



CHINESE COMMUNITY CENTER  
中華文化服務中心

# 2024 Annual Report



*A place for all*

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# Our Mission

The mission of CCC is to bridge East and West by enriching families with educational, cultural, and social service programs.

## About Chinese Community Center

Established in 1979, the Chinese Community Center (CCC) is a United Way agency located in southwest Houston that offers educational, cultural, and social service programs for all Houstonians. CCC specializes in providing culturally competent, in-language care to the Asian American population. We provide childcare and eldercare, help families build greater financial stability, and help increase overall quality of life through community and connection.

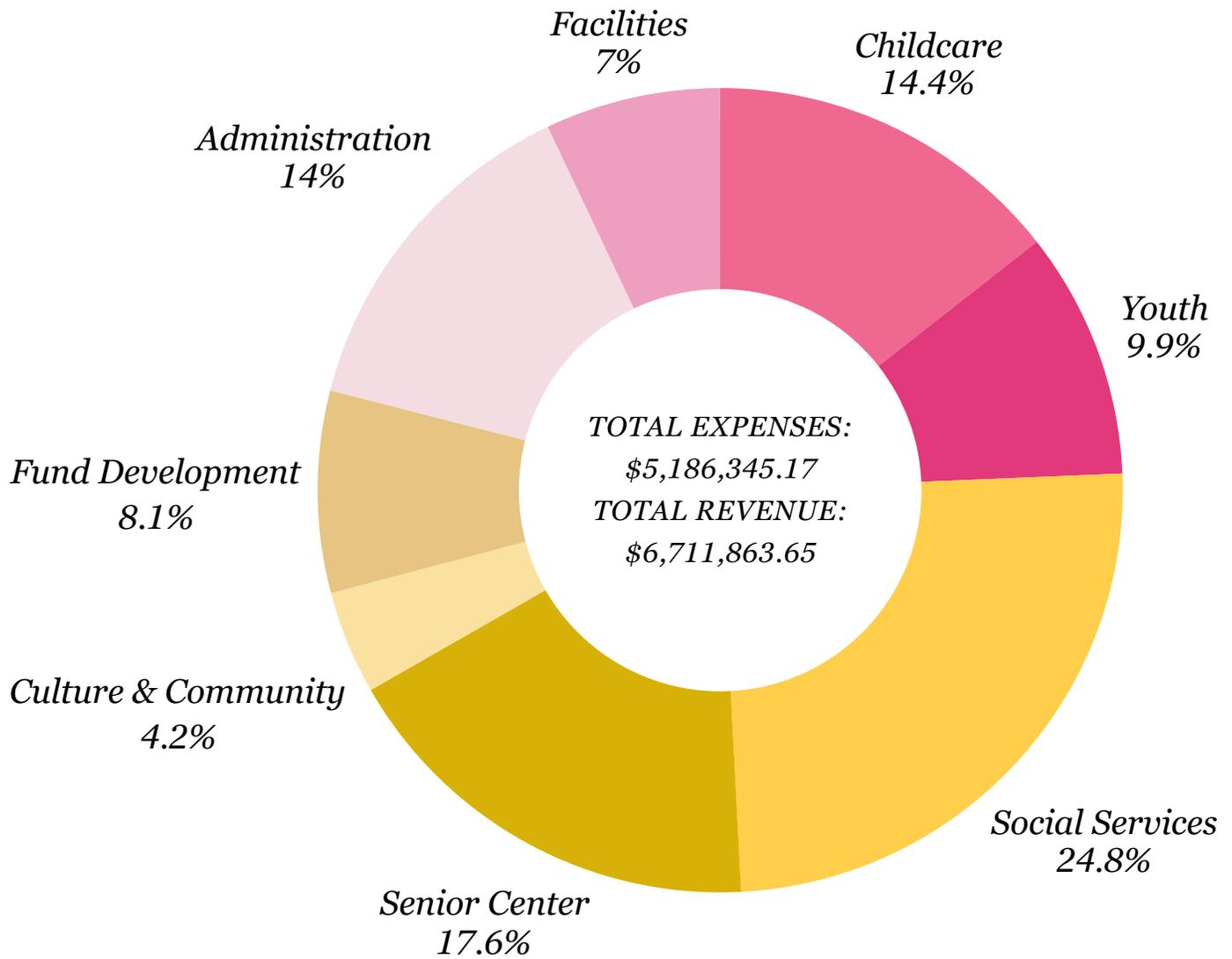
Each year, the Chinese Community Center serves more than 20,000 people from all over the Greater Houston metropolitan area. Services are provided in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin—the four most commonly spoken languages in Greater Houston—as well as in Cantonese.

### CCC's core programs include the following:

- **Child Development Center:** An early childhood education program that helps young children aged 18 months through five years achieve age-appropriate developmental milestones so they can reach their full potential, become independent learners and thinkers, and transition successfully to kindergarten.
- **Youth:** Helps at-risk youth in kindergarten through 12th grade optimize their learning in literacy and math and their social-emotional development so they can grow into productive, responsible, and successful adults.
- **Social Services:** Equips adults with the skills and knowledge needed to grow their careers and achieve long-term financial resilience through such services as vocational skills training, work-entry and retention, and homebuyer education and counseling.
- **Senior Health:** Helps older adults maintain healthy, independent living through the Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS) program and maintain physical and social-emotional well-being through health education, wellness programs, and evidence-based interventions.
- **Culture & Community:** Promotes multicultural understanding through such family-friendly activities as the Chinese Language School (the program upon which the organization was founded) and the annual Lunar New Year Festival.

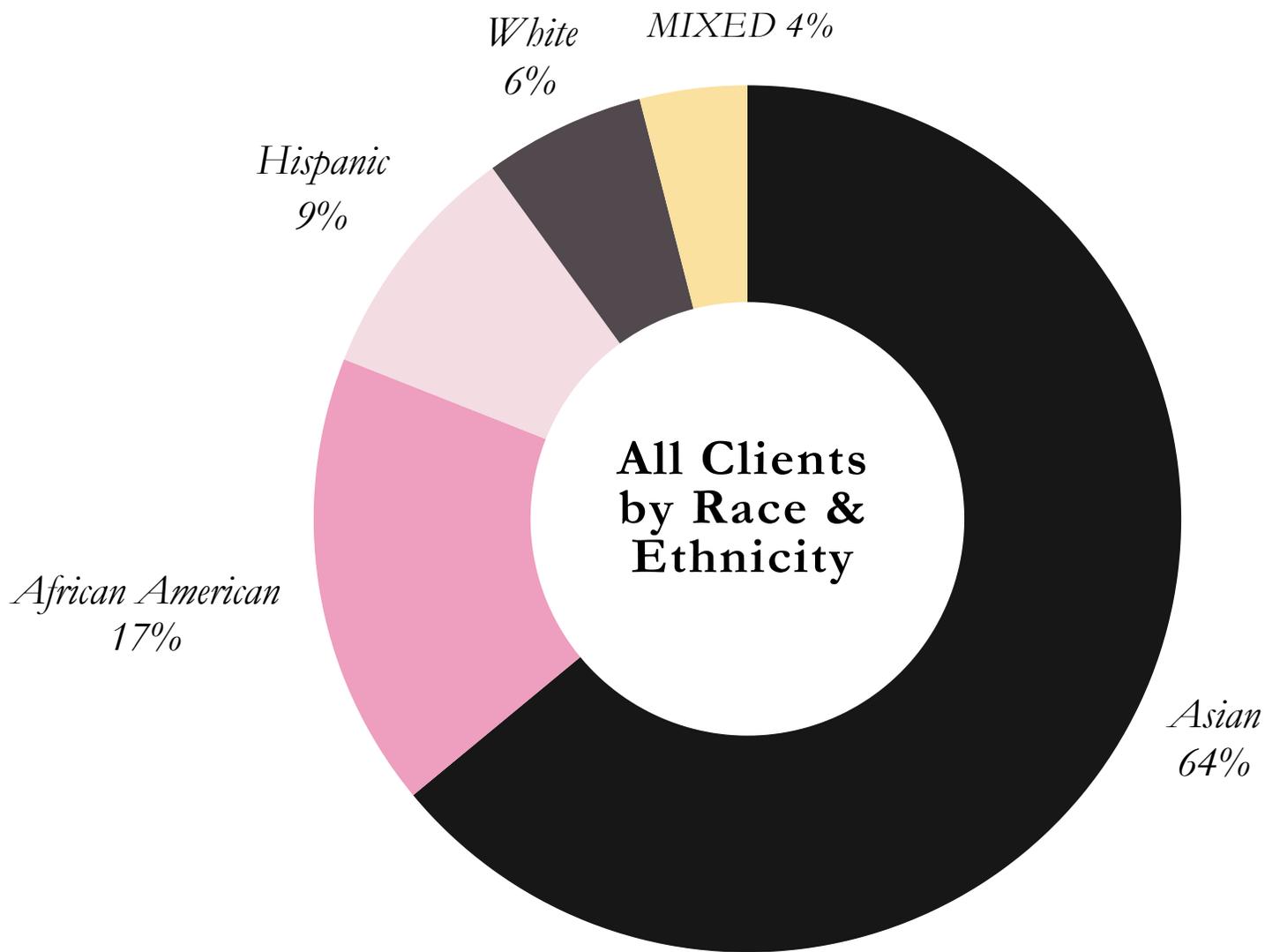
# 2024

## Department & Program Spending



**TOTAL YEAR-END NET ASSETS: \$1,525,518.48**

# Who We Serve



# Child Development Center

Founded in 1996, the Chinese Community Center's Child Development Center (CDC) provides an optimal learning environment for children ages 18 months to 5 years old to grow and reach their full potential. By focusing on the "whole child" (social/emotional, cognitive, language and physical developmental needs), we encourage self-awareness in which children can become independent learners and thinkers that prepares them for school and beyond.

## Program Offerings

- Classroom curriculum inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, which nurtures each child's natural curiosity, love of learning, and creativity through: play and hands-on exploration, artistic expression, and collaborative learning.
- Low child-to-teacher ratios that ensure responsive care to nurture each child's development.
- Renovated playground for safe, explorative, outdoor play that encourages students' social, emotional, mental, and physical growth.
- Lead teachers who either have an Associate's or Bachelor's degree or have earned their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and CPR-certified child care staff.
- Early exposure to Mandarin, Cantonese, and Spanish in their classrooms.



*Muffins for Mom Day*



*Easter Egg Hunt*



*Donuts for Dads (Father's Day Celebration)*

# 91.6%

of 18-mo to 5-yr-old in our NAEYC-accredited<sup>1</sup> Early Childhood Program met key developmental milestones (vs. 75% nationally<sup>2</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation is a gold-standard that only 4% of centers in Harris County have achieved, signaling that programming from teacher qualifications to curriculum planning and safety protocols, meets or exceeds national best practices.

<sup>2</sup> The Center of Disease Control and Prevention's national expectation is that 75% of toddlers should reach key developmental milestones by a certain age.

# Youth Program

The Youth program helps at-risk students in kindergarten through high school optimize their academic and social-emotional development during the after-school hours and summertime so they can grow into responsible adults and succeed in their post-secondary education and careers.

## Program Offerings

- After-school social-emotional development activities that help students learn how to manage emotions, show empathy and respect for others, make responsible decisions, and achieve goals.
- Targeted academic tutoring to support their school-based learning; preparation for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR).
- Chinese language enrichment program to learn Mandarin and participate in cultural activities.
- 12-week summer camp with educational activities that improve literacy and foster interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program, where Counselors take on leadership roles in facilitating daily activities and providing instruction to summer camp participants.



2024 Summer Camp



Youth learn emotional resilience, self-awareness, & healthy relationships, filling in a vital gap when only 37% of public schools offer socioemotional learning<sup>3</sup>.

# 91.8%

of youth in our Youth Program showed improvement in socio-emotional skills and 75.2% maintained or improved a 3.0 GPA (vs. 2.0 avg GPA in a local school district<sup>4</sup>)

<sup>3</sup> Panchal, N. (2024, July 31). Addressing youth mental health with social and emotional learning in schools. KFF. <https://www.kff.org/policy-watch/addressing-youth-mental-health-with-social-and-emotional-learning-in-schools/>.

<sup>4</sup> According to the Texas Education Agency 2022-23 Report for Alief ISD.

# Social Services

## Financial Opportunity Center (FOC)

### Program Offerings

#### Career & Workforce Development

- **Adult Education & Bridge Programs:** Strengthens foundational English literacy and numeracy through contextualized, industry-specific instruction that supports long-term career success.
- **Vocational Training:** Prepares clients for in-demand careers in healthcare, construction, and transportation—industries offering job growth, living wages, and advancement opportunities.
- **Job Readiness Training:** Builds essential soft skills such as resume writing, interview preparation, and workplace professionalism.
- **Workforce Support Services:** Connects clients to employment opportunities and supportive resources, including professional attire, digital devices, and digital skills training, and job fairs.

#### Financial Empowerment

- **Financial Coaching:** Provides individualized guidance to set and achieve financial goals through customized plans and ongoing support.
- **Financial Education Workshops:** Teaches budgeting, saving, credit building, debt repayment, online banking, informed borrowing, and fraud prevention.
- **Access to Financial Products:** Offers tools such as credit-building loans, matched savings accounts (with support from Local Support Initiatives Corporation), and secured credit cards to help clients establish savings and credit.

### Client Story *Houogua Gaelle*

In February 2025, Houogua Gaelle joined the FOC program to expand her home-based hair braiding business into a sustainable enterprise. With guidance from Financial Coach Hui Pan, she received a free laptop through the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready platform (VSBDR)- which also boosted her digital and business skills. Collaborating with her coach and a Small Business Development Center advisor, Gaelle developed a strong business plan and submitted a grant application through VSBDR. Her efforts culminated in securing a lease for her first storefront, marking a major step toward business growth.



# Social Services

## Financial Opportunity Center (FOC)

**\$118,675**

invested towards clients' vocational training & certification

**87%**

of graduates securing jobs earning \$20/hour



*FOC Certified Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Graduation*



*FOC Certified Nurse Aide Certification (CNA) Graduation*



# Social Services

## Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC)

### Program Offerings

- **Public Benefits Navigation and Counseling** Guidance on available public benefit programs and eligibility requirements, so clients can access them efficiently.
- **Application Preparation Assistance** Start-to-finish support in completing and submitting applications for various benefits.
- **Language Assistance** in Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Spanish.

Our professional and knowledgeable BEC team provided critical support in 2024 to newcomers, low-to-moderate income individuals, and families at no cost during their time of need and through their major life changes and transitions.

- **Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP)**
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**
- **Disaster Relief Funding** Distributing flexible emergency financial aid to households for food and furniture replacement, as well as minor home repairs.
- **Agencies in Action (AIA) Weatherization Program** Supporting households in reducing electricity usage and saving on energy costs through weatherization assistance, such as new, high-efficiency energy upgrades (including AC units), with support from CenterPoint Energy and Frontier Energy.

**\$3 million**

in social benefits secured  
for 3,190 low-income  
households

**\$63,750**

in Hurricane Beryl disaster  
relief funds distributed to  
123 households in a time of  
need and recovery



*Benefits Enrollment team with clients*

# Social Services

## Homebuyer Education Program

The Chinese Community Center is a recognized Housing Counseling Agency (HCA) by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is the only HCA in Texas providing housing counseling services in both English and Mandarin dedicated to helping families achieve the dream of homeownership. We partner with the City of Houston and Harris County's Homebuyer Assistance Program to provide trusted education and resources.

### Program Offerings

- **Monthly Group Workshops and One-to-one Counseling** To guide and teach participants about the various aspects of the home-buying process, including home inspections, homeowners' insurance, mortgages, and down payment assistance programs that are available through the City of Houston and Harris County.
- **Housing Counselors certified by HUD** To help clients prepare to make a home purchase and manage a mortgage.
- **Rental and Post-purchase Counseling** To help clients find affordable housing and maintain their homes.

325

clients received housing counseling to prepare for first-time homeownership

\$51,386

in down-payment assistance received for our clients towards their first home purchases



*First-Time Homebuyer Workshop*



# Social Services

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

The VITA program offers free tax help to households that qualify. CCC primarily serves those with low-to-moderate income, and who are limited English-speaking due to our language support capacity. Our trained volunteers assist with filing federal and state income tax returns, ensuring taxpayers receive all eligible credits and refunds.



*VITA team with clients*

**\$1,097,415**

in tax refunds received  
equaling \$1,918/client

**\$230,256**

saved in tax  
preparation fees



## Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

The Chinese Community Center's SCSEP program provides on-the-job training through placements at nonprofit organizations and government agencies, helping participants gain work experience, enhance job readiness, and transition into unsubsidized employment. Through these partnerships, SCSEP simultaneously strengthens community services and supports mature workers in overcoming employment barriers. SCSEP is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, and partners with the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) to serve limited- and non-English-speaking Asian and Pacific Islander seniors.



*SCSEP Meeting*

**85**

seniors placed and actively  
earning income, rejoining  
the workforce with  
purpose with a 2-year  
average employment  
duration

# Social Services

## Civic Engagement & U.S. Citizenship Program

CCC's Civic Engagement and U.S. Citizenship Program empowers immigrants and community members to become informed, active participants in civic life, fostering a stronger sense of belonging and engagement within our local community.

### Program Offerings

- **Citizenship Class** Helping clients gather necessary documents, and for English language and civics instruction
- **Naturalization Application Assistance** Helping eligible residents achieve U.S. citizenship
- **Voter Advocacy** Providing a polling location, voter information, and voter registration through direct community outreach.



*Clients confirmed at citizenship hearing*



*CCC staff engaged in voter advocacy efforts*



## English as a Second Language

Our Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) Program provides high-quality, goal-driven English language instruction to eligible individuals to gain the language skills necessary to be self-sufficient, adapt to life in the U.S., and contribute as productive members of society. Classes are offered in Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced ESL.



*ESL Graduation Day*

# Senior Health Services

## Program Offerings

**Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS) Program** Empowering seniors to lead fulfilling lives by fostering meaningful connections through group support and preventative health services. DAHS meets individual needs while reducing the health risks of isolation & loneliness.

- Individual Mental Health Counseling
- Health screenings for early detection of potential health issues
- Caregiver Support Groups



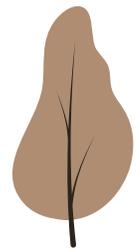
*Field Trip at the Fitness Park*

# 2,052

Adult Day Care Seniors (DAHS), their families, and community members served



*Virtual Reality Experience at DAHS*



# Senior Health Services

## Program Offerings

**Wellness Program** Dedicated to serving seniors and our greater Houston community, clients enrolled in our program benefit from a variety of classes and activities focused on **Fitness** and **Recreation**. Members become part of a community, staying connected, physically active, and mentally fit.

1,019

Wellness Members and  
DAHS Seniors  
(Ages 65 to 98)



*2024 Beng & Daisy Ho Wellness Field Day*



*2024 Pickleball Tournament*



# Culture & Community

## Program Offerings

CCC offers a range of initiatives to promote cross-cultural understanding of our Asian-American community, strengthen Houston's identity as a cultural tourism destination, and stimulate economic growth in southwest Houston.

- **Chinese Language School** In-keeping with our legacy, offering standards-based Chinese language and culture programs for youth and adults. Adult learners can choose from Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced courses designed to promote linguistic proficiency and cultural understanding.
- **Annual Lunar New Year Festival (LNY)** A community event bringing over 10,000 attendees to enjoy a full day of performances for free, cultural activities, and a vibrant marketplace of vendors and booths informing the community of resources and services available to them.
- **Asian Heritage Tours (AHT)** Bringing the richness of Asian culture through immersive, cross-cultural activities such as Ikebana flower arrangement, Mahjong workshops, dumpling-making classes, and guided explorations of Asiatown Bellaire and the Mahatma Gandhi District. Dedicated to celebrating culture in all its forms—food, traditions, art, and community.



*Chinese School Graduation*





*Asian Heritage Tours  
Dumpling Class*



*2024 Lunar New Year Festival*



*CCC celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander  
Month at KPRC - Houston's Channel 2*

**19,427**

Volunteer hours  
= \$485K saved & reinvested  
back into Culture &  
Community programming

**12,800**

Attendees for LNY  
Festival & AHT

# Our Leadership

## Officers & Board of Directors

### *Board of Directors*

#### *Executive Committee*

*Ernest Hui*

*Ting-Ling Sha, PhD*

*Victoria Chin*

*Dr. Stephen Au*

*The Honorable Theresa Chang*

*Xin (Brian) Liu*

*Tram Nguyen*

*Linda Reyes*

*Amy Sung*

*Audrey Mae-Hua Chang*

*Katherine Cheng-Arif*

*Judy Lieu*

*Michael Pearson*

*Gary Poon*

*Chair*

*Vice Chair*

*Treasurer*

*Member*

*Member*

*Member*

*Member*

*CCC PTO President*

*Secretary*

*Member*

*Member*

*Member*

*Member*

*Chief Executive Officer*

