



About the Vietnamese American Service Center (VASC)

Location

- 2410 Senter Road, San Jose CA 95111

VASC Building and Services

- 37,000 square feet
- Senior Nutrition Program
- Senior Wellness Programs
- Dental Services
- Pharmacy
- Mental Health Services
- Health Screenings
- Vaccinations
- Eligibility and Coverage Assistance
- Referrals and Consultations
- Educational Programs
- Computer Access & Classes
- Rotational Specialty Services

VASC BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

- Upon completion of the VASC project, the total budget will be approximately \$55 million.
- The **2011 SCC Public Health Assessment – Status of Vietnamese Health**, first proposed by Supervisor Dave Cortese, revealed that the Vietnamese American community in Santa Clara County faced disparities and challenges in mental health, healthcare and physical health, and intergenerational conflict, and difficulty in navigating existing County services.
- Upon being sworn into office in August 2013 and recognizing the importance of cultivating the foundation of trust upon which a service center must be built, Supervisor Cindy Chavez initiated a comprehensive **Community Engagement Initiative**.

- Through the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Process, Supervisor Chavez put forward Inventory Item 17 to develop a **service and operational blueprint for a Vietnamese American Service Center** that would be well informed by meaningful engagement and input from community-based organizations that serve the Vietnamese population, key stakeholders, and local leaders as well as the various County agencies that serve Vietnamese Americans.
- In 2015, Supervisors Cindy Chavez and Dave Cortese led the **VASC Stakeholder Assessment** to further identify disparities and barriers in accessing the County’s health and human services.
- The Community Engagement Initiative included more than 50 presentations throughout the County at educational institutions as well as community-based organizations, participation in approximately 170 community celebrations and events, and extensive public input through stakeholder sessions, focus group discussions, as well as paper and online surveys available in English and Vietnamese.
- The Community Engagement Initiative also provided technical support to the Facilities and Fleet VASC Construction and Design Outreach Plan.
- After the Community Engagement Initiative was completed, Supervisor Chavez continued to host quarterly engagement sessions to incorporate community feedback into the design and construction of the VASC leading up to the opening of the VASC in Fall 2021.
- In January 2016, the **VASC Stakeholder Assessment Final Report** was released and the findings resulted in a recommendation by the Office of the County Executive to construct the Vietnamese American Service Center.
- In February 2016, the County designated the Senter Road location as the future site for the VASC.
- Through the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget process, the Board of Supervisors approved funding allocation for the VASC program and design.
- Through the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget process, the Board of Supervisors approved funding for the construction of the VASC through its Capital Improvement Plan.
- With the leadership of Supervisors Chavez and Cortese, the VASC will be established as a 37,000 square foot “one-stop shop” for County services deemed by community members as critical and relevant to their well-being.
- This will be the **first center of its kind in the nation** to serve Vietnamese Americans and the latest manifestation of our County’s commitment to **cultural competency, inclusion, and empathetic design** centered around the client and not the provider.

Vietnamese Americans in numbers

- The second largest Vietnamese population (142,496) outside of Vietnam lives in Santa Clara County.
- Vietnamese Americans make up 7.5 percent of Santa Clara County population and are the county's second largest Asian subgroup.
- The City of San Jose has the largest Vietnamese population (100,486) of any city outside of Vietnam.
- Between 2000 and 2010, the county's Vietnamese population growth rate was 28 percent. The number of Vietnamese residents in Santa Clara County grew from 11,717 in 1980 to 134,525 in 2010.

Vietnamese American Contributions

- Little Saigon is a major landmark in Santa Clara County.
- Vietnamese celebrations such as Tết and the Mid-Autumn Festival contribute to the County's unique cultural identity.
- There are 12,882 Vietnamese owned businesses in Santa Clara County.
- National data on working Vietnamese Americans:
 - 32.9 percent worked in management, business, science, and arts.
 - 30.9 percent had service occupations.
 - 17 percent worked in sales and offices, 4.3% reported occupations in natural resources, construction, and maintenance.

Unique and Emerging Needs

The 2011 County assessment revealed that the Vietnamese American community in Santa Clara County faced disparities and challenges in mental health, healthcare and physical health, and intergenerational conflict, and difficulty in navigating existing County services.

- **Mental Health:**
 - Nearly 1 in 10 Vietnamese adults felt they needed to see a health professional during the past 12 months due to problems with their mental health.
 - In 2009 - 2010, 31 percent of Vietnamese middle and high school students reported symptoms of depression.
- **Healthcare and Physical Health:**
 - More Vietnamese American adults (26 percent) lack healthcare coverage compared to other adults in the county.

- Between 2010 – 2011, 16 percent of Vietnamese adults could not see a doctor when needed because of cost.
- Cancer accounts for a larger percentage of the total number of deaths among Vietnamese Americans (32 percent) than for all county residents.
 - Vietnamese American adults are diagnosed with liver cancer at four times the rate of overall adults in the county.
- 10 percent of Vietnamese American adults have been diagnosed with diabetes.
- **Language proficiency between 2007 – 2009:**
 - 56 percent reported speaking English less than very well.
 - 36 percent were linguistically isolated, which is defined as a household where no one age 14 and over speaks English “very well” or speaks only English.