



1145 Wilshire Blvd., Second Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(213) 977-7500 • Fax (213) 977-7595  
www.apalc.org

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Contact: Hala Masri (213) 241-0215  
Sunhye Choi (323) 937-3718 (Korean)  
Amy Phillips (213) 625-3005

# **Seniors Demand Budget Solutions**

## **Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Call for Increased Revenue and Protection of Lifeline Services**

Los Angeles—Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community members gathered at the Governor's office today to express outrage for Governor Schwarzenegger's January budget proposal, which aims to cut critical funding for education, vital living assistance and health services. Seniors and community-based organizations demanded increased revenue to close the state's \$41.6 billion deficit and save California from financial crisis.

"Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed cuts slash services that allow low-income Asian American and Pacific Islander seniors to stay in their homes and keep from going hungry," explains Amy Phillips, Director of the Asian and Pacific Islander Older Adults Task Force. Under the Governor's budget proposal, the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), which provides basic food and living assistance to lawfully present immigrant seniors, faces complete elimination. The CAPI program heavily serves Asian American and Pacific Islander seniors, and its elimination would leave many AAPI older adults without any means of support.

"California's financial crisis demands budget solutions that do not sacrifice medical care, senior services, nutrition assistance and our education system," says Sunhye Choi, Health Access Coordinator with the Korean Resource Center. "As our state's economic condition worsens, it is critical that our leaders raise revenues to boost our suffering economy."

"Our Governor will not solve our budget crisis by forcing seniors out of their homes and denying families basic healthcare services," explains Hala Masri, State Policy Advocate with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "Our state must look toward revenue-building solutions that will protect our communities and strengthen California's financial future."

###