



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Lily Madjus Wu, (415) 537-0345 cell

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**MAYOR LEE & SUPERVISOR CHRISTENSEN
ANNOUNCE DBI SEISMIC SAFETY GRANTS
AWARDED IN CHINATOWN**

Free Seismic Safety Workshops in Chinatown Offered to Residents Starting in July

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, Mayor Edwin M. Lee, District 3 Supervisor Julie Christensen and Department of Building Inspection (DBI) announced that two community-based organizations (CBOs) Community Youth Center (CYC) and Self-Help for the Elderly (SHE), both located in Chinatown, have each been awarded with a \$100k grant to conduct Seismic Safety Outreach in Chinatown to the diverse populations served at Willie Wong Playground and Portsmouth Square service areas. This program will provide free of charge seismic safety outreach in both English and Chinese to San Francisco’s Chinatown community that includes hands-on training and education on emergency preparedness, fire safety and post-disaster response starting in mid-July 2015.

“These grants, coupled with the City’s continued efforts to get everyone prepared and improve post-disaster response, will make San Francisco more resilient and our residents more prepared for the next big disaster,” said Mayor Lee. “Offering these multi-lingual workshops and trainings to our diverse communities in Chinatown will ensure that more people are becoming equipped with the knowledge and training to prepare and respond to the next major disaster. With the recent international and local earthquake incidents that have occurred in the last couple of months, it’s a stark reminder to all who live and work, not only in San Francisco, but the entire Bay Area region, the need to get prepared and respond to earthquakes.”

“Our residents in Chinatown are invited to attend any of the workshops over the next year, either through the Willie Wong Playground or at Portsmouth Square, to learn about what we can do to prepare for a disaster and what we need to do post-disaster recovery and fire safety,” said District 3 Supervisor Julie Christensen.

This Program will provide free of charge seismic safety outreach to San Francisco’s multi-lingual communities, specifically residents of Chinatown, to equip them with the tools they need to adequately prepare and respond to an emergency. Audiences will be SF residents from Chinatown, which may include renters, business owners, homeowners, youth and seniors of diverse cultural groups with significant linguistic, social, and economic needs.

“DBI is proud to fund and implement this seismic safety program as it offers strategic outreach and training to Chinatown’s diverse, multi-lingual communities,” said Tom Hui, Director of the Department of Building Inspection. “Together with our City partners at the Department of Emergency Management and the Fire Department along with our grantees, we are providing residents the hands-on training and tools they need to prepare and respond to the next emergency.”

San Franciscans live in one of the world’s most at-risk seismic zones – placing a special responsibility upon those who live here, along with key local, state and Federal agencies, to take steps and prepare themselves, and their families, for the next Big One. Experts predict that a major earthquake will strike San Francisco and the immediate Bay Area in the next 25 years – so it is not a question of “*if*,” but only a matter of “*when*” residents will have to respond to such a disaster, as well as to take steps to help the City recover from any damage and devastation caused by such a natural disaster.

Over the next year, each grantee will offer multi-lingual non-certificate workshops once a week to tenants, residents, and community leaders on what they can do to prepare for a natural disaster. In total, 80 workshops will be completed by July 2016. The workshop curriculum includes:

1. Personal Preparedness
2. Basic First Aid and Citizen CPR
3. Earthquake Mitigation
4. Response and Recovery
5. Fire Safety

These seismic safety classes will be held at Willie Wong Playground Clubhouse, at senior centers and the Portsmouth Square Club House in Chinatown. Through workshops and community events, this Program is estimated to reach 10,000 Chinatown residents in FY 15-16. Funding for these grants comes from a \$200k addback that was appropriated for FY 2014-2015/2016-2017 in each service area.

Both CYC and SHE have experience working with San Francisco’s diverse cultural groups, youth, low income individuals/families, elderly, and disabled, with significant linguistic, social, and/or economic needs. Founded in 1970, CYC was born out of a time of increasing awareness and activism in the Asian community. CYC was established to provide a collective and concerted voice that articulated the needs and concerns of Chinatown’s youth and to address the problems of juvenile delinquency and gang violence raging during that time. Each year, CYC’s core programs and services under six major components - Behavioral Health, Education, Intervention, Leadership Development, Community Outreach, and Workforce Development, impacting over 5,000 youth and their families. In 1966, SHE was established in San Francisco’s Chinatown as part of the Federal “War on Poverty” Initiative. The Agency serves over 35,000 Asian seniors each year with services ranging from social services to senior housing, nutrition, employment, Adult Day Services, Home Care and Hospice to transportation and Assisted Living for the Alzheimer’s patients.

This grant commenced on May 1st, 2015 and will be in effect until June 30, 2016, with the option to extend for an additional year in FY 2016-2017. Workshop classes have now been scheduled for mid-July. For more information about this Program and the scheduled workshop dates, please visit www.sfdbi.org/seismicsafety.

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