



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 19, 2018

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

**DBI'S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM
EQUIPS SAN FRANCISCANS WITH HANDS-ON
EMERGENCY TRAINING & KNOWLEDGE**

Nearly 25, 000 people reached and 2,000 Seismic Safety Ambassadors graduated in 2017, bolstering City's community preparedness efforts

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, Tom Hui, Director of Department of Building Inspection (DBI), announced the expansion of its successful community preparedness training program to all of the City's 11 supervisorial districts in the week of the 112th anniversary of the 1906 Great Earthquake. DBI continues to equip San Franciscans, both young and old, with important hands-on emergency training and knowledge to prepare them for the next emergency disaster. Since July 2015, DBI's two community-based organizations partners, Community Youth Center (CYC) and Self-Help for the Elderly (SHE), have delivered a highly effective, and successful, Seismic Safety Outreach Training Program (SSOP).

“For the last three years, the SSOP has equipped residents with vital knowledge and hands-on training to prepare and respond immediately within their communities to a major disaster.” said Director Hui. “By expanding this Program citywide, we are able to provide essential information and training right to the doorsteps of our most vulnerable and diverse communities. We are preparing our multi-lingual communities for the next Big One, and ensuring they have the basic knowledge and tools to respond immediately and effectively when the next disaster hits.”

In 2017, we reached nearly 25, 000 people through attendance at public events and presentations; conducted over 350 workshops; and graduated nearly 2,000 program Seismic Safety Ambassadors --- creating trained core groups of residents in every San Francisco neighborhood who will know what to do immediately after the next earthquake strikes.

Started in June of 2015 in Chinatown, this free seismic safety Program slowly expanded to the Western Addition, Sunset, Bayview, and the Richmond in 2016 and 2017, respectively, to provide hands-on training and education on emergency preparedness, fire safety and post-disaster response. This Program's participants have included renters, business owners, homeowners, youth and seniors of diverse cultural groups with significant linguistic, social, and economic needs.

These non-certificate workshops are offered in-languages such as Chinese, Spanish, Russian and Korean, to name a few, once a week to tenants, residents, and community leaders on what they can and must do to

prepare for a natural disaster. The five-series workshop curriculum includes: Personal Preparedness, Basic First Aid and Citizen CPR, Earthquake Mitigation Response and Recovery and Fire Safety.

San Francisco residents are encouraged to attend a workshop in their neighborhood by visiting www.sfdbi.org/seismicsafety.

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About the Department of Building Inspection (DBI)

The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) oversees the effective, efficient, fair and safe enforcement of the City and County of San Francisco’s building, housing, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, and disability access codes for San Francisco’s more than 200,000 buildings. Please visit www.sfdbi.org for more information.

Community Youth Center of San Francisco (CYC)

Founded in 1970, Community Youth Center of San Francisco (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.

Self Help for the Elderly (SHE)

Self-Help for the Elderly (SHE) was founded in 1966 in San Francisco Chinatown as part of the Federal “War on Poverty” Initiative. The Agency serves over 40,000 Asian seniors each year. Services range 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.