

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Yang Lee – Chief Financial Officer, California
Department of Social Services**



“Asian American Studies encouraged me to study and research the Hmong American experience in the United States. As a result of my studies, I gained a better understanding of my family and community’s history, their struggles, and perseverance to overcome those challenges, which helped me appreciate and accept my experience growing up as a refugee and first-generation Hmong American.”



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Yang Lee came to the United States with his family as refugees of the Lao Civil War. He grew up in California's central valley, and currently resides in Sacramento. Currently, Yang serves as the Chief Financial Officer for the California Department of Social Services. Prior to that role, Yang was the Assistant Director of Policy and Quality Assurance and Fiscal Affairs for the California Department of Social Services between August 2020 and March 2022.

Yang has served as Principal Program Budget Analyst for the California Department of Finance from 2012 to 2020, where he was Finance Budget Analyst from 2008 to 2012. He held several positions in the Office of State Assemblymember Loni Hancock from 2005 to 2008, including legislative assistant and Assembly Fellow. Yang earned a Bachelor's Degree in Ethnic Studies and Master of Public Policy and Administration degree from California State University, Sacramento.

On his spare time, Yang loves to cook for his family and friends. He also enjoys traveling with his family so he can explore the different types of cuisines throughout the world. Yang is an avid angler. He enjoys fishing for game fishes in the California Delta and the lakes surrounding the greater Sacramento Valley.