

HOW DO WE **Stop the Hate?**

**CONTINUING INVESTMENT IN
WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER**



catalystsd.org/stopthehate





CALIFORNIA'S STOP THE HATE PROGRAM ORIGINS

In response to a surge in hate incidents against Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the API Equity budget was enacted and the statewide Stop the Hate program was created in 2021.

GROWING PARTICIPATION IN THE BORDER REGION

The San Diego Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition (SD API Coalition) approached **Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties** to apply as the **regional lead for the border region**. Through strategic outreach and collaboration, Catalyst fostered significant growth and strengthened a network of community-driven solutions, building a more inclusive and welcoming border region.

CONTENT WARNING: This report includes personal accounts of hate crimes including violence, racial slurs and LGBTQIA+ discrimination. Names have been changed to protect identities.

Statistics reflect services provided from 7/1/23 to 6/30/24.

STOP THE HATE: Border Region by the Numbers

6
ORGANIZATIONS
GRANTED
\$831.5K
IN ROUND 1



27
ORGANIZATIONS
GRANTED
\$13M
IN ROUND 2



41,009
PARTICIPANTS
ENGAGED



21
YOUTH-SERVING
INITIATIVES



6,458
PROGRAMS, EVENTS
AND WORKSHOPS
PROVIDED

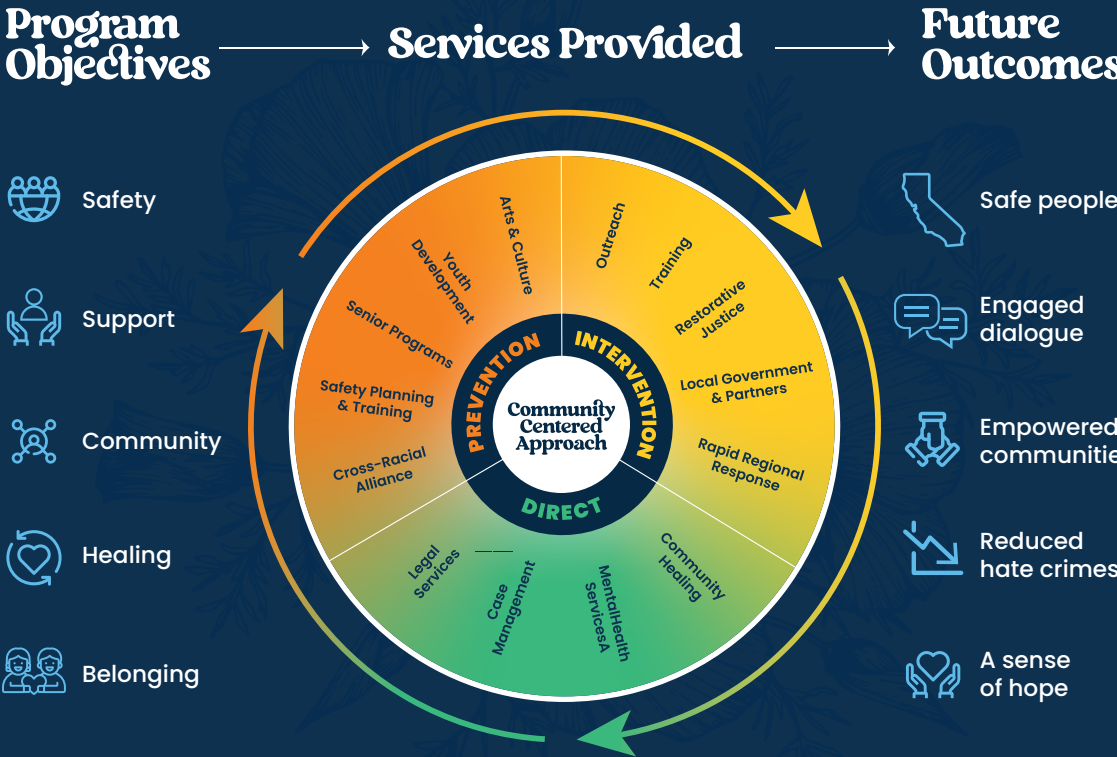


COMMUNITY AT THE CORE OF COMBATTING HATE

The Stop the Hate grant now empowers existing community partners to build safer, more inclusive communities, with supportive infrastructure that fosters:

- **Coordinated rapid response:** A collaborative local system to ensure timely intervention when hate incidents occur, prioritizing learning and healing.
- **Holistic victim support:** Culturally-relevant, language-accessible resources and restorative justice service for those who have been harmed by hate.
- **Community-led safety:** Non-violence training, community safety teams, and cultural activities offer alternatives to traditional policing and promote belonging.
- **Youth empowerment:** Programming and support for youth in schools and communities to interrupt cycles of violence, addressing critical service gaps.

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS





"You feel safe because you have relationships with real humans. You've seen the worst of the worst of violence and hate, and then you're able to create safe places — places of healing, dialogue, respect, and love."

— Laila Aziz, Pillars of the Community Director of Operations, discussing the importance of safe places created through the Stop the Hate grant.



11
COMMUNITY
COLLABORATIONS
ACTIVATED

EMPOWERING VITAL COMMUNITY WORK

While we've collectively built a strong foundation, continued support is crucial to sustain and expand these vital efforts as initial funding comes to an end. Continued funding is needed to strengthen the local community's ability to continue this work. Outlined below are some examples of the important work being done by grantees in the Border Region.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL NETWORKS:

- **Supporting peacebuilding strategies:**
North County LGBTQ Resource Center, Karen Organization, and Pillars of the Community lead mutual protection trainings and developing regional strategies to disrupt cycles of violence.
- **Training for emergency response:**
Jewish Family Services established and conducts ongoing trainings for an emergency response team.
- **Support immigration services:**
Universidad Popular collaborates with partners to enhance immigration rapid response capacity.
- **Enhancing leadership:**
North County Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander leaders host joint quarterly meetings to strengthen regional collaboration.
- **Imperial Valley collaboration:**
The **Imperial Valley Social Justice Committee** convenes leaders to address hate and connect organizations to meet unmet needs, particularly in underserved areas.





Photo from "Voice for Peace: A Call For Change"

"Before participating in the program, I felt alone and unsure of how to respond to the harassment I faced for wearing my hijab. The program gave me more than just information it gave me confidence. I learned about my rights, how to report hate crimes, and where to find mental health support. What made the biggest difference was knowing that there's a whole network of people and resources dedicated to protecting and uplifting our community. It was the first time I truly felt seen and supported."

— Somali Family Service of San Diego participant reflections on the Stop the Hate Know Your Rights workshop

SUPPORTING AND SCALING COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:

- **Protecting human rights:** Alliance San Diego's Start with Dignity workshops provide tools for how to elevate and protect human rights and human dignity.
- **Prioritizing wellness:** The Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) Bridge to Wellness program offers culturally relevant mental health introductions and one-on-one services.
- **Expanding LGBTQ+ support:** TransFamily Support Services, North County LGBT Resource Center, SD Pride, and SD LGBT Community Center now provide expanded services.
- **Sharing relevant experiences:** Somali Family Services empowers youth to share stories, including hate crimes and incidents, through film and dialogue.



Brenda's Story: A journey back to hope after hate

Brenda, a Hispanic mother, was steps from her door when the attack came from behind. She crumpled under the blows, her attacker's words echoing the racist hate, "Making America great again, one b___er at a time."

The hospital released her, but the fear she felt in her own neighborhood was overwhelming. Her injuries kept her out of work for weeks. The trauma from the assault lasted much longer.

But Brenda did not surrender to hate.

YWCA San Diego County became a lifeline, providing safety planning, financial assistance, and critical resources. With their help, Brenda began to heal.

It was a difficult journey, but Brenda is back at her job and continues working through the lingering distress and trauma. She's finally walking in her neighborhood again, and it's beginning to feel like home once more. Grateful for the support she received as she recovered from this horrific incident, Brenda shared, "Thank you, YWCA, I have a renewed hope for humanity and I know that joy, safety, and peace are still possible."



Photo by:
Kevin Walsh

“Before transcDANCE I was not as confident with myself, I had trouble managing my time...it made me have big emotions towards life. I also didn’t really like to express my feelings to others positively. Now that I have been here for two years, I have learned that dance is a great way to show and connect with my emotions I am going through. Being at transcDANCE really helped me express myself positively and understand myself a little more. transcDANCE also allowed me to understand and acknowledge that others’ feelings matter as well.”

— Anisa, age 12, transcDANCE participant shares about the growth experienced through the CREATE program

FOSTERING HEALING AND BELONGING:

- **Empowering youth through arts:**
transcDANCE Youth Arts Program provides arts-based programming and holistic support for youth and families.
- **Promoting restorative justice in schools:**
National Conflict Resolution Center expands training and consulting to support restorative practices in school districts.
- **Amplifying youth voices through film:**
Pacific Arts Movement’s REEL Voices program empowers youth to share their perspectives through documentary filmmaking.
- **Celebrating diverse voices:**
Outside the Lens’ Media Makers video series amplifies the voices of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Connecting with heritage through healing:**
Umeke and **California State University San Marcos – UACT** offer culturally relevant healing workshops and connects Native Hawaiian and Samoan communities with their history and language.
- **Building community through art:**
Casa Familiar’s art exhibits in San Ysidro foster a sense of belonging and connection while preserving culture.



Photo courtesy of
Outside the Lens



Photo by:
Kristian Carreon



Photo courtesy
of UPAC

“Bridges to Wellness provides a safe space, one where people aren’t afraid to disclose sensitive information. We support resilience. We need it in times like this.”

— May Vang, Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) Program Coordinator, discussing the necessity of culturally and linguistically relevant programming and case management.

Tino’s Story: A father’s fight for survival

Tino could always feel his neighbor’s hatred – as a gay Latino in his 50’s, Tino had experienced discrimination before – but this proved to be different. Tino’s neighbor eventually shifted from hatred to violence. In his own home, in front of his two sons, his neighbor attacked him.

The assault was brutal, punctuated by homophobic slurs and death threats. Fear for his boys fueled Tino’s resilience. Despite two broken arms, he fought back, his instinct to protect his sons overriding the pain.

The attack displaced Tino and his sons, forcing them to flee their home. He connected with the **San Diego LGBT Community Center’s** Crisis Services team, experiencing debilitating PTSD with a barrage of painful memories.

Guided by a San Diego LGBT Community Center counselor, EMDR therapy became his lifeline, helping Tino address the trauma. Slowly, the flashbacks became less vivid, the fear less consuming. He began to find a measure of peace as he retold his story, his voice growing stronger as he spoke of protecting his sons, who also received counseling.

Though he couldn’t return to the home where the attack occurred, he and his sons began to rebuild – a journey made possible with community support and a refusal to let hate win.



Photos by Nashelle Brown
from North County LGBTQ
Resource Center Trans Day
of Visibility

STOP THE HATE PROGRAMMING NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

SUSTAINING COMMUNITY-LED SOLUTIONS TO STOPPING THE HATE

This historic investment has shown what is possible when communities are empowered to lead. To ensure these first infrastructure-building steps are not lost, we must continue to support and expand these efforts in the face of ongoing uncertainty and efforts to divide us by the current federal administration. Interrupting cycles of violence and fostering community healing is a collaborative effort. It will require all of us, community-based organizations, funders, local and state government - to create a California free from hate.

Join us in sustaining the critical work of Stop the Hate. Reach out to Tuyen Nguyen to learn more about how you can support the program and its partners.

PROGRAM SERVICE PARTNERS

Alliance San Diego
Asian Solidarity Collective
Boys & Girls Club of North West San Diego
Casa Familiar
California State University San Marcos - UACT
Imperial Valley LGBT Resource Center
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Federation of San Diego County
Karen Organization of San Diego
Little Saigon San Diego
National Conflict Resolution Center
North County LGBTQ Resource Center
Operation HOPE - North County
Outside the Lens
Pacific Arts Movement
Pillars of the Community

San Diego API Coalition
San Diego LGBT Community Center
San Diego LGBT Pride
Somali Bantu Association of America
Somali Family Service of San Diego
The Blue Heart Foundation
transcenDANCE Youth Arts Project
TransFamily Support Services
Union of Pan Asian Communities
Universidad Popular
YWCA San Diego County

Learn more about all our partners at:
catalystsd.org/stopthehate/partners

CONTACT

Tuyen Nguyen
Stop the Hate Director,
Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties
tuyen@catalystsd.org
catalystsd.org/stopthehate

Photo by: Kevin Walsh

