In April 2020, CACF launched the APA-RICE (Responding Immediately to the COVID-19 Emergency) Fund to address the growing and urgent needs of APA children and families impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, APAs had already been living through states of crisis. Over a quarter of New York City’s APAs live in poverty - the highest and most intense poverty rate of all racial/ethnic groups in NYC. The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the systemic inequities our community already faces. CACF is working tirelessly to ensure the APA community is included in relief and recovery initiatives, and that the most vulnerable populations are protected.

To date, CACF has distributed almost $100,000 to families struggling to meet basic needs and with no other financial support.

Types of Support:
- Food/Groceries
- Rent
- Utilities
- Phone Bills/Internet
- Healthcare Expenses
- Toiletries
- Household Supplies
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Funeral Expenses

An undocumented domestic worker who is a cancer survivor lost her job due to COVID-19. After using all of her remaining savings to pay rent, she had no money or resources left for basic needs. She was able to receive assistance from this fund to buy food, drinking water, soap, shampoo, and other essential items.

A single mom who is the sole provider for her family is struggling to take care of her elementary school-age child, while caring for her sick father. She is also experiencing grief due to the recent loss of her mother from COVID-19. The emergency fund helped this mom purchase groceries, household items, medicines, and cover phone and utility bills and immediate support this provided to her family.

A father of three young children lost his restaurant job when the pandemic hit. His wife also lost her job and got sick from COVID-19. The family does not have health insurance coverage and is not eligible to receive benefits due to their undocumented status. They have depleted all of their savings toward necessary bills, such as rent, utilities and food. With both parents out of work for so long, the family has been struggling to make ends meet and was tremendously helped by the support received from the emergency funds.

Participating CACF Member Organizations 2020

- Center for the Integration of New Americans
- CMP
- Council of Peoples Organizations
- Grand Street Settlement
- India Home
- Immigrant Social Services
- Japanese American Social Services, Inc.
- Mekong
- MinKwon Center for Community Action
- NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health
- Sakhi for South Asian Women
- South Asian Council for Social Services
- + Families of the Asian American Student Advocacy Project