2016 People's Voice Survey

From February to June 2016, we surveyed 680 Chinese immigrants across the city of San Francisco to learn more about their living and working conditions.

Average Household Size
3-4 people

Percent Who've Applied for Affordable Housing: 51%
Percent Who've Received Affordable Housing: 12%

Inadequate Housing
- 34% In-Law Unit
- 13% Single Resident Occupancy (SRO)
- 25% Single Family Home
- 26% Apartment or Condo

Annual Average Income
53% of 3 to 4 person households earn less than $35,151.
Affordable housing is not accessible to most working class immigrant families.

Where did we survey?
Broader Chinatown: 22%
Excelsior: 50%
Vis Valley/Portola: 10%

"Do you feel concerned about San Francisco's current housing situation?"
90% are "very concerned" or have "some concerns" about the housing crisis.
35% of workers reported having experienced some form of wage theft:

Top Issues Workers Face
- Not enough work hours
- Pay is too low
- No benefits

55% don’t receive paid sick leave
47% aren’t paid minimum wage
42% aren’t paid overtime

"Being a Chinese immigrant worker in the US is like being mute, deaf and blind because we do not know English and the law. We need the city to step up in providing more truly affordable housing and quality jobs for us to raise our families."

-- Mr. Li, age 50

How do folks find out about laws?

Underemployment

Average work hours per week: 30 hours

48% of survey respondents are employed. The rest are either unemployed, or do not receive enough work hours.

San Francisco Chinese immigrant working families are feeling the brunt of the housing crisis and in desperate need of affordable housing. Even when working full time, workers are making extremely low wages and report experiences of wage theft.

Founded in 1972, the Chinese Progressive Association educates, organizes and empowers the low income and working class immigrant Chinese community in San Francisco to build collective power with other oppressed communities to demand better living and working conditions and justice for all people.

www.cpasf.org || (415) 391-6986 || 1042 Grant Ave. 5th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94133