



Census 2020

We urge all our residents to respond to the Census. It will determine the flow of billions of dollars in federal programs to our area and allow for our voices to be heard in Washington.

**For more information,
visit <https://www.census.gov/>**

Under Title 13, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, including to law enforcement agencies and immigration officials.

Nassau County Community Food Distributions

In response to the increased demand for food caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, County Executive Laura Curran has allocated \$1 million dollars to address food insecurity. The County program partners with Long Island's two major food banks, Island Harvest and LI Cares, to distribute food at dozens of Community Food Distribution sites across the County. To date, these efforts have provided food assistance to over 13,000 struggling families.

The Office of Asian American Affairs (OAAA) has participated in many of the food distributions and coordinated 75 volunteers to join the team at the Valley Stream and Hicksville locations. Volunteers from Asian-American organizations helped package food supplies for families in need. We are grateful for their time and effort!

OAAA also arranged for several Asian nonprofits to distribute County-purchased food supplies to people in need who were unable to come to the site.

"No one in our County should have to worry about where their family's next meal is coming from," said Nassau County Executive during one of the many food events. "Nassau County will continue to meet the surge in demand for food assistance in our communities." Pictured below is the County Executive, Executive Director Farrah Mozawalla and members of our OAAA team distributing food.

If you or someone in your family is 65 or older, what primary methods of communication do you use?

Tell us [here](#).

<https://forms.gle/nm5ctKs8ecNLpflG6>

International Yoga Day

On June 21st, OAAA cohosted a fun and free virtual yoga class to mark International Yoga Day. We thank Body & Brain Yoga Tai Chi-East Meadow for leading the inspiring session.

Yoga is an ancient spiritual, physical and mental discipline that originated in India. Researchers have found that yoga relieves stress, reduces anxiety, and improves the overall quality of life.

It is important to prioritize one's mental wellbeing in these unprecedented times. For those experiencing mental or addiction issues, please call the Nassau County Crisis Helpline at 516-227-TALK (8255).



Partnering with the *Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County* to Promote Understanding and Tolerance

On May 18th, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran joined OAAA and the *Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County* for a webinar to raise awareness of discriminatory behaviors and reporting methods entitled **“Combating Hate as We Combat COVID-19: The Response in the Local Jewish and Chinese Communities.”**

Other cosponsors included the Chinese American Association of North Hempstead (CAANH), the Long Island Chinese American Association (LICAA), the Jewish Community Relations Council of Long Island (JCRC-LI), and the American Jewish Committee Long Island Region (AJC).

Thank you to our wonderful panelists. Click [here](#) to view the webinar.

Such conversations are critically important as we work to ensure all our residents feel welcome and safe in Nassau. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, our office has received many anecdotal reports of discrimination against members of our Asian community, such as non-Asians intentionally avoiding Asians in public and a decline in patronage at Asian-owned businesses.

While OAAA has not received any reports of overt or violent incidents, we want to ensure that our constituents are well protected and informed.

Small Businesses

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, in partnership with the Nassau County Local Economic Assistance Corporation (LEAC), the sister agency of the NC Industrial Development Agency (IDA), rolled out a new “Boost Nassau” program to assist small businesses and non-profits organizations hit hard by the pandemic. The program consists of two main initiatives: a Free PPE Kit Giveaway and a low-interest loan program.

OAAA has played a critical role in assisting Asian-owned businesses to learn about these programs and complete applications. Our staff also participated in a PPE kit distribution at Eisenhower Park in June. To date, over 1,000 PPE kits have been distributed and another 4,000 will be distributed this month. The Boost Nassau loan program is geared toward small businesses and non-profits that did not receive the PPP or EIDL from the Federal Small Business Administration.

Please visit www.boostnassau.net for more information.



Click [here](#) to view Nassau County's "Know Your Rights" fact sheet, including information on how to report discrimination and harassment incidents.

Our office also participated in a virtual seminar hosted by the *Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County* to inform the masses of China's crimes against the Uyghur people.

The Uyghur are a Turkic-speaking Muslim minority population in western China.

In what the U.S Congressional-Executive Commission has defined as "Crimes Against Humanity," over 1 million Uyghur people have been interned in the northwestern Xinjiang province of China and are forced to undergo "reeducation" tactics. These tactics include forced labor, torture, and food deprivation--- a clear and utter violation of human rights.

Thank you to the guest speakers, Dr. Adrian Zenz, a Senior Fellow in China Studies at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, and Rushan Abbas, the founder and Executive Director of Campaign for Uyghurs. To watch the full virtual seminar, click [here](#).

From the start of the pandemic, OAAA has assisted businesses in understanding the New York State guidance concerning business openings and safety protocols. Nassau County is now in Phase 4 of the Governor's re-opening process, meaning that only a few industries, including catering halls and other large venues and gyms, remain closed. Please visit <https://forward.ny.gov/> for more information.

Appreciation Corner

We want to express our utmost gratitude to all the organizations who have stepped up as leaders and changemakers. Those who have donated Personal Protective Equipment, food, clothes, toys and monetary funds to the community, the Office of Asian American Affairs thanks you! Visit our social media to see all the donations our office has assisted in coordinating!

Eid Drive-Through Celebration

To spread holiday cheer from a safe and social distance, Nassau County hosted its first-ever Eid Drive-Through Celebration.

County Executive Laura Curran, Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder and Legislator Arnold Drucker joined OAAA Executive Director Farah Mozawalla along with the Asian Advisory Council in the celebration!

The Nassau County Executive & Legislative Office Building's parking lot was transformed for the drive-through event. Over 1,000 cars and 3,000 people participated, passing by stations while volunteers distributed "animal balloons," South Asian food and desserts, and even surgical masks and other personal protective equipment. A jumbotron played music and displayed pictures of community members and celebrations.

Thank you to all the wonderful organizations which helped make this memorable event possible and gave our community a bit of the Eid cheer that may otherwise have been lost due to the pandemic.

Sponsors for the event included Long Island Halal Guide, AMPAK Cares, NY South Asian Chamber of Commerce, ICNA Relief, Teens Against Hunger-New York, HAB Bank, Muslims of New York, Shan Shaheen, Kababjees, Gyro Spot, Rajbhog Hicksville, Make Block, Youth Innovation Lab, and Muslims of Long Island.



Constituent Concerns and Language Access

Due to the public health crisis, our office has experienced an increase in inquiries and requests for assistance on a range of issues, including domestic violence, unemployment, and food assistance.

See the graph below to see a breakdown of the **289** constituent requests and concerns we had received for the week of **06/05/2020 to 06/18/2020**.

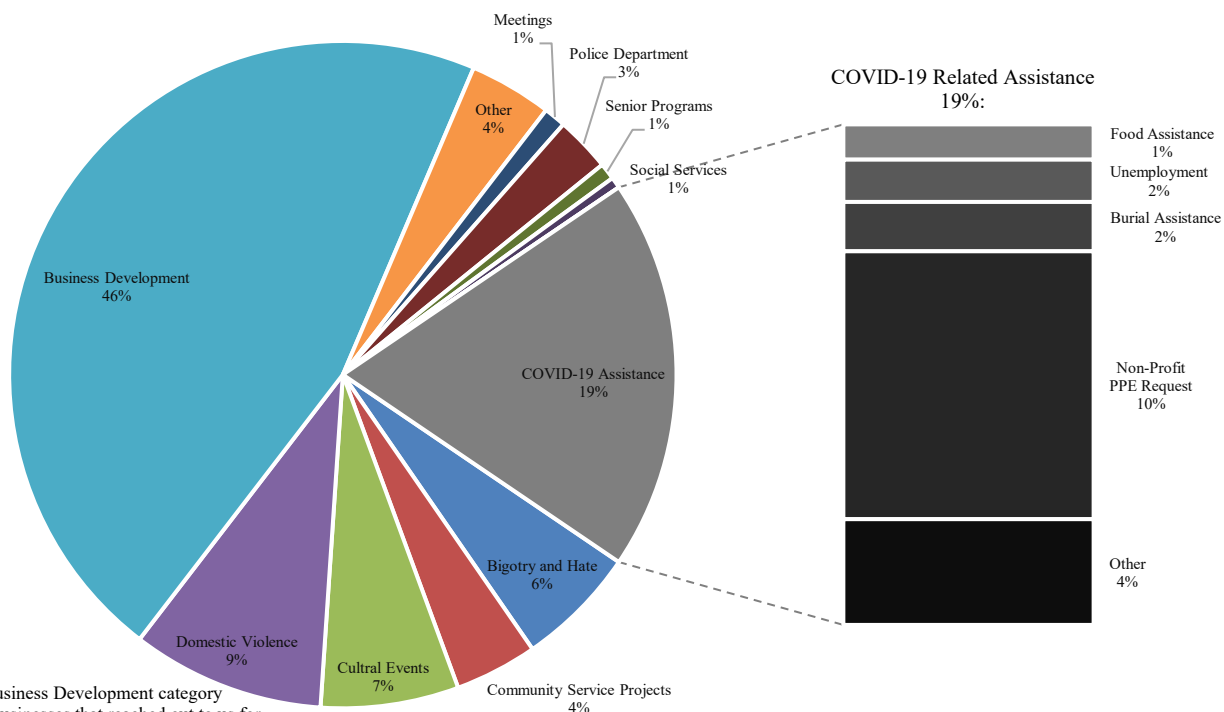
Many constituents who request OAAA assistance speak English as a second language or are English limited proficient. As such, they often do not know what government resources they may qualify for or who to turn to for support and help.

The Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs, as an outreach department, has been working hard to reduce the language gap for accessing County services. We translate economic, social and policy updates in prominent Asian languages that we broadcast on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages and on our website. We disseminate key County documents and press releases in Urdu, Hindi, Bangla, Chinese and Arabic. We assist in the County's SMS program by translating important announcements via text messages in Hindi, Urdu and Mandarin. We also translate state policies and procedures for our constituents. Since the start of the ongoing pandemic, our office has issued about 100 Public Service Announcements.

Our familiarity and longstanding relationships with the local communities provide us with a unique platform to connect our constituents to the government resources they need.

View our translated public service announcements on our social media pages or visit our website at <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/4772/Asian-American-Affairs>

Constituent Concerns Snapshot



*Please note the Business Development category includes all small businesses that reached out to us for PPE assistance, whereas the PPE Request category is for non-profits and religious organizations that requested PPEs.

Office of Asian American Affairs' Upcoming Events

India Independence Day Virtual Event on 08/12/2020 at 6:30pm

Pakistan Independence Day Virtual Event on 08/13/2020 at 7:30pm

Workforce Development Webinar in collaboration with the Office of Hispanic Affairs and the Office of Minority Affairs (TBA)

Stay tuned and check our social media pages for the dates and details!

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