

Youth Advisory Council: 2026 Hongbao Campaign Donor Packet

This document provides a comprehensive overview of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) at API Legal Outreach, a program dedicated to building the leadership of Bay Area high school students to address gender-based violence and advance social justice. Since its founding in 1997, YAC has provided a political home where Asian and Pacific Islander youth can develop the skills, analysis, and community connections needed to create meaningful change. This program is built on a proven model that creates concrete pathways to leadership for young people. This packet outlines our evidence-based approach, verified impact, and the opportunity for you to participate in our 2026 Hongbao Campaign—an invitation to invest in the next generation of leaders through a cherished tradition of intergenerational care. Below are immediate ways you can contribute to this powerful work.

We believe that giving should be as accessible as possible. This section serves as a direct call-to-action for community members who are ready to make a gift and support youth leadership today. Each contribution, regardless of size, is a meaningful investment in a more just and equitable future.

Give Now: A Tradition of Intergenerational Care

Metric	Details
Campaign Goal	\$25,000 in unrestricted support
Timeline	By February 15, 2026
Suggested One-Time Gifts	\$18, \$38, \$88, \$188, \$388, \$888
Monthly Gifts	\$8/month, \$18/month, or \$38/month

In many Asian cultures, the number "8" is considered a symbol of good fortune because its pronunciation is similar to the word for "prosperity." Our suggested giving levels honor this cultural tradition.

- **Optional:** When you give, you are invited to include a short message of guidance or a wish for the youth. These messages will be displayed on red paper in our lobby during Lunar New Year to celebrate and affirm our young leaders.

To learn more about the cultural significance of this campaign and the direct impact of your support, please continue reading.

About the Hongbao Tradition

The practice of giving red envelopes is a cherished Lunar New Year tradition that symbolizes a blessing of good fortune, prosperity, and care. This act of intergenerational exchange honors the role of elders and community members in nurturing and guiding the next generation. At YAC, we see a direct parallel between this cultural practice and our mission to foster youth leadership. By rooting our fundraising in this tradition, we honor the ways our communities have always invested in young people as the carriers of our collective future.

This tradition is known by many names across our diverse communities, including:

- hongbao (红包)
- lì xì (利市)
- otoshidama (お年玉)
- sebaetdon (세뱃돈)
- aguinaldo

Just as a hongbao represents a community's investment in its youth, your contribution to this campaign provides the tangible resources that make their leadership possible.

What Your Hongbao Supports

This campaign raises unrestricted funds, which are critical for the sustained health and responsiveness of our program. Unrestricted gifts provide the flexibility to allocate resources where youth needs are greatest throughout the year, from ensuring consistent access to food and transit to investing in new leadership development opportunities. This model allows us to remain agile and effective, directing your support to the areas of greatest impact.

Budget at a Glance

Category	Typical Use

Youth stipends	The largest share of our budget. Directly compensates youth for their labor and leadership, reducing barriers to participation for low-income youth.
Food and care supplies	Supports consistent engagement and physical well-being, ensuring youth can show up fully to meetings and events.
Transit and access costs	Helps youth with longer commutes participate reliably and safely, promoting equity and accessibility.
Training and facilitation	Funds curriculum development, workshop materials, and other resources essential for building the skills of our youth leaders.
Program operations	Covers the essential logistics—including meeting materials and outreach supplies—that make our program reliable and effective.

This flexible support is what enables YAC to deliver the high-impact programming detailed in the following section.

Choose Your Impact

Your gift, at any level, provides the essential resources that underpin our youth-led work. The examples below offer a concrete picture of what different levels of support can help achieve, allowing you to visualize the direct impact of your contribution.

Giving Levels & Typical Support

Giving Level	Typical Support
25–75	Food, meeting supplies, and care items that help youth stay engaged.

75–150	Transit assistance (BART/local) and outreach materials.
150–350	Training, facilitation development, and curriculum materials.
350–650	A meaningful portion of a youth stipend for one quarter.
\$650+	Directly strengthens stipends and the infrastructure that sustains year-round youth leadership.

Note: Hongbao gifts are unrestricted. Examples above describe typical uses, not restricted designations.

This direct impact is confirmed by the program's verified data on reach and demand.

Verified Snapshot and Demand

The following data provides verified proof of a highly effective program model, demonstrating consistent youth engagement, significant regional demand, and a clear record of success.

- **Active Leaders:** 13 youth members are in the current cohort. (*Source: YAC Program Summary v.6, Nov 2025*)
- **Consistent Engagement:** YAC maintained a 92% average attendance rate across all meetings from March–November 2025. (*Source: YAC Program Summary v.6, Nov 2025*)
- **High Demand:** Over 30 youth submitted complete applications during the most recent recruitment cycle. (*Source: Application analysis*)
- **Regional Reach:** 85% of YAC members live in the East Bay, with 38% commuting 45 minutes or more to participate in the program. (*Source: YAC Program Summary v.6, Nov 2025*)
- **Current Performance:** 92% of youth are on track to earn their full stipend in the current period (Jan 2026), demonstrating consistent participation and follow-through. (*Source: YAC Program Management System*)

These numbers highlight a record of success and a clear need for continued investment. The following section details the model that makes this level of impact possible.

The Case for Support

This section outlines the core argument for supporting the Youth Advisory Council. We address a critical challenge facing Asian and Pacific Islander youth, detail the unique, evidence-based model YAC employs to meet that challenge, and present the proof of our program's effectiveness.

The Problem

Teen dating violence affects approximately one in three adolescents nationally. However, Asian and Pacific Islander (API) youth face unique and often invisible barriers to seeking help, including cultural stigma around discussing family and relationship harm, significant language access gaps, and a lack of culturally responsive prevention services. Mainstream programs are rarely designed with the specific experiences of API communities in mind, leaving many young people without relevant support. YAC was created to fill this critical gap with a model rooted in culture and community.

The Model

The Youth Advisory Council directly addresses this gap by training API youth to become peer educators, community organizers, and leaders. Our model is built on the belief that young people are the most effective agents of change within their own communities. This approach is inspired by the lived experience of our program leadership, whose own journey from high school intern to national program manager provides the foundational blueprint for the leadership pipeline we build for youth today. YAC members learn to design and facilitate workshops, conduct outreach, and advocate for change, building community safety and prevention strategies that are rooted in culture, relationship, and accountability.

The Proof

YAC's success is grounded in a framework of **Accountability with Dignity**. We utilize data-driven systems not for surveillance, but as tools for providing differentiated, dignified mentorship that meets each youth member where they are. Our three integrated systems ensure every young person is seen, supported, and held to high expectations:

- **Attendance Tracking:** Weekly participation data is directly linked to stipend eligibility, providing a clear and consistent measure of engagement and identifying patterns that may signal a need for support.
- **Asana Task Completion:** A project management system tracks assignment follow-through, response times, and completion rates, offering concrete metrics on each member's reliability and capacity.
- **Quarterly Surveys:** Confidential surveys allow youth to self-report on their capacity, program fit, and any barriers they may be facing, providing essential context to the quantitative data.

Program staff cross-reference these systems to identify when a youth member may need targeted support. This allows for early and individualized outreach, whether that is a

collaborative planning check-in to manage workload, a direct accountability conversation to clarify expectations, or a simple point of affirmation to recognize strong performance. This proven model is guided by experienced leadership dedicated to youth empowerment.

Program Leadership and Accountability

A successful youth program requires both expert leadership and transparent, evidence-based systems. This combination ensures program quality, fosters trust with our community, and guarantees that donor investments are managed effectively. This section introduces the leader guiding YAC and the robust framework that ensures our accountability.

Program Leadership

D Dagondon Tiegs (they/them) is the Youth Program Project Manager at API Legal Outreach, where they direct the strategy and operations for the Youth Advisory Council. D's own leadership journey began as a high school intern at a statewide coalition, progressing through college-level roles to become a national program manager. This lived experience—moving from youth intern to a leader on the national stage—is the foundational inspiration for YAC's own leadership pipeline model.

A queer Filipino immigrant and three-time Pride Foundation Scholar, D brings a decade of experience in youth-led violence prevention and is bilingual in English and Bisaya, and fluent in Tagalog. Prior to joining APILO, they co-led a multi-year national initiative funded by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) to prevent teen dating violence in rural and Indigenous communities. With over four years of experience managing federal OVW grants, D has a proven record of fiscal accountability, compliance, and designing evidence-based programming that has been featured at the National Sexual Assault Conference.

Evidence-Based Program Structure

YAC's operational systems are intentionally designed to align with established research on adolescent brain development. This evidence-based approach translates neuroscience into practical, supportive structures that set youth up for success.

Research Finding	YAC Response
Prefrontal cortex development (planning and time management continues into mid-20s)	Predictable weekly deadlines, one-week task horizons, and explicit prioritization to provide external scaffolding.

Working memory constraints (youth hold less active information, especially under stress)	A maximum of 2–3 active tasks per youth, with complex projects broken into weekly milestones and communications delivered at consistent times.
Circadian rhythm shifts (natural sleep cycles shift later in adolescence)	No expectations for tasks before school hours, evening processing time built into workflows, and Sunday meetings to align with weekend patterns.
Social motivation and peer accountability (adolescent brains are highly responsive to peers)	Shared project timelines, peer visibility through shared task boards, and regular group check-ins to foster collective responsibility.

Proof and Accountability Systems

Data Integrity To ensure a holistic and accurate understanding of program performance, YAC integrates data from multiple sources. All metrics are verified by cross-referencing our **Application analysis**, the bi-annual **Program Summary v.6**, and the real-time **Program Management System**, which includes the attendance tracker and Asana task completion records.

To illustrate the values that guide our accountability framework, we share an excerpt from our community agreements:

"These agreements are here to help us grow—not to punish or shame—but to guide how we move in alignment with our shared values. Mistakes are expected. Growth is welcomed."

This commitment to accountability extends to our donors and community partners.

Reporting to Our Community

The Youth Advisory Council is committed to full transparency with the community that makes our work possible. We believe that accountability is a cornerstone of trust, and we are dedicated to reporting on the outcomes of your generous support.

The YAC Donor Report

Shortly after the 2026 Hongbao Campaign closes, all donors will receive the official YAC Donor Report. This document will provide a clear summary of the campaign's results, including the total funds raised and the number of donors who contributed. Most importantly, the report will

feature concrete examples and stories that illustrate what your hongbao made possible, connecting your gift directly to the growth and leadership of our youth.

Frequently Asked Questions

This section provides answers to some of the most common questions about our Hongbao Campaign and the Youth Advisory Council.

- **What is hongbao?** Hongbao (or red envelope) is a gift given during Lunar New Year in many Asian cultures to symbolize good luck and prosperity. The tradition is known by many names, including *li xi*, *otoshidama*, *sebaetdon*, and *aguinaldo*. Our campaign honors this practice of intergenerational care.
- **Why do the giving levels include \$8, \$88, and \$888?** In many Asian cultures, the number 8 is considered lucky because its pronunciation sounds similar to the word for "prosperity" or "wealth." Our suggested giving amounts reflect this cultural significance.
- **Where do my funds go?** Your contribution supports the general fund of API Legal Outreach and is allocated directly to the Youth Advisory Council's operations. These funds cover essential program costs, including youth stipends, meeting food and supplies, transportation support, and training materials.
- **Is my contribution tax-deductible?** Yes. API Legal Outreach is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. You will receive an official tax receipt for your records.
- **How are donor messages used?** If you choose to include a message for the youth with your gift, it will be displayed in our office during Lunar New Year for them to read. With your permission, we may also share selected messages publicly, using only your first name and city for attribution.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Program Manager.

Contact Information

For additional information about the Youth Advisory Council or the 2026 Hongbao Campaign, please contact:

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API Legal Outreach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.