



SF YOUTH & FAMILIES ISSUE “BUDGET INSTRUCTIONS” TO CITY HALL

May 18, 2009

In a city with some of the nation’s wealthiest adults and poorest children, it is a matter of compassion and justice to protect the city’s most vulnerable from more than \$15 million in budget cuts – especially as thousands of families face desperation in this economic crisis.

The VOICES OF THE NEXT GENERATION SF campaign is calling on city leaders to invest opportunities for San Francisco’s low and moderate income youth, most of whom are young people of color:

- 1) Honor the City’s Investments in the Next Generation. We call on our city leaders to stop any attacks on the City’s special funds for children and public education.
- 2) Preserve the Services Most Urgent for Struggling Kids and Families. In one of the richest cities in the world, we call on Mayor Newsom and the Board of Supervisors to stop millions of dollars in budget cuts to the safety net programs struggling families depend on.

KEY FACTS

- ⇒ Families are bracing for at least **\$15 million in proposed budget cuts** to San Francisco children.
- ⇒ SF has the highest concentration of billionaires in the countryⁱ, while **43% of children in San Francisco live in extremely poor or working poor families**, unable to meet their basic needs without assistance.ⁱⁱ
- ⇒ **40,800 San Franciscans are unemployed**. Unemployment has more than doubled in San Francisco in just the last two years, so thousands of families have lost a breadwinner, are depending on emergency food, shelter and other safety net services now more than ever.ⁱⁱⁱ
- ⇒ The support and education low-income children receive is highly correlated to their future earnings and success in life.

BUDGET INSTRUCTION #1: Restore funding to SF youth and families’ most urgent priorities .

Service area	SF Youth & Families Urgent Priority*	City Departments’ Proposed Cuts Submitted to Mayor	Our Instructions to Mayor and Board of Supervisors
Youth Employment A critical opportunity for young people to supplement family income and gain skills they need for the future	YES	\$1,601,804 (from DCYF)	Restore at least 50% (\$800K) to save jobs for approximately 150-200 low income youth.
Child Care Allows families to work; subsidies for teacher salaries help attract & retain & sustain a qualified workforce	YES	\$1,129,766 (from DCYF & HSA)	Restore at least 40% (\$400,000) to Wages +, to support child care centers serving low-income children.
After-School Programs Programs that help parents while they are at work; provides youth the skills, support and adult mentoring they need	YES	\$963,898 (from DCYF)	Restore at least 50% (\$500,000) to ensure that children have programs that support their healthy development and literacy.
Violence & Gang Prevention Keeps young people safe and out of the cycle of incarceration and street violence.	YES	\$6,000,000 (from DCYF, JPD & MOCI)	Restore 20% (\$1.2 million) to be granted out to programs that keep young people out of incarceration.
Health Services that provide access to low-income families & youth,	YES	Uncertain – DPH plan not finalized; \$114,000 cuts to wellness centers (from DCYF)	To be determined

Family Support Services	Second priority	\$600,000 (DCYF, HSA, First Five)	
Recreation Services	Second priority	\$3.8 million in cuts to recreation workers	
Community-based service coordination	Second priority	\$1.5 Million in cuts to community conveners, anchor institutions and the safety network	
School-based Services & Education Partnerships	Second priority	\$336,500 in cuts to school-based services like athletics and community service	

Note: These priorities were set by a coalition of low and moderate income San Francisco working parents and young people, not community-based providers.

BUDGET INSTRUCTION #2: Support Progressive Revenue

⇒ Place progressive revenue measures on the November ballot that will raise at least \$100 million, to save vital safety net services, without increasing the tax burden on low and moderate income working families.

BUDGET INSTRUCTION #3: Find Cost-Savings that Minimize Impact on City’s Safety Net

- ⇒ Identify cost savings in police & fire department budgets, without compromising public safety. Revisit recommendations of Controller Audits and Budget Analyst’s reports re: the Fire Department, including brownouts, targeted closures that don’t increase response times, increase workweek hours to conform to regional standard.
- ⇒ Whenever possible, reduce expenses in systems of youth incarceration to save community programs that prevent violence, promote safe options and keep young people out of the street economy.
- ⇒ Identify cost savings in initiatives that coordinate, plan or evaluate services but aren’t part of the city’s safety net.

BUDGET INSTRUCTION #4: Promote Fair, Flexible and Responsible Set-Aside Reform

- ⇒ If considering set-aside reform, consider our proposal that promotes fair, flexible and responsible set-asides and protects the most vulnerable San Franciscans. Our proposal would ensure that all-set-asides meet a set of criteria, including:
 - Revenue-driven, increasing or decreasing each year in proportion to overall city revenues
 - Have sunset provisions
 - Have accountability measures so funding is linked with outcomes
 - Have allocation/spending plans approved by the Board of Supervisors
 - Limit annual growth of set-aside so that in best of years city has flexibility to use new resources for rainy day fund or other priorities
 - No set aside can be more than 5% of general fund
 - No set aside can dictate and lock-in a specific expenditure or specific staffing level, regardless of cost
 - Majority of funding should go to politically, physically or economically vulnerable populations in need of a protected safety-net

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ⁱ Forbes Magazine, *The Worlds Billionaires 2009*. http://www.forbes.com/fdc/welcome_mjx.shtml

ⁱⁱ Coleman Advocates, *Is There a Future for Children: An Analysis of Family Income, Race and Opportunity*. October, 2008. www.colemanadvocates.org

ⁱⁱⁱ SF Office of Economic Analysis: www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/controller/oea/Monthly_Economic_Barometer_March_2009.pdf