connections
- Communication: Website (<https://catalystsd.org/stopthehate/>) and a monthly newsletter create storytelling opportunities and amplify the work of partners in the region.”

AAPI Equity Alliance reported the following roles and responsibilities:

- “Administrative Support and Compliance to the 42 grantee partners in Los Angeles County, as well as acting as a regional convenor. We make sure contracts are in place, invoices are promptly submitted, and payments are made to grantee partners in a timely manner; we also provide the first point of review on programmatic reports, ensure fiscal compliance, administer the pay differential application process, and make allocation adjustments, if needed (in consultation with CDSS).
- Convenings: Bring together 42 grantee partners for quarterly in-person convenings, where we provide training, offer informational presentations from outside partners and governmental entities (e.g. from the California Civil Rights Department and the CA Department of Justice), and opportunities for the subgrantees to get to know one another and understand each other’s work. Relationship building is key to building trust in order to leverage resources so that victims of hate and their families are fully supported, and it is key to pushing back against hate in our communities. This ensures that there is ‘no wrong door’ through which a victim walks when seeking support in the aftermath of hate.
- Planning: In conjunction with the other regional leads, also supported the planning and execution of two statewide convenings where AAPI Equity Alliance brought together all 180 of the statewide grantee partners to engage with others doing similar work across the state and learn best practices to take back to their organizations and local communities.
- Coordination: As a regional lead, AAPI Equity Alliance coordinated with the four other regional leads to ensure that there is consistency in the execution of the Stop the Hate grant as well as regular communication. As a regional lead for the state-funded Stop the Hate Program, as well as the lead for the similar LA vs Hate program, AAPI Equity Alliance was able to make connections between the two networks and connect Stop the Hate grantee partners to other community-based organizations, as well as local resources and officials.”

The Stop the Hate Program funds three interconnected categories of services: direct services, prevention services, and intervention services, each designed to address different aspects of hate incident response and prevention.

Examples of direct services include mental health counseling and trauma-informed care, complementary health services and wellness programs, legal services, including representation and immigration assistance, case management, and referrals to additional resources.

Prevention services include arts and cultural programming to promote understanding and coalition-building, youth development programs and education campaigns, senior safety programs and volunteer escort services, self-defense training, and cross-racial alliance work and diversity training.

Intervention services provided can include community outreach and multilingual engagement, training for law enforcement, schools, and community institutions, restorative justice programs,

coordination with local government and institutional partners, and rapid response networks for emerging incidents.

In addition to the organizations funded to provide direct, prevention, and intervention services, funding was authorized for statewide coalition building. MOSAIC (Movement Solidarity Among AAPI Communities) was created to fill “a critical gap” in the state’s racial equity infrastructure. The coalition is made up of nine leading AAPI-serving groups that work across direct services, community organizing, policy advocacy, research, and movement building.

Understanding the Landscape in California

Reports show an estimated 2.6 million Californians experienced at least one act of hate between 2022-23, with 525,000 experiencing potentially criminal hate acts. Despite overall decreases in reported hate crimes in 2023, targeted violence against Jewish, Muslim, LGBTQ+, and transgender communities continues at alarming rates. California has experienced significant fluctuations in reported hate crimes between 2019 and 2024, with particularly alarming increases affecting multiple vulnerable communities simultaneously. According to data provided by the California Department of Justice and the Attorney General in recent reports:

Overall Trends:

- 2020-2022: Substantial year-over-year increases ranging from 20% to 32% annually
- 2023: Overall reported hate crime events decreased 7.1% from 2,120 to 1,970, though several communities saw continued or increased targeting
- 2024: Preliminary data indicates continued volatility with anti-Jewish bias events rising 7.3% and religious bias crimes increasing 3.0%

Race-Based Hate Crimes:

- Anti-Asian: 177% increase from 2020 to 2021; decreased 10.71% from 140 incidents (2022) to 125 (2023)
- Anti-Black: 45% increase from 2020 to 2022; remained most prevalent despite 20.6% decrease to 518 events (2023). Black Californians represent 6% of the population but 29-30% of hate crime victims
- Anti-Latino: Significant increases through 2023, reaching second-highest level on record nationally

Religious Bias Crimes:

- Anti-Jewish: 24.3% increase from 2021 to 2022; 52.9% increase from 2022 (189 events) to 2023 (289 events); 7.3% increase to 310 events (2024)

- Anti-Islamic/Muslim: 60% increase from 2022 (25 events) to 2023 (40 events)
- Overall Religious Bias: 30% increase from 303 events (2022) to 394 (2023); continued increase to 406 events (2024)

LGBTQ+ Community Targeting:

- Sexual Orientation: 78% increase in anti-LGBTQ hate crimes from 2020 to 2022; 4.1% increase from 391 (2022) to 405 events (2023)
- Anti-Transgender: 55% increase in 2022; 10.2% increase from 59 (2022) to 65 events (2023)³

The California Civil Rights Department, in partnership with UCLA's Center for Health Policy Research, conducted a study through the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) in 2023 to measure the prevalence of hate acts beyond those reported to law enforcement. CHIS found that 2.6 million Californians (8%) directly experienced at least one act of hate in the past year. 525,000 Californians (1.6%) experienced potentially criminal hate acts including physical assault or property damage and 5 million Californians (15%) witnessed at least one hate act in the past year. The research reveals that top bias motivations are race (57%), ancestry/national origin/language (19%), and gender identity (15%). The most common locations for these incidents are on the street/sidewalk (45%), businesses (34%), home (23%); for youth ages 12-17, school (80%), and online (24%).⁴

These findings demonstrate that law enforcement reports capture only a small fraction of hate incidents experienced by Californians, underscoring the critical importance of community-based response systems like Stop the Hate that can address both criminal and non-criminal hate acts.

According to a report titled *Responding to Crisis: A Strategic Framework to Strengthen California's Anti-Hate Infrastructure for Vulnerable Communities* by Roy Tongilava and data from the Commission on the State of Hate, certain communities experience hate incidents at significantly higher rates relative to their population size. The communities with the highest incident rates in 2023 include transgender individuals, followed by Pacific Islander, American Indian, Black, and lesbian/gay communities who also faced elevated incident rates.

Research cited in the Commission's 2023-2024 Annual Report demonstrates that exposure to hate impacts educational achievement, economic opportunity, and community cohesion.

³ California Department of Justice. (2021). 2021 Hate Crime in California. <https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/Hate%20Crime%20In%20CA%202021.pdf>; California Department of Justice. (2023). 2023 Hate Crime in California. https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/Hate%20Crime%20In%20CA%202023f_0.pdf; Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. California Hate Crime Trend Analysis. <https://www.csusb.edu/hate-and-extremism-center>

⁴ California Civil Rights Department & UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (2023). California Health Interview Survey findings on hate incidents. <https://calcivilrights.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/32/2025/04/Hate-Acts-in-California-CHIS.pdf>

Grantee's Use of Funds

According to CDSS, the Stop the Hate Program has served over 14,000 individuals through direct services and reached more than two million people through prevention and intervention services in its first three quarters of operation.⁵

As noted, the program prioritizes populations experiencing high or increasing levels of hate incidents. Stop the Hate grantees serve nine priority population groups, with services tailored to address community-specific needs and cultural contexts. The populations served include Asian Americans (including South Asian and Southeast Asian communities) Black, Native American and Tribal communities, Latino communities, LGBTQ+ individuals, Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) communities, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders, people with disabilities, and religious minorities (including Muslim, Sikh, and Jewish communities).

Tongilava highlighted equity considerations in resource distribution and found that Los Angeles County received 24 organizations and \$4 million in Round One, representing the largest single-region investment given its concentration of vulnerable populations.⁶ Organizations serving Black communities appeared to receive a smaller proportion of grants relative to the documented levels of anti-Black hate crimes and the disproportionate victimization of Black Californians.⁷ Tongilava further noted that rural and frontier regions, while prioritized in Round Two, continue to face challenges in service accessibility and capacity-building. Priority was given to applications proposing collaborative strategies and rapid response networks to maximize regional coordination. Round Two prioritized applications from organizations serving populations currently underrepresented among existing grantees, particularly focusing on Black, South Asian, Southeast Asian, Native American and Tribal, LGBTQ+, MENA, Pacific Islander, religious minorities, and people with disabilities.

Grantees have used funds for various direct services to the community. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Jewish Family Service of San Diego provided support to Jewish community members experiencing increased antisemitic incidents, offering mental health services, case management, and community healing programs.
- The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) San Diego provided legal services, legal advice workshops, and case management for Muslim community members, including data collection on hate crimes and incidents.

⁵ California Department of Social Services Civil Rights, Accessibility, and Resource Equity Office (2025). State of California Stop the Hate Programs 2023-2024 Report

⁶ AAPI Equity Alliance. The State of Hate in Los Angeles (2023 Report). The-State-of-Hate-in-Los-Angeles-2023-Report.pdf Stop AAPI Hate. Advancing a Movement: 2023 Impact Report. Advancing a Movement: 2023 Impact Report - Stop AAPI Hate

⁷ Tongilava, Roy. (2025). Responding to Crisis: A Strategic Framework to Strengthen California's Anti-Hate Infrastructure for Vulnerable Communities. MPA Capstone, Goldman School of Public Policy, UC Berkeley. Conducted for AAPI Data. <https://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Roy-Tongilava-2025-Capstone.pdf>

- The TransLatin@ Coalition deployed bilingual case workers for violence prevention, case management, and re-entry services addressing high suicide and homicide rates within transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex (TGI) communities.
- Korean American Family Services (KFAM), provided mental health therapy services for individuals who experienced hate and discrimination, helping them return to school, work, and daily life in order to reconnect with others. Sessions are offered in Korean or English through KFAM's bilingual/bicultural staff and are available in individual and group settings.

Grantees have also used funds for prevention and intervention. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- As it relates to prevention services, the Black Youth Leadership Project (BYLP) provided mental health services including art therapy and support groups to Black children experiencing racism in schools, serving as mediators between schools and parents.
- The Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) focused on community-building, outreach, and prevention/intervention services including information sharing on anti-AAPI hate and culturally sensitive law enforcement response training.
- Pillars of the Community, through their violence interruption and peace-building program, invested training in staff and community leaders from different neighborhoods in Southeast San Diego in several different models of community safety while actively supporting parents, community members, and schools to resolve conflict through elder-led or mediated conversations, restorative justice/healing circles, and community meetings. The community now has violence interrupters and peace-building teams in multiple neighborhoods where they can respond to real-time incidents.
- The Karen Organization staff was trained in a new healing circle model and have in turn trained their community elders and youth to be facilitators expanding the community knowledge and reach. They have also trained other Border Region grantees to train their staff and community.