



**City and County of San Francisco
YOUTH COMMISSION**

MINUTES

Monday, February 2, 2026

5:00 pm

IN-PERSON MEETING

City Hall, Room 416

**1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place,
San Francisco, CA 94102**

Youth Commission membership includes:

Gabbie Listana (Chair, D6), Téa Lonné Amir (Vice Chair, MYR), Leah Mordehai (Legislative Affairs Officer, D1), Evelyn Conboy (Legislative Affairs Officer, D7), Ayan Azad (Communications and Outreach Officer, MYR), Camryn Marlow (D2), Aanya Shah (D3), Shoon Mon (D4), Azzam Alameri (D5), Harper Fortgang (D8), Maximiliano Trujillo (D9), Symona Elias (D10), Natalie Liu (D11), Jacqueline Moreno (MYR), Ava Oram (MYR), Emily Yang (MYR).

Present: Listana, Lonné Amir, Mordehai, Conboy, Azad, Marlow, Shah, Mon, Alameri, Fortgang, Trujillo, Liu, Moreno, Oram, Yang.

Absent: Elias (excused).

Tardy: None.

The San Francisco Youth Commission met in-person with remote viewing on February 2, 2026, with Chair Listana presiding.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call for Attendance

Chair Listana called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

On the call of the roll:

Roll Call Attendance: 15 present, 1absent.

Leah Mordehai (D1) - present
Camryn Marlow (D2) - present
Aanya Shah (D3) - present
Shoon Mon (D4) - present
Azzam Alameri (D5) - present
Evelyn Conboy (D7) - present
Harper Fortgang (D8) - present
Maximiliano Trujillo (D9) - present
Symona Elias (D10) - absent
Natalie Liu (D11) - present
Téa Lonné Amir (MYR) - present
Jacqueline Moreno (MYR) - present
Ayan Azad (MYR) - present
Ava Oram (MYR) - present
Emily Yang (MYR) - present
Gabbie Listana (D6) - present

A quorum of the Commission was present.

Commissioner Marlow, seconded by Vice Chair Lonné Amir, motioned to excuse Commissioner Elias. No discussion. No public comment. The motion was carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 15 ayes, 1 absent.

Leah Mordehai (D1) - aye
Camryn Marlow (D2) - aye
Aanya Shah (D3) - aye
Shoon Mon (D4) - aye
Azzam Alameri (D5) - aye
Evelyn Conboy (D7) - aye
Harper Fortgang (D8) - aye
Maximiliano Trujillo (D9) - aye
Symona Elias (D10) - absent
Natalie Liu (D11) - aye
Téa Lonné Amir (MYR) - aye
Jacqueline Moreno (MYR) - aye
Ayan Azad (MYR) - aye
Ava Oram (MYR) - aye
Emily Yang (MYR) - aye
Gabbie Listana (D6) - aye

Action: Commissioner Elias' absence excused.

2. Communications (Informational)

Joy Zhan, Acting Director of the SFYC, shared communications and meeting announcements with Commissioners.

3. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Commissioner Marlow, seconded by Commissioner Mon, motioned to approve the February 2, 2026 full Youth Commission meeting agenda. No discussion. No public comment. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 15 ayes, 1 absent.

Leah Mordehai (D1) - aye
Camryn Marlow (D2) - aye
Aanya Shah (D3) - aye
Shoon Mon (D4) - aye
Azzam Alameri (D5) - aye
Evelyn Conboy (D7) - aye
Harper Fortgang (D8) - aye
Maximiliano Trujillo (D9) - aye
Symona Elias (D10) - absent
Natalie Liu (D11) - aye
Téa Lonné Amir (MYR) - aye
Jacqueline Moreno (MYR) - aye
Ayan Azad (MYR) - aye
Ava Oram (MYR) - aye
Emily Yang (MYR) - aye
Gabbie Listana (D6) - aye

Action: Agenda Approved.

4. Approval of Minutes (Action)

- a. January 12, 2026
- b. January 17, 2026
- c. January 18, 2026

Vice Chair Lonné Amir, seconded by Commissioner Fortgang, motioned to approve the full Youth Commission meeting minutes from January 12 2026, January 17, 2026, and January 18, 2026. No discussion. No public comment. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 15 ayes, 1 absent.

Leah Mordehai (D1) - aye
Camryn Marlow (D2) - aye
Aanya Shah (D3) - aye
Shoon Mon (D4) - aye
Azzam Alameri (D5) - aye
Evelyn Conboy (D7) - aye
Harper Fortgang (D8) - aye
Maximiliano Trujillo (D9) - aye
Symona Elias (D10) - absent
Natalie Liu (D11) - aye
Téa Lonné Amir (MYR) - aye
Jacqueline Moreno (MYR) - aye
Ayan Azad (MYR) - aye
Ava Oram (MYR) - aye
Emily Yang (MYR) - aye
Gabbie Listana (D6) - aye

Action: Minutes Approved from January 12 2026, January 17, 2026, and January 18, 2026.

5. General Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Presentation

- a. SFUSD Bonds Program
 - i. Presenter: Kate Levitt, SFUSD Bonds Program Manager

Manager Levitt presented on the SFUSD Bonds Program.

Commissioner Mon asked what's the process of allocating resources to different schools and how they decide what goes where, to which Levitt said resources are allocated based on an assessed state of facilities for each school, geographic diversity, age diversity, and state school bond eligibility, as well as other factors come into play to decide how those funds are spent.

Commissioner Yang asked about the 2023 Facilities Master Plan and what plans are set in place to better use their vacant properties, to which Levitt said they should invite Director Sullivan to explain the district's capital planning efforts, but said that the portfolio analysis and formal processes can make it complicated to develop those properties into something else. Yang asked what

specific ways SFUSD has collected student input on repairs and maintenance for school sites, to which Iberri said they have brainstorming sessions with all grade levels, but continue to build more ways to listen to students through formal outreach and they mentioned their formal outreach for Proposition A school bond campaign that was on the ballot in 2024.

Vice Chair Lonné Amir asked if there are specific investments in the school bonds that address gun violence in any way, to which Levitt said no, and that the school board has not adopted security investment policies besides exterior safety barriers and ensuring doors can be easily locked during safety incidents.

Officer Conboy asked if the school bonds included language around the variety of food offered to students, as well as food restrictions, to which Levitt said the school bond ballot measure didn't specifically state food, but that SFUSD has policies for vegetarian options, food restrictions, and other allergies.

Commissioner Yang asked if the bond program looks at HVAC and bathrooms as part of the things they can fix, to which Levitt said it's very difficult to make large investments into HVAC without modernizing the entire school site since centralized building systems require broad infrastructure changes.

- b. San Francisco Department of Environment Budget Presentation
 - i. Presenters: Sraddha Mehta, Community Partnerships and Engagement Program Manager

Manager Mehta gave a budget presentation for the Environment Department.

Commissioner Fortgang asked what the top two funding priorities are for the department, to which Mehta said they're facing the biggest potential budget cuts for the Climate Action Plan initiatives and the CAP's accountability team, building and transportation electrification, and biodiversity efforts. Fortgang asked what potential impact looks like with these proposed budget cuts, to which Mehta said they anticipate losing \$2.1 million in staffing (8 positions) and non-personnel programming funding that would no longer have staff to support those efforts.

Commissioner Yang asked if any of the youth programming would be affected by these potential budget cuts, to which Mehta said they still plan to fund the youth programs like YouthWorks, but their scope may be reduced to focus only on the curriculum funding sources they have remaining.

Commissioner Fortgang asked what the reasoning behind the very small amount of city funding compared to other departments, to which Mehta said

it's likely because of competing needs from every department, and that those decisions are made for them.

Chair Listana asked about the impound fund and why it is limited to focusing just on zero waste efforts, to which Mehta said the impound fund comes from ratepayer money from trash collection, and that funding is mandated to go back to zero waste education initiatives. Listana asked how it's being decided on which staff members are being cut, to which Mehta said it's being decided based on which staffing positions are funded by the city's general fund.

7. Special Officer Election

- a. 2025 - 2026 Election of Communication and Outreach Officer
 - i. Presenter: Youth Commission Staff

Chair Listana called for a 10-minute recess at 6:26pm, and called the meeting back to order at 6:45pm.

Acting Director Zhan explained the process in which the full Commission would then elect a new Communications and Outreach Officer to fill the vacated role until the end of the 2025/2026 term. Chair Listana opened nominations.

Nominations & Speeches

Commissioner Azad nominated Commissioner Shah for the position of Communications and Outreach Officer, and Shah accepted the nomination.

Chair Listana closed nominations by acclamation. Commissioners Shah spoke on their qualifications and vision for what they would do if elected to the role of Communications and Outreach Officer.

Questions & Answers

No questions.

Vote #1

No discussion. No public comment. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 15 Shah, 1 absent.

Leah Mordehai (D1) - Shah
Camryn Marlow (D2) - Shah

Aanya Shah (D3) - Shah
Shoon Mon (D4) - Shah
Azzam Alameri (D5) - Shah
Evelyn Conboy (D7) - Shah
Harper Fortgang (D8) - Shah
Maximiliano Trujillo (D9) - Shah
Symona Elias (D10) - absent
Natalie Liu (D11) - Shah
Téa Lonné Amir (MYR) - Shah
Jacqueline Moreno (MYR) - Shah
Ayan Azad (MYR) - Shah
Ava Oram (MYR) - Shah
Emily Yang (MYR) - Shah
Gabbie Listana (D6) - Shah

Action: Commissioner Shah has been elected as the 2025/2026 Communications and Outreach Officer.

8. Legislation Referred

- a. **BOS File No. 260035** - Hearing to discuss the cause(s), escalation, response, and impacts of the widespread power outages that began on December 20, 2025, and which have disproportionately affected residents and small businesses in the Richmond, Sunset, Presidio, Civic Center, South of Market (SOMA), and other San Francisco neighborhoods, to understand how a localized substation incident escalated to affect nearly one-third of the City; to assess communication failures and gaps in emergency response protocols; to evaluate economic impacts on small businesses and hardships faced by seniors, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable residents; to discuss and understand the remedies, claims processes and support being provided to affected residents and businesses; and requesting the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to report.
 - i. Presenter: Legislative Affairs Officers

Commissioners included the following questions that they'd like asked during the BOS hearing:

Commissioner Marlow asked how they can hold PG&E accountable in the future. Commissioner Oram asked why certain neighborhoods went out of power when others didn't, and if it was a power grid issue. Commissioner Trujillo asked how this power outage affected public transportation, those in homeless shelters, and other vulnerable populations. Commissioner Conboy asked how this will be prevented from happening in the future. Chair Listana asked what PG&E is doing

to help financially support those who were affected negatively by the power outage.

Commissioner Mon, seconded by Officer Shah, motioned to positively recommend BOS File No. 260035, with questions attached. No discussion. No public comment. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Roll Call Vote: 15 ayes, 1 absent.

Leah Mordehai (D1) - aye
Camryn Marlow (D2) - aye
Aanya Shah (D3) - aye
Shoon Mon (D4) - aye
Azzam Alameri (D5) - aye
Evelyn Conboy (D7) - aye
Harper Fortgang (D8) - aye
Maximiliano Trujillo (D9) - aye
Symona Elias (D10) - absent
Natalie Liu (D11) - aye
Téa Lonné Amir (MYR) - aye
Jacqueline Moreno (MYR) - aye
Ayan Azad (MYR) - aye
Ava Oram (MYR) - aye
Emily Yang (MYR) - aye
Gabbie Listana (D6) - aye

Action: BOS File No. 260035 positively recommended with questions attached.

9. Commission Business

- a. **RESOLUTION NO. 2526-AL-10 - [Affirming San Francisco's Commitment to Protecting Public Libraries from Federal Book Ban]** - Resolution affirming the City and County of San Francisco's commitment to intellectual freedom opposing federally imposed book bans in public libraries and urging the San Francisco Public Library to continue protections to safeguard access to diverse and inclusive materials within the San Francisco Public Library system. (First Reading)

- i. Sponsor: Mordehai

Commissioners Mordehai, Mon, Lonne Amir, Listana, and Trujillo read the resolution's language into the record. Officer Shah and Commissioner Yang both spoke in support of the resolution. Commissioner Yang recommended

they look into SFUSD's use of diverse and banned books in other parts of the nation. Officer Mordehai raised an error in the second clause about the DOD.

- b. **RESOLUTION NO. 2526-AL-12 - [Narcan Accessibility in SFUSD Schools]** - Resolution urging the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and SFUSD to implement a wider distribution of Narcan in schools for further safety, education, and awareness. (First Reading)
 - i. Sponsor: Oram

Commissioner Oram read the resolution language into the record.

- c. **Approving Commissioner Azzam Alameri's Committee Assignment**
 - i. Presenter: Youth Commission Staff

Officer Azad, seconded by Commissioner Oram, motioned to approve Commissioner Alameri to the YC's Housing, Recreation, and Transit Committee. No discussion. No public comment. The motion carried by the following voice vote:

Voice Vote: 15 ayes, 1 absent.

Leah Mordehai (D1) - aye
Camryn Marlow (D2) - aye
Aanya Shah (D3) - aye
Shoon Mon (D4) - aye
Azzam Alameri (D5) - aye
Evelyn Conboy (D7) - aye
Harper Fortgang (D8) - aye
Maximiliano Trujillo (D9) - aye
Symona Elias (D10) - absent
Natalie Liu (D11) - aye
Téa Lonné Amir (MYR) - aye
Jacqueline Moreno (MYR) - aye
Ayan Azad (MYR) - aye
Ava Oram (MYR) - aye
Emily Yang (MYR) - aye
Gabbie Listana (D6) - aye

Action: Commissioner Alameri has been approved to serve on the Housing, Recreation, and Transit Committee.

10. Committee Reports (Informational)

- a. Executive Committee

i. Legislative Affairs Officers

Officer Mordehai said she's participating in an activity to invite a group of youth to have a tour of City Hall and attend a Youth Commission meeting in the future. Officer Conboy also gave some updates.

ii. Communication and Outreach Officers

Officer Azad said he's excited to work with newly-elected Officer Shah, and that they'll be working on introduction posts with the new survey answers they've received.

iii. General Committee Updates

Vice Chair Lonnie Amir said congrats to the few commissioners have perfect attendance, she said there's a budget meeting coming up soon but there's no official date yet, and reminded everyone to finish their first drafts by Friday so the Officers can read through each of them and give feedback by the Executive Committee meeting next Wednesday.

b. Transformative Justice Committee

Commissioner Trujillo said they supported Officer Mordehai's resolution, worked on their BPPs, and will continue to do outreach with their community organizations.

c. Housing, Recreation, and Transit Committee

Commissioner Oram said they worked on BPPs at their last meeting and they're ready to lock in and finish them.

d. Civic Engagement and Education Committee

Commissioner Marlow said their committee is also finishing their BPPs.

11. Roll Call, Introductions, and Announcements (Informational)

Roll call for introduction of resolutions, requests for hearings, letters of inquiry, reports on their Commission-related activities, and announcements.

- a. Presenters: Commissioner Conboy, Commissioner Shah, Commissioner Alameri, Commissioner Trujillo, Commissioner Fortgang, Commissioner Lonnie Amir, Commissioner Mon, Commissioner Mordehai, Commissioner Moreno.

Commissioners gave updates and announcements.

b. Other Legislative Introductions and Announcements

Chair Listana discussed the tragedy around the San Francisco youth who was shot and killed last week in Western Addition.

12. Staff Report (Informational)

Acting Director Zhan told Commissioners to sign up for a shift for the Lunar New Year tabling opportunity this upcoming Saturday, and she said that the second February full Youth Commission meeting would be on Wednesday, February 25th, 5-9pm.

Specialist Ochoa was absent, but will send updates via email.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business on the agenda, the full Youth Commission adjourned at 7:54pm.

Any materials distributed to the members of the Youth Commission within 72 hours of the meeting or after the agenda packet has been delivered to the members are available for inspection—along with minutes of previous Youth Commission meetings and all supplementary information—at the Youth Commission office during regular office hours (10am to 6pm, Monday—Friday). The Youth Commission office is at:

City Hall, Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 554-6446, Fax: (415) 554-6140
Email: youthcom@sfgov.org Website: <http://www.sfgov.org/yc>

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE, please contact:

Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Phone: (415) 554-7724, Fax: (415) 554-5784
Email: sotf@sfgov.org

Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, at the San Francisco Public Library, and on the City's website at <http://www.sfgov.org>.

The nearest accessible BART station is Civic Center (Market/Hyde Streets). Accessible MUNI Metro lines are the F, J, K, L, M, N, T (exit at Civic Center for Van Ness Stations). MUNI bus lines also serving the area are the 5, 5R, 6, 7, 9, 9R, 19, 21, and 49. For more information about MUNI accessible services, call (415) 701-4485.

The ringing and use of cell phones, pagers, and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. The Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic device.

In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate persons with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity, or related disabilities, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City accommodate these individuals.

To obtain a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services to participate in the meeting, please contact the Youth Commission [phone: 415-554-6464 email: youthcom@sfgov.org] at least 48 hours before the meeting, except for Monday meetings, for which the deadline is 4:00 p.m. the previous Friday. Full Commission Meetings are held in Room 416 at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place in San Francisco. City Hall is accessible to persons using wheelchairs and other assistive mobility devices. Ramps are available at the Grove, Van Ness and McAllister entrances.

LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS: Language services are available in Spanish, Chinese and Filipino for requests made at least two (2) business days in advance of the meeting, to help ensure availability. For more information or to request services, contact bos@sfgov.org or call (415) 554-5184.

傳譯服務: 所有常規及特別市參事會會議和常務委員會會議將提供西班牙文, 中文以及菲律賓文的傳譯服務, 但必須在會議前最少兩 (2) 個工作日作出請求, 以確保能獲取到傳譯服務。將因應請求提供交替傳譯服務, 以便公眾向有關政府機構發表意見。如需更多資訊或請求有關服務, 請發電郵至 bos@sfgov.org 或致電 (415) 554-5184 聯絡我們。

Intérpretes de idiomas: Para asegurar la disponibilidad de los servicios de interpretación en chino, filipino y español, presente su petición por lo menos con dos (2) días hábiles de antelación previo a la reunión. Para más información o para solicitar los servicios, envíe su mensaje a bos@sfgov.org o llame al (415) 554-5184.

TAGA SALIN-WIKA: Ipaabot sa amin ang mga kahilingan sa pag salin-wika sa Kastila, Tsino at Pilipino ng hindi bababa sa dalawang araw bago ang pulong. Makakatulong ito upang tiyakin na ang mga serbisyo ay nakalaan at nakahanda. Para sa dagdag kaalaman o para humiling ng serbisyo, maki pagugnayan po sa bos@sfgov.org o tumawag sa (415) 554-5184.



Youth Commission 2026/2027 Application Timeline: 3/30/2026 - 4/30/2026

INTRODUCTION

The San Francisco Youth Commission is an advisory commission composed of 17 Youth Commissioners between the ages of 12 and 23 years old, and who are residents of the City & County of San Francisco. The Youth Commission serves as the official youth voice in City Hall and advises both the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on budget and policy policies that affect youth. You can read more about the City Charter and the duties and responsibilities of Commissioners [here](#).

Throughout the year-long term, Commissioners are offered policy and budget advocacy training, leadership development skills, and one-on-one support as they identify the unmet needs of young people, engage in community building, and create lasting change in their communities. Commissioners will work together on issues such as housing, civic engagement, social justice, recreation, education, public transportation, climate change, immigration, and empowering youth voices citywide.

We are excited to announce the official 2026/27 YC Application for youth to apply to serve on the Youth Commission for the 2026/2027 term. We are eager to recruit young people who are eager to understand the needs of San Francisco's communities and youth, who have experience with youth programs or leadership, and those who seek to hold our leaders in City Hall accountable. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply **by Thursday, April 30th, 2026 at 11:59pm. To be eligible to serve on the San Francisco Youth Commission, you must be between the ages of 12 and 23 years old (by 9/6/2026), and must be a resident of the City and County of San Francisco.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you'd like to learn more about the Youth Commission and our application process, please be sure to attend our upcoming information sessions and community application walkthrough in April 2026. **You can RSVP to these events using this link:** bit.ly/sfyc2627rsvp

- **Virtual Information Session**
 - Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 (5:30pm-7pm)
 - Location: Zoom (bit.ly/yc2627virtual)
- **City Hall Information Session**
 - Date/Time: Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 (4:30pm-6pm)
 - Location: City Hall, Room 201
- **Community Application Walkthrough**
 - Date/Time: Saturday, April 18th, 2026 (11am-1pm)
 - Location: Paris Cafe (142 McAllister St)

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

When filling out this application, you will be asked to respond to multiple **essay questions**. You may want to think about and prepare your essay responses (on a separate document) before continuing

this application. Applicants are **not allowed** to use any type of AI-generated program to write these essays. After you've submitted your application, you'll be asked to submit **one optional** letter of recommendation.

For New Youth Commissioners (200 - 400 words each question):

1. What made you decide to apply to be a Youth Commissioner, and what does public service mean to you?
2. What is an accomplishment, event, or realization that changed your perspective or sparked personal growth and understanding?
3. As a Youth Commissioner, your main responsibility is to advise the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on the issues that young people face. If appointed, which issues would be your top priority to address?
4. How can you help the Youth Commission improve outreach to different communities across San Francisco?
5. How do you practice leadership? Do you have any leadership experience (i.e. within a club at school, community organization, work, or family)?
6. Is there any additional information you would like to share with us about yourself?*

For Returning Youth Commissioners (200 - 400 words each question):

1. How would you describe your experience on the Youth Commission, and what are you most proud of doing?
2. What was your most challenging experience as a Youth Commissioner, and what were there any lessons you learned?
3. What were your takeaways from your work in your committee (CEEC/EXEC/HRT/TJ), and the Budget and Policy Priorities process? Do you have any suggestions for next year?
4. If reappointed, are you interested in serving in a leadership position on your committee or on the full Commission?
5. If reappointed, what are your goals for the 2024/2025 YC term?
6. Is there any additional information you would like to share with us about yourself?*

You can edit your responses after you submit.

Letter of Recommendations can come from your teacher, program manager, employer, church leader, mentor, coworker and/or someone who is able to accurately speak to your drive, skills, and leadership experience. Please make submissions by **Thursday, April 30th, 2026, at 11:59pm.**

Personal Information

* Required

Full Name*

Personal Email* (do not put your SFUSD email)

Pronouns:

Residential Address*

Zip Code*

Supervisorial District (look up here: <http://propertymap.sfplanning.org/>)*

- District 1 - Supervisor Connie Chan
- District 2 - Supervisor Stephen Sherrill
- District 3 - Supervisor Danny Sauter
- District 4 - Supervisor Alan Wong
- District 5 - Supervisor Bilal Mahmood
- District 6 - Supervisor Matt Dorsey
- District 7 - Supervisor Myrna Melgar
- District 8 - Supervisor Rafael Mandelman
- District 9 - Supervisor Jackie Fielder
- District 10 - Supervisor Shamann Walton
- District 11 - Supervisor Chyanne Chen

Phone Number*

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)*

If you are or will be in school, what school will you be attending in the Fall of 2026? *

Is this school a public school or private school?*

- Public school (i.e. SFUSD)
- Private school (i.e. charter, religious)
- Unsure
- I won't be in school
- Other

Please list other schools you have attended (within the state of CA): *

Will you be between the ages of 12 and 23 years old by September 6, 2026, and a resident of San Francisco? *If you do not meet the age or residency requirement, you are unfortunately ineligible to apply to serve on the San Francisco Youth Commission.*

- Yes, I am between the ages of 12 and 23 years old, and a San Francisco resident.
- No, I am not between the ages of 12 and 23 years old, AND/OR I am not a San Francisco resident.

The Youth Commission requires a minimum commitment of at least 15 - 20 hours a month. In order to truly make an impact, it is often necessary to go beyond that minimum commitment. Are you willing to make this a top priority and understand that you might have to let go of other priorities to follow through on your responsibilities as a commissioner? *

- Yes
- No

PLEASE NOTE: In addition to the 15-20 hour time commitment, you are required to (1) attend a 2-3 day orientation training retreat on August 7th-9th OR 14th-16th, 2026, (2) attend the swearing-in ceremony during the weeks of September 1st-18th, (3) attend the inaugural meeting on September 21st, and (4) attend all of the full two-day "Mid-Year" Training Retreat on January 16th-17th, 2027.

- Yes, I can commit to attending these dates.
- No, I cannot commit to attending these dates.

How did you learn about the Youth Commission? *

- School
- Friend
- Parent/Adult
- Elected Official
- Youth Commission
- Social Media
- Community Event
- Information Session
- Other: _____

Demographic Information

Please fill out the following demographic information. Most of these questions are optional, and you are not required to fill out questions that you're not comfortable stating. This information will be confidential with City Hall Staff.

Racial Identity:

- Asian
- Black / African-American
- Latiné / Hispanic
- Multiracial / Bi-racial
- Native American / Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
- White
- Prefer not to say
- Other: _____

Ethnicity: _____

Home Language: Check the box corresponding to the main language(s) spoken at your home. *

- English
- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Filipino/Tagalog
- Japanese
- Khmer/Cambodian
- Korean
- Mandarin/Putonghua
- Russian
- Spanish
- Taishanese
- Vietnamese
- Other: _____

Sexual Orientation:

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual / Straight
- Lesbian
- Queer
- Prefer not to say
- Other: _____

Gender:

- 2Spirit
- Female
- Male
- Nonbinary
- Transgender
- Prefer not to say
- Other: _____

Accessibility Needs:

Our application process provides access to all and is open to people of all abilities. Will you need reasonable accommodations or support to participate? For example, modified tasks, specialized equipment, interpreter services. This information will help us best support you. We will contact you to discuss this if needed.

Please specify what accessibility needs you have to make it possible for you to apply:

Will you be answering the questions via video submission? If you plan on answering the questions via video submission, please email the video in mp4 format to youthcom@sfgov.org by **Thursday, April 30th at 11:59pm.**

- No, I plan on only submitting this application via Google Form.
- Yes, I plan on submitting my application via video submission.

Are you a **new applicant** to the Youth Commission, or are you a **returning Youth Commissioner** and are re-applying for another term?

- I'm a New Applicant
- I'm a Returning Commissioner

New Applicant Essay Questions (Required for New Applicants)

First off, we are so grateful for your willingness to apply. As you know, the appointing prerogative is on the hands of the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. Please answer all the following questions. Please note that there is a 200-400 word requirement for each question. It might be helpful to write this down or take a screenshot. Thank you!

1. What made you decide to apply to be a Youth Commissioner, and what does public service mean to you?
2. What is an accomplishment, event, or realization that changed your perspective or sparked personal growth and understanding?
3. As a Youth Commissioner, your main responsibility is to advise the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on the issues that young people face. If appointed, which issues would be your top priority to address?
4. How can you help the Youth Commission improve outreach to different communities across San Francisco?
5. How do you practice leadership? Do you have any leadership experience (i.e. within a club at school, community organization, work, or family)?
6. Is there any additional information you would like to share with us about yourself?*

Returning Commissioners Only (Required for Returners)

First off, we are so grateful for your willingness to reapply. As you know, the appointing prerogative is on the hands of the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. Please answer all the questions. There is a 200-400 word limit to each question. It might be helpful to write this down or take a screenshot. Thank you!

1. How would you describe your experience on the Youth Commission, and what are you most proud of doing?
2. What was your most challenging experience as a Youth Commissioner, and what were there any lessons you learned?
3. What were your takeaways from your work in your committee (CEEC/EXEC/HRT/TJ), and the Budget and Policy Priorities process? Do you have any suggestions for next year?
4. If reappointed, are you interested in serving in a leadership position on your committee or on the full Commission?
5. If reappointed, what are your goals for the 2024/2025 YC term?
6. Is there any additional information you would like to share with us about yourself?*

Letter of Recommendation

Please provide a letter of recommendation--a few paragraphs are sufficient--from someone not in your family. Any of the following may qualify: a teacher, counselor, probation officer, program manager, employer, church leader, mentor, coworker and/or someone who is able to accurately speak

to your skills and leadership experience. This is optional and letters should be submitted separately and addressed to Youth Commission Staff.

Those submitting a letter of recommendation can email the Youth Commission directly at; Youthcom@sfgov.org; PDF format only. Once submitted, the recommender will receive an email confirming that it has been received.

Please make submissions by **Thursday, April 30th, 2026 at 11:59pm.**

Thank You!

Depending on your written responses, you may or may not be invited for an interview with Youth Commission staff and youth commissioners via email. Please make sure your email address is accurate, because this is how we will contact you. Exact dates and times will be announced after you turn in your application.

The Youth Commission makes recommendations of who to appoint to the commission to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office. Ultimately, the members of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor choose who to appoint to the Youth Commission.

For more information: <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/>

Questions or Concerns?

Contact us at:

San Francisco Youth Commission City Hall, Room 345
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, Ca 94102 Phone: (415) 554-6446
Fax: (415) 554.6140
Email: youthcom@sfgov.org

If you'd like to connect with the current Commissioners, you can find their contact info here: <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/commissioners>

2026/27 Youth Commission Application

INTRODUCTION

The San Francisco Youth Commission is an advisory commission composed of 17 Youth Commissioners between the ages of 12 and 23 years old, and who are residents of the City & County of San Francisco. The Youth Commission serves as the official youth voice in City Hall and advises both the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on budget and policy policies that affect youth. You can read more about the City Charter and the duties and responsibilities of Commissioners [here](#).

Throughout the year-long term, Commissioners are offered policy and budget advocacy training, leadership development skills, and one-on-one support as they identify the unmet needs of young people, engage in community building, and create lasting change in their communities. Commissioners will work together on issues such as housing, civic engagement, social justice, recreation, education, public transportation, climate change, immigration, and empowering youth voices citywide.

We are excited to announce the official 2026/27 YC Application for youth to apply to serve on the Youth Commission for the 2026/2027 term. We are eager to recruit young people who are eager to understand the needs of San Francisco's communities and youth, who have experience with youth programs or leadership, and those who seek to hold our leaders in City Hall accountable. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply **by Thursday, April 30th, 2026 at 11:59pm. To be eligible to serve on the San Francisco Youth Commission, you must be between the ages of 12 and 23 years old (by 9/6/2026), and must be a resident of the City and County of San Francisco.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you'd like to learn more about the Youth Commission and our application process, please be sure to attend our upcoming information sessions and community application walkthrough in April 2026. **You can RSVP to these events using this link:**

bit.ly/sfyc2627rsvp

- **Virtual Information Session**
 - Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 (5:30pm-7pm)
 - Location: Zoom (bit.ly/yc2627virtual)
- **City Hall Information Session**
 - Date/Time: Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 (4:30pm-6pm)
 - Location: City Hall, Room 201
- **Community Application Walkthrough**

- Date/Time: Saturday, April 18th, 2026 (11am-1pm)
- Location: Paris Cafe (142 McAllister St)

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

When filling out this application, you will be asked to respond to multiple **essay questions**. You may want to think about and prepare your essay responses (on a separate document) before continuing this application. You may also submit **one optional** letter of recommendation by emailing a PDF to joshua.rudy.ochoa@sfgov.org.

For New Youth Commissioners (200 - 400 words each question):

1. What made you decide to apply to be a Youth Commissioner, and what does public service mean to you?
2. What is an accomplishment, event, or realization that changed your perspective or sparked personal growth and understanding?
3. As a Youth Commissioner, your main responsibility is to advise the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on the issues that young people face. If appointed, which issues would be your top priority to address?
4. How can you help the Youth Commission do better outreach to different communities across San Francisco?
5. How do you practice leadership? Do you have any leadership experience (i.e. within a club at school, community organization, work, or family)?
6. Is there any additional information you would like to share with us about yourself?

For Returning Youth Commissioners (200 - 400 words each question):

1. How would you describe your experience on the Youth Commission, and what are you most proud of doing?
2. What was your most challenging experience as a Youth Commissioner, and what were there any lessons you learned?
3. What were your takeaways from your work in your committee (CEEC/EXEC/HRT/TJ), and the Budget and Policy Priorities process? Do you have any suggestions for next year?
4. If reappointed, are you interested in serving in a leadership position on your committee or on the full Commission?
5. If reappointed, what are your goals for the 2024/2025 YC term?
6. Is there any additional information you would like to share with us about yourself?

You can edit your responses after you submit.

Letter of Recommendations can come from your teacher, program manager, employer, church leader, mentor, coworker and/or someone who is able to accurately speak to your

passion, skills, and leadership experience. You should ask your letter writers for a Letter of Recommendation at least 2-4 weeks before they are required.

Please make submissions by **Thursday, April 30th, 2026 @ 11:59pm.**

** Indicates required question*

1. Email *

Personal Information Questions

Please fill out all of the personal information questions below.

2. Full Name *

3. Personal Email *

Please don't put your SFUSD email.

4. Pronouns

Check all that apply.

she/her

he/him

they/them

Other: _____

5. Residential Address *

6. Zip Code *

7. Supervisorial District (look up here: <http://propertymap.sfplanning.org/>) *

Mark only one oval.

- District 1 - Supervisor Connie Chan
- District 2 - Supervisor Stephen Sherrill
- District 3 - Supervisor Danny Sauter
- District 4 - Supervisor Alan Wong
- District 5 - Supervisor Bilal Mahmood
- District 6 - Supervisor Matt Dorsey
- District 7 - Supervisor Myrna Melgar
- District 8 - Supervisor Rafael Mandelman
- District 9 - Supervisor Jackie Fielder
- District 10 - Supervisor Shamann Walton
- District 11 - Supervisor Chyanne Chen

8. Phone Number *

9. Date of Birth *

Example: January 7, 2019

10. **If you are or will be in school, what school will you be attending in the Fall of 2026?** *

11. **Is this school a public school or private school?** *

Mark only one oval.

- Public school (i.e. SFUSD)
- Private school (i.e. charter, religious)
- Unsure
- I won't be in school
- Other:

12. **Please list other schools you have attended (within the state of CA):** *

13. **Will you be between the ages of 12 and 23 years old by September 6, 2026, and a resident of San Francisco?** *

If you do not meet the age or residency requirement, you are unfortunately ineligible to apply to serve on the San Francisco Youth Commission.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, I am between the ages of 12 and 23 years old, and a San Francisco resident.
- No, I am not between the ages of 12 and 23 years old, AND/OR I am not a San Francisco resident.

14. The Youth Commission **requires a minimum commitment of at least 15 - 20 hours a month**. In order to truly make an impact, it is often necessary to go beyond that minimum commitment. Are you willing to make this a top priority and understand that you might have to let go of other priorities to follow through on your responsibilities as a commissioner? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, the YC will be a top priority.
- No, I cannot make YC a top priority.

15. **PLEASE NOTE:** In addition to the 15-20 hour time commitment, you are required to *
(1) attend a 2-3 day orientation training retreat on **August 7th-9th OR 14th-16th**,
(2) attend the swearing-in ceremony during the weeks of **September 1st-18th**, (3)
attend the inaugural meeting on **September 21st**, and (4) attend all of the full two-
day "Mid-Year" Training Retreat on **January 16th-17th, 2027**.

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, I can commit to attending these dates.
- No, I cannot commit to attending these dates.

16. **How did you learn about the Youth Commission?** *

Check all that apply.

- School
- Friend
- Parent/Adult
- Elected Official
- Youth Commission
- Social Media
- Community Event
- Info Session
- Other: _____

Demographic Information

Please fill out the following demographic information. Most of these questions are optional, and you are not required to fill out questions that you're not comfortable stating. This information will be confidential with City Hall Staff.

17. Racial Identity *

Check all that apply.

- Asian
- Black / African American
- Latiné / Hispanic
- Multiracial / Bi-racial
- Native American / Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander
- White
- Prefer not to say
- Other: _____

18. Ethnicity

19. **Home Language**

*

Check the box corresponding to the main languages spoken at your home.

Check all that apply.

- English
- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Filipino/Tagalog
- Japanese
- Khmer/Cambodian
- Korean
- Mandarin/Putonghua
- Russian
- Spanish
- Taishanese
- Vietnamese
- Other: _____

20. **Sexual Orientation**

Check all that apply.

- Asexual
- Bisexual
- Gay
- Heterosexual / Straight
- Lesbian
- Queer
- Prefer not to say
- Other: _____

21. **Gender Identity**

Check all that apply.

- 2Spirit
- Female
- Male
- Nonbinary
- Transgender
- Prefer not to say
- Other: _____

22. **Please submit a headshot photograph of yourself (10MB max file size; see example below):**

*

Files submitted:

23. **Accessibility Needs:**

Our application process provides access to all and is open to people of all abilities. Will you need reasonable accommodations or support to participate? For example, modified tasks, specialized equipment, interpreter services. This information will help us best support you. We will contact you to discuss this if needed.

Please specify what accessibility needs you have for us to make it possible for you to apply:

24. Will you be answering the questions via video submission? If you plan on answering the questions via video submission, please email the video in mp4 format to youthcom@sfgov.org by **Thursday, April 30th at 11:59pm.** *

Mark only one oval.

- No, I plan on only submitting this application via Google Form.
- Yes, I plan on submitting my application via video submission.

25. Are you a **new applicant** to the Youth Commission, or are you a **returning Youth Commissioner** and are re-applying for another term? *

Mark only one oval.

- I'm a New Applicant *Skip to question 26*
- I'm a Returning Commissioner *Skip to question 32*

Skip to question 17

New Application Essay Questions

First off, we are so grateful for your willingness to apply. As you know, the appointing prerogative is on the hands of the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. Please answer all the following questions. Please note that there is a 200-400 word requirement for each question. It might be helpful to write this down or take a screenshot. Thank you!

26. **(1) What made you decide to apply to be a Youth Commissioner, and what does public service mean to you?**

27. **(2) What personal experience or observation has changed your perspective in a way that made you think about the world differently?**

28. **(3) As a Youth Commissioner, your main responsibility is to advise the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on the issues that young people face. If appointed, which issues would be your top priority to address?**

29. **(4) How can you help the Youth Commission do better outreach to different communities across San Francisco?**

30. **(5) How do you practice leadership? Do you have any leadership experience (i.e. within a club at school, community organization, work, or family)?**

31. **(6) Is there any additional information you would like to share with us about yourself? (no word minimum)**

Skip to section 5 (Submit Your Application)

Returning Commissioner Essay Questions

First off, we are so grateful for your willingness to reapply. As you know, the appointing prerogative is on the hands of the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. Please answer all the questions. There is a 200-400 word requirement for each question. It might be helpful to write this down or take a screenshot. Thank you!

32. **(1) How would you describe your experience on the Youth Commission, and what are you most proud of doing?**

33. **(2) What was your most challenging experience as a Youth Commissioner, and what were there any lessons you learned?**

34. **(3) What were your takeaways from your work in your committee (CEEC/EXEC/HRT/TJ), and the Budget and Policy Priorities process? Do you have any suggestions for next year?**

35. **(4) If reappointed, are you interested in serving in a leadership position on your committee or on the full Commission?**

36. **(5) If reappointed, what are your goals for the 2026/2027 YC term?**

37. **(6) Is there any additional information you would like to share with us about yourself? (no word minimum)**

Skip to section 5 (Submit Your Application)

Submit Your Application

Please select "Submit" at the bottom of this page to submit your application!

If you have any Letters of Recommendation (which are optional), you can email them to **joshua.rudy.choa@sfgov.org** by Thursday, April 30th at 11:59pm.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

RSVP for Youth Commission Application & Recruitment Events for 2026/27

Please RSVP for the upcoming events and activities for the 2026/27 San Francisco Youth Commission's recruitment and application process! We will be hosting 3 separate events to recruit San Francisco youth ages 12 to 23, to apply to serve on the San Francisco Youth Commission from September 2026 to July 2027.

If you're looking for the 2026/2027 Youth Commission Application, you can find that Google Form at this link: bit.ly/sfyc2627.

Virtual Information Session on Zoom

- Date & Time: **Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 @ 5:30pm-7pm**
- Location: **Virtual via Zoom (bit.ly/sfyc2627virtual)**
- This information session will be hosting online for youth to learn about the history of the Youth Commission, what Youth Commissioners do, our application process, and a Q&A session. You must RSVP for this virtual information session to ensure the Zoom space is safe & secure.

City Hall Information Session

- Date & Time: **Wednesday, April 14th, 2026 @ 4:30pm-6pm**
- Location: **City Hall, Room 201 (1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl, San Francisco, CA 94102)**
- This information session will be hosted in-person at City Hall for youth to learn about the history of the Youth Commission, what Youth Commissioners do, our application process, and a Q&A session. There will be light refreshments, and parents or guardians are welcome to join!

Community Application Walkthrough

- Date & Time: **Saturday, April 18th, 2026 @ 11am-1pm**
- Location: **Paris Cafe (142 McAllister St)**
- This application walkthrough event is for any youth who may want more 1:1 assistance with staff on their understanding of the Youth Commission and our application process, and in a community space to have a more flexible conversation. Any and all are welcome to attend.

Please RSVP with this form so we can know how many people to expect for these activities. If you have any questions or clarifications, please feel free to reach out to Youth Commission staff at joshua.rudy.ochoa@sfgov.org.

* Indicates required question

1. **Eligibility for YC Application**

*

Are you a youth between the ages of 12 and 23 years old, and are you a resident of the City & County of San Francisco?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

2. **Full Name** *

3. **Email Address**

*

Please do not use an SFUSD email.

4. **Please select the one that applies to you the most.** *

Check all that apply.

Youth (12-23 years old)

Parent

Adult

Organization Staff

Community Member

Other: _____

5. Please RSVP for at least one of our upcoming Youth Commission events this recruitment cycle.

*

Check all that apply.

- Virtual Info Session - April 7th (5:30pm-7pm) on Zoom
- City Hall Info Session - April 14th (4:30pm-6pm) at City Hall
- Community Application Walkthrough - April 18th (11am-1pm) at Paris Cafe

6. *Please comment any questions you want us to answer, instructions on the application, or have comments and Youth Commission staff will be sure to respond.*

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms



San Francisco Youth Commission 2026-2027 Application Timeline

This is the proposed timeline for conducting the 2026-2027 Youth Commission application recruitment process to appoint all 17 Youth Commissioners for the next term. YC Staff pledge to honor this timeline as much as possible to ensure a streamlined appointment process, but the schedule may change slightly to respond to extenuating circumstances.

Friday, February 13, 2026

Application Process sent to Commissioners to Review

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Application Process Approval at Full Youth Commission

Monday, March 2, 2026

2026/27 Application Recruitment Memo sent to BOS & MYR

Monday, March 30, 2026

2026/27 Application Opens
Reminder Email Sent to BOS & MYR

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Virtual Information Session via Zoom (5:30pm-7pm)

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

City Hall Information Session (4:30pm-6pm)

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Community Application Workshop (11am-1pm)

Thursday, April 30, 2026

2026/27 Application Closes at 11:59pm

Monday, May 4, 2026

YC Staff forwards Applications to BOS for Finalist Selection

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

BOS forwards 3-5 Finalists to YC Staff (extendable to 5/22)

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

YC Staff begin Interviewing BOS Finalists

Friday, June 26, 2026

YC Staff forward BOS Appointment Recommendations

Friday, July 10, 2026

BOS Confirms Appointments to YC Staff (extendable to 7/13)

YC Staff Send MYR Appointment Recommendations

Friday, July 24, 2026

MYR Confirms Appointments to YC Staff (extendable to 7/27)

Saturday, August 1, 2026

YC Staff begin Onboarding New Commissioners

August 7-9 OR August 14-16, 2026

Fall Retreat & Orientation

First Two Weeks of September (9/1-9/18)

Inaugural Swearing-In of 2026/27 Youth Commission

Monday, September 21, 2026

First 2026/27 Full Youth Commission Meeting

January 16-17, 2027

Mid-Year Winter Retreat

ADDRESS HOUSING IN SAN FRANCISCO

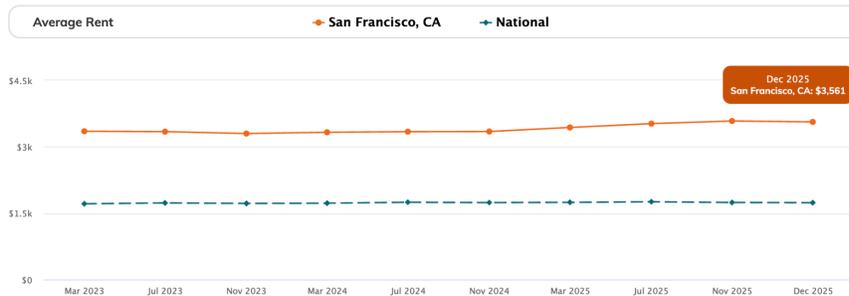
The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to accelerate the development of housing that supports low-income individuals, families, and transitional-aged youth (TAY) through incentives to build family housing, equitable location of new units, and use of State Housing Accountability laws.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

Background

Only 13% of San Francisco’s population is under 18 because families cannot afford to live in the City. With a median home price of \$1.39 million, San Francisco is the second-most expensive city to live in the United States.¹ For a majority of residents, home ownership is unattainable as market-rate prices continue to increase and the relative supply of housing remains roughly the same. Unable to own homes, many San Franciscans are forced to pay extremely high-priced rent or are eventually pushed out of the city altogether, finding homes in neighboring Bay Area cities.

San Francisco, CA rent trends



In San Francisco, 65% of residents are renters. The median rent price for a one-bedroom apartment is \$3,561.² Notably, the cheapest rent in San Francisco is 88% higher than the national average. Currently, to afford rent while staying within the

30% affordability guideline, meaning an individual should spend no more than 30% of their gross monthly income on housing expenses, one must make at least \$113,000. Lack of affordability results in displacement, and in certain cases, can push individuals and families to homelessness. According to the San Francisco 2024 Youth Homelessness Point-In-Time Count, there are a total of 8,323 homeless individuals in San Francisco. Many families are at risk of becoming homeless because of the rising costs of living in the city, especially because 2-3 bedroom units can cost over \$4,500 per month. Addressing this housing crisis requires a multifaceted approach. This includes looking at past historical context to learn from previous challenges, as well as examining current policies that have a tangible effect on the housing crisis today.

Housing Shortage & Family Zoning Plan

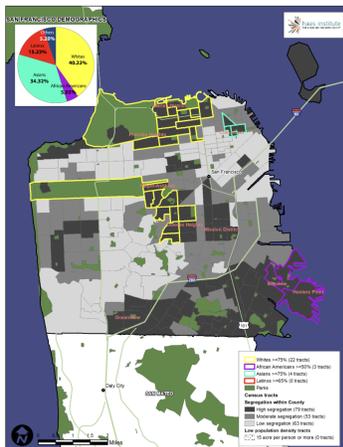
¹ <https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/san-francisco-most-expensive-city-bay-area-again-21029505.php>

² <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/bay-area-rent-prices-apartments-2/3939599/>

San Francisco must plan for 82,069 new housing units by 2031 to continue receiving state funding and avoid court-ordered fines.³ Expanding housing will contribute to the growth of San Francisco by protecting and drawing families to the City with lower housing costs, adding diversity to neighborhoods, revitalizing small businesses, and increasing transit ridership. With the passage of the Family Zoning Plan in December 2025, a plethora of opportunities for housing development and construction are now available. Although the plan creates capacity for housing, the City must offer incentives to build units and meet the goal of 82,069 units. San Francisco must take immediate action to reverse the effects of the severe housing shortage, especially considering the extensive permitting processes and construction costs.

More than 44,000 entitled housing units remain unbuilt due to the expensive construction costs in San Francisco.⁴ In 2022, California Senate Bill 432 eliminated the discretionary-review phase of the housing appeals process, and similar laws have made it increasingly easier to build fourplexes and tall buildings. In San Francisco, as of 2025, zero fourplexes have been completed since its passage. Only 11 applications have been submitted: 1 was canceled, 2 were stalled, 6 are under review, and 1 was approved but later appealed under the California Environmental Quality Act.⁵ Between San Francisco’s permitting process and the exceedingly popular NIMBY culture, creating effective and necessary housing has become increasingly difficult. Currently, every additional year in permitting increases per-unit costs, making family units the first to be cut from affordable housing project plans.⁶ These housing construction and execution delays continue to contribute to the growing housing shortage in San Francisco and will result in increased inaffordability and displacement of residents.

San Francisco faces a severe shortage of accessible family housing due to a decade-long production shortfall of roughly 700,000 units, resulting in high costs that price out families and



encourage displacement within communities. About 85% of the city is zoned primarily for single-family homes, prohibiting the construction and development of denser, more affordable family housing in most neighborhoods. San Francisco’s restrictive single-family zoning reinforces geographic, racial, and economic discrimination. In the Bay Area, white residents occupy 64% of single-family zoned areas and Asian residents 23%, while Black and Hispanic residents represent only 10%.⁷ Along with San Francisco’s zoning plan aiming to address the severe housing shortage, while complying with city zoning plan deadlines to avoid penalties or any unnecessary fees, San Francisco must speed

³ <https://sfplanning.org/sites/default/files/documents/citywide/housing-choice/RHNA-Primer.pdf>

⁴ <https://sfstandard.com/2025/06/08/sanfrancisco-housing-wars/>

⁵ <https://www.sfchronicle.com/sf/article/fourplex-legislation-housing-20257151.php>

⁶ <https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/increasing-the-housing-supply-by-reducing-costs-and-barriers>

⁷ <https://belonging.berkeley.edu/racial-segregation-san-francisco-bay-area-part-5>

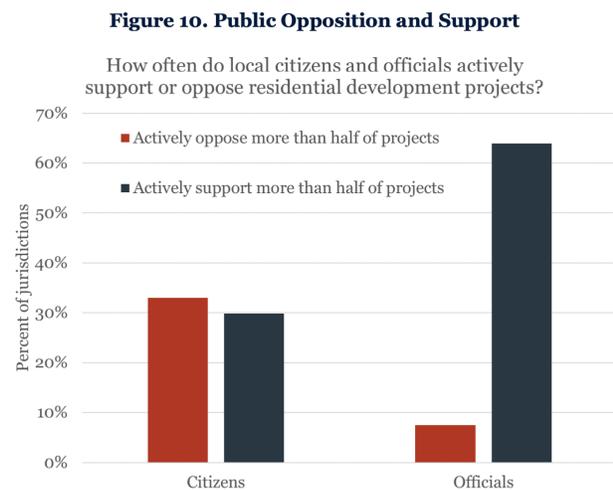
up the process and simplify it to make it financially practical to build affordable housing that residents need, rather than stalling on huge city projects for housing development/zoning.

In 2025, the San Francisco Youth Commission voted in favor of the Family Zoning Plan to bring more families into transit-accessible neighborhoods and to increase diversity within the city. Ensuring that affordable housing initiatives and plans are actively being implemented is of significant importance to the Commission. Pushing for accelerated construction by supporting non-profit developers, specialized private firms, and public-private partnerships through government subsidies, voter bonds, and capital planning is vital to San Francisco's urbanization. In addition, it will be important that new housing is truly affordable for families with rent control and low- to middle-income housing.

NIMBYism and Anti-Growth Culture

NIMBY or “Not in My Back Yard” describes the phenomenon where residents oppose new developments or projects in their local area, despite often supporting them elsewhere. It is often fueled by fear of increased crime, lower property values, or altered neighborhood communities. San Francisco has a long history of NIMBY culture, which continues to influence public hearings, policy priorities, and residents’ political views. NIMBYism in the United States has

roots in systemic racial and class discrimination and tends to be perpetuated by traditionally middle-upper-class white residents and homeowners.⁸ Compared to the national standard, San Francisco should build roughly 5,000 new housing units/year, but has averaged only about 1,500/year. This is due to a combination of struggles in San Francisco, but NIMBYism is a contributing factor.



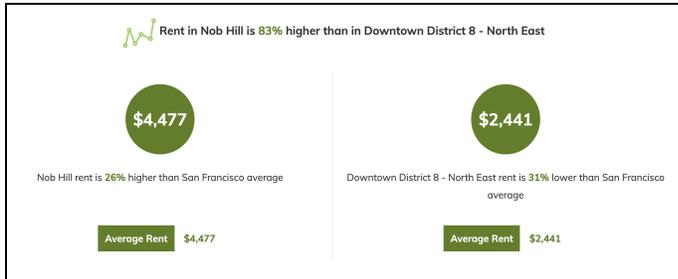
Current affordable housing is heavily concentrated in dense areas rather than equitably distributed across the city,

reflecting socioeconomic and racial segregation. Nearly two-thirds of projects built since 2015 are located in District 10 (Bayview, Potrero Hill, Visitacion Valley) and District 6 (South of Market, Mission Bay).⁹ According to the 2020 Census, 23.5% of District 10 residents identify as Black/African American, and 17-21% identify as Hispanic/Latino, compared to San Francisco’s

⁸[https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8149917/#:~:text=Coined%20in%20the%201970s%2C%20the,circles%20\(Petrova%2C%202016\)](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8149917/#:~:text=Coined%20in%20the%201970s%2C%20the,circles%20(Petrova%2C%202016))

⁹<https://sfplanning.org/project/housing-element-update-2022#:~:text=San%20Francisco's%20RHNA%20allocation%20for,our%20Housing%20for%20All%20webpage>

average of 5.2% Black/African American residents and 15.6% Hispanic/Latino residents.¹⁰ The highest concentrations of Black and Hispanic residents live in Districts 6 and 10, reflecting layers of historical and current structural oppression. Additionally, the density of housing projects in certain neighborhoods significantly decreases access to equitable resources and living throughout the city. This past year, a 70-unit affordable housing project at 3333 Mission St. in Bernal Heights was delayed after residents filed an appeal. Although the project received state-level approval, opponents employed a loophole to challenge a “tentative parcel map” approval issued by the Department of Public Works in November 2025. The appeal stalled the



project for nearly three months and caused “tens of thousands of unplanned expenses” while jeopardizing crucial funding.¹¹ Residents in primarily wealthier neighborhoods have fought against affordable housing projects in their respective districts, filing complaints under various legal loopholes and

delaying project completion.

Even with new zoning laws, San Francisco will continue to struggle with opposition rooted in NIMBYism and an anti-growth culture that prioritizes neighborhood “character” and other concerns over meeting urgent housing needs. The San Francisco Youth Commission urges increasing diversity in neighborhoods, particularly in high-resourced and low-density communities, to undo the historical effects of housing segregation on San Francisco youth. Eradicating NIMBY culture within communities by encouraging neighbourhood growth and resource accessibility should be a priority for San Francisco.

Tech & AI Influence

While San Francisco has always been an expensive city, in recent years, the growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significantly reshaped the tech industry and subsequently increased housing demand. AI-skilled tech workers have increased by more than 50% between 2024 and 2025, driving increased housing unaffordability with the surge of high-income tech employees living in the City. Many companies, such as Google, Microsoft, and Salesforce, have started incorporating AI, reinforcing the city's rapid growth in technology workers. Reports show the AI tech workers in San Francisco earn well above the median household income: an average salary is in the low to mid \$200,000s, with high-paying roles paying \$300,000+ annually. As a result, areas of San Francisco have experienced year-over-year growth of approximately 13.3% per apartment. By

¹⁰<https://missionlocal.org/2021/09/census-2020-as-san-francisco-grew-the-ethnic-makeup-of-its-neighborhoods-changed-heres-how/>

¹¹<https://thefrisc.com/how-to-delay-affordable-senior-housing-in-sf-despite-a-law-that-blocks-appeals/#:~:text=At%20least%20that's%20what%20BHNC,holds%20a%20project%20in%20question.>

January 2026, the city's median rent was \$3,160 for one-bedroom apartments and \$3741 for two-bedroom apartments, reflecting San Francisco's housing crisis. Much of the recent growth in AI-related employment consists of high-income workers who are less likely to have families, shifting housing demand toward smaller, high-cost units rather than family-sized housing. This imbalance disadvantages families, as the housing market increasingly prioritizes high earners over long-term residents with children. This pushes families with children out of San Francisco, leading to frequent relocations that disrupt youth stability and educational continuity.

Much of recent housing development has been concentrated in urban, tech-influenced areas, such as South of Market (Soma) and Mission Bay, close to jobs and transit. In neighborhoods like Soma, which has been historically home to low-income immigrant families that are predominantly Filipino, rising rent and redevelopment pressures have caused significant housing displacement for long-standing residents. While Mission Bay has largely developed residential areas, the concentration of high-income housing has caused neighboring communities to be affected by unaffordability. Rising housing costs have not only affected affordability but also racial diversity in San Francisco. Underrepresented groups like black people, indigenous people, and people of color now make up 5.1% of San Francisco's population, down by 8.2% since the 2000s. This reflects San Francisco's broader changes connected with housing cost pressures and displacement patterns in places that used to be affordable, but have seen rising rent and property value, and constant development as tech workers increase the demand for housing.

Rent Control

Despite how expensive San Francisco has become, residents and families have still managed to make the city their home. One major pathway to affording a life in the city is through rent control. The Rent Ordinance, which passed on June 13th, 1979, capped the amount that landlords can raise rent each year, adjusted to inflation.¹⁸ Any units (excluding most single-family homes) built before the passage of the Rent Ordinance are protected with rent control.¹⁹ Because most of San Francisco's homes are over 70 years old, most units in the city are under rent control, at around 250,000 units of housing. Recently, the allowed rent increase was set at 1.4% for 2025-2026. Importantly, current city policy requires a landlord to provide a 30-day written notice if they decide to increase the rent. Rent may not be raised again until at least 12 months later when a new rent increase limit goes into effect.²⁰ This allows for transparency in lease agreements and protects tenants from unpredictable and unfair rent hikes, giving them greater stability in their housing situation. Additionally, San Francisco's Rent Ordinance includes Just Cause eviction protections, which prevents landlords from evicting tenants without legally recognized reasoning and has reduced the possibility of displacement; for example, the total eviction filings with the rent board decreased 41% from 1171 to 695 filings between the years of 2023-2024. Many city leaders and nonprofits have expressed their support for rent control, including former Board President Aaron Peskin, former Mayor London Breed, and the San

Francisco Tenants Union. Additionally, San Francisco’s 2023 housing ordinance passed with amendments from Supervisor Rafael Mandelmann protecting rent-controlled units from being demolished and replaced with market-rate units.²¹ In San Francisco, 21,630 low-income renter households still lack access to an affordable home, the 60% of extremely low income (ELI) households are severely rent burdened, spending more than half of their income on housing, only 1% of moderate income households face similar stress. In addition, renters wage requirements in San Francisco to afford the median rent continue to remain extremely high; recent estimates place the needed hourly wage at about \$70.98 per hour, roughly 3.8 times the city's minimum wage, to afford the average rental prices of \$3691. Given these challenges, it’s important to protect policies such as rent control that enable thousands of residents to live in San Francisco without it being a financial burden. As housing costs continue to rise and income inequalities continue, rent control remains as one of San Francisco’s most effective tools of preventing displacement and expanding cultural diversity in neighborhoods. Protecting and strengthening these policies will be essential to ensuring that San Francisco remains a city where working families, not just wealthy, can afford.

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

- 1. Accelerate affordable housing construction projects** through the Family Zoning Plan:
 - a. Expand subsidy & grant support for construction projects that include family unit housing, especially prioritizing multifamily housing units (2+ rooms; multifamily properties).
 - b. Promote and expand Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.

- 2. Enforce State Housing Accountability Laws**
 - a. Proactively use the Housing Accountability Act to override local denial of compliant housing.
 - b. Consider creating a city-level Housing Compliance Office to ensure San Francisco meets RHNA targets.
 - c. Curtail Restrictive Land Use Policies and Regulations that frequently stall housing projects.

- 3. Create geographic & anti-discrimination zoning and construction requirements**
 - a. Require a portion of new affordable housing to be located in high-resource neighborhoods.
 - b. Audit zoning practices for discriminatory impacts.

4. **Housing Impact Mitigation Fee (AI related)** - San Francisco's Jobs-Housing Linkage Program requires developers to pay a fee when building or expanding commercial spaces that is allocated to affordable housing for low-income/moderate-income residents. Currently funds are centralized citywide and distributed through the city's annual priorities, often bypassing the neighborhoods where construction specifically occurred. Funds should be geographically prioritized to benefit neighborhoods affected by construction to ensure that long-standing residents, who are at the highest risk of displacement, are primary beneficiaries. This prevents displacement by stabilizing housing costs around new developments, ensuring that as neighborhoods grow, the original community can afford to stay.

ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND YOUTH EXPLOITATION IN SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to address the ongoing prevalence of human trafficking and exploitation affecting youth, particularly in anticipation of increased regional activity connected with major 2026 sporting events, including Super Bowl LX and FIFA World Cup matches. Human trafficking, encompassing the recruitment, harboring, transportation, and exploitation of individuals through force, fraud, or coercion, profoundly impacts vulnerable youth across San Francisco.

Background

Human trafficking continues to be a serious local issue. 2024 Human Trafficking in San Francisco Report (SF.gov) According to the 2024 San Francisco Human Trafficking Report, 2,501 cases of human trafficking were reported by 18 agencies between 2022 and 2023, and in cases where age was known, 10 % of individuals were under 18 and 28 % were between 18 and 24 years old, meaning 38 % of known cases involved youth and young adults.

Youth and young adults are especially susceptible due to factors such as housing instability, homelessness, foster care involvement, and involvement with juvenile systems. Past analyses of local data found that in 2017, at least 307 youth experienced commercial sexual exploitation, with 33 % of all persons trafficked in commercial sex being minors and 50 % aged 18–24; 70% of survivors were people of color. Although data collection on trafficking prosecutions in San Francisco remains limited, it is widely documented that patterns of exploitation often go under-reported, and many victims do not seek services due to fear, coercion, or lack of awareness. National statistics show that trafficking cases identified in California numbered 1,733 in 2024 alone, involving 3,603 victims, including 358 minors, demonstrating the scale of trafficking impacts on youth statewide.³

Current Victim Services Response

San Francisco's District Attorney's Office Victim Services Division (VSD) plays a vital role in supporting individuals affected by crime, including victims of human trafficking. In 2022, the VSD provided services to over 9,000 victims of violent crime, and in 2023 had served over 5,000, offering emotional support, safety planning, advocacy, and referral to medical, legal, and social resources regardless of whether charges were filed. The VSD's work reflects a trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach that is essential in addressing the needs of trafficking survivors.

Youth across San Francisco have consistently demonstrated that they recognize the seriousness of human trafficking and the need for proactive action. Many young people have engaged

directly in prevention, education, and advocacy efforts through organized groups such as the SFCAHT Student Alliance, which empowers students to develop campaigns, conduct peer education, and participate in city-wide awareness initiatives. These youth-led efforts not only raise awareness among their peers but also provide critical insights into the experiences and vulnerabilities of young people in the city. By supporting and amplifying these youth-driven initiatives, San Francisco can ensure that policies and programs reflect the perspectives of those most affected and foster meaningful youth leadership in preventing exploitation and promoting safety.

Preparing for Major 2026 Events

As San Francisco and the greater Bay Area prepare to host events associated with the 2026 Super Bowl and FIFA World Cup, the City will experience increased reliance on temporary labor, short-term housing, rideshare and delivery services, and informal economies, sectors that have been repeatedly identified by researchers and advocates as environments where trafficking and exploitation are more difficult to detect. Youth and young adults working or participating in these sectors, as well as youth navigating public transit hubs, hotels, and entertainment districts, face heightened exposure to recruitment and coercion tactics. Without expanded inter-agency coordination, frontline training, and survivor-centered response systems, existing service providers may be overwhelmed during periods of increased demand.

Recommendations

1. Expand Youth-Centered Prevention & Education

The City should work with SFUSD, youth organizations, and community partners to implement standardized, trauma-informed education on human trafficking, online recruitment tactics, and exploitation risk factors.

2. Strengthen Reporting & Response Ahead of 2026 Events

Expand cross-sector training for educators, transit and hospitality workers, first responders, and event staff on identifying trafficking indicators and responding with victim-centered protocols.

3. Increase Survivor-Support Funding

The City should increase investment in survivor services, including housing, legal help, mental health care, and long-term stabilization programs for youth affected by trafficking. The City should also fund and promote the SFCAHT 24/7 Hotline, available through sfcaht.org, to ensure survivors have immediate access to confidential support and reporting assistance.

4. **Improve Data Transparency & Accountability**

San Francisco should work with law enforcement, service providers, and academic partners to improve data collection and public reporting on trafficking cases and outcomes, especially involving youth.

ADDRESS YOUTH SEXUAL ASSAULT AND HARASSMENT IN SFUSD

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to address sexual assault and harassment cases in schools, acknowledge possible improvement of district language on sexual assault reports, and continue grant funding for CBOS, providing violence prevention youth services.

Background

Sexual harassment and assault cases have been an ongoing issue in SFUSD. Over the span of 8 years, there have been credible accusations against more than 20 district employees, ranging from counselors to paraeducators.¹ Many of these employees were allowed to resign quietly without further action taken. Reports from 2023 state that while there have been over 50 sexual assault cases against Bay Area school districts, only eight of those have been reported.² Although these cases may be different, some patterns and procedures must be taken into account to ensure San Francisco students are safe from sexual violence.

SFUSD Cases

In 2025, SFUSD settled a lawsuit involving a former Lowell High School student and a school counselor on a case of sexual abuse for 1.5 million dollars.³ Multiple reports had been made against the counselor to school officials, yet none were taken into account. The counselor was able to work for over 9 years in SFUSD until he left in 2013, and was later arrested for similar charges in 2014. This case wasn't an exception. Sexual assault cases in SFUSD in recent years have similar patterns. In November 2025, an SFUSD paraeducator was arrested on charges of continuous child sexual assaults.⁴ He was able to work in over eight elementary and middle schools. In 2023 to 2024, an investigation regarding a Lowell High School teacher took place, involving sexual misconduct with "inappropriate behavior" through quid pro quo favors with students.⁵ The educator was reprimanded with a 10-day suspension and returned to teaching soon after. Although he had other allegations raised against him from multiple other students during the #MeToo movement, no further discipline was taken.

¹ Vosf Staff and Vosf Staff, "SFUSD Safety: Sexual Assault and Harassment," The Voice of San Francisco, December 31, 2025, <https://thevoicesf.org/sfusd-safety-sexual-assault-and-harassment/#:~:text=Since%202017%2C%20at%20least%200,disclosing%20the%20reason%20for%20separation.>

² <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/schools-sexual-abuse-list-cases-18353656.php>

³ Boskovich & Allard LLP Cerri and Boskovich & Allard LLP Cerri, "San Francisco Unified School District Reaches \$1.5 Million Settlement in 20-Year-Old Lowell High School Sexual Abuse Case," Cerri, Boskovich & Allard, September 2, 2025, <https://www.cbalawfirm.com/news/san-francisco-unified-school-district-reaches-1-5-million-settlement-in-20-year-old-lowell-high-school-sexual-abuse-case/>.

⁴ Vosf Staff and Vosf Staff, "SFUSD Safety: Sexual Assault and Harassment," The Voice of San Francisco, December 31, 2025, <https://thevoicesf.org/sfusd-safety-sexual-assault-and-harassment/>.

⁵ Ida Mojada and Matthew Kupfer, "Lowell High School teacher accused of trading college recommendation letters for a favor," The San Francisco Standard, June 22, 2023, <https://sfstandard.com/2023/06/22/lowell-high-school-teacher-misconduct-harassment-favor/>.

Efforts to Reduce Misconduct

More than 20 SFUSD employees with sexual misconduct allegations have been able to quietly resign in recent years, in a practice called “pass the trash”.⁶ This confidentiality agreement prevents future employers, such as other districts, from seeing the employee’s past records. Many of these educators have gone on to teach in other districts or agencies, causing an extreme safety issue for other cities and California students. In 2017, after a former George Washington High School athletic director was able to quietly resign after a 4.5 million dollar settlement in a sexual assault case against two students, he was able to find employment at the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.⁷ The former Lowell High School counselor previously mentioned was able to work under SFUSD at the Academy of Arts and Sciences after leaving the high school.

On October 7th of 2025, Governor Newsom signed School Employee Misconduct: Child Abuse Prevention Act (SB 848), which aims to combat this practice, now making “pass the trash” illegal in California.⁸ The act also creates child safety obligation laws that must be implemented in California private schools that have been routinely mandated in public schools. For SFUSD, this means that starting January 1st, 2026, they are legally required to disclose an employee’s misconduct record to both public and private school employers. It is now mandatory for all schools to perform hiring checks.⁹ Data from other states that have already implemented similar laws like Act (SB 848) have had tangible impacts. In these states, there has often been a drastic increase in civil sexual cases reported to the Office of Civil Rights, not depicting an increase in the number of sexual assault cases, but rather an increase in those speaking out and action being taken against such cases.¹⁰ Act (SB 848) aims to combat these actions and create a safer environment for all those who attend both public and private K-12 schools in California

⁶ Vosf Staff and Vosf Staff, “SFUSD Safety: Sexual Assault and Harassment,” The Voice of San Francisco, December 31, 2025,

⁷ Boskovich & Allard LLP Cerri and Boskovich & Allard LLP Cerri, “New Evidence Points to San Francisco Unified Entering Into a Confidential Agreement With Alleged Predator Coach,” Cerri, Boskovich & Allard, September 2, 2025,

<https://www.cbalawfirm.com/news/sfusd-sexual-abuse-lawsuit-chan/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CThat%20agreement%20provided%20that%20the,for%20San%20Francisco's%20recreation%20department.%E2%80%9D>

⁸ “Governor Newsom Signs Senator Pérez’s SB 848, the Safe Learning Environments Act, to Protect Students From Sexual Misconduct by School Employees,” Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, October 7, 2025, <https://sd25.senate.ca.gov/news/governor-newsom-signs-senator-perez-sb-848-safe-learning-environments-act-protect-students>.

⁹ <https://www.lcwlegal.com/news/governor-signs-law-requiring-expanded-child-abuse-prevention-private-school/>

¹⁰ Inside Higher Ed | Higher Education News, Events and Jobs. “OCR Receives Record Number of Complaints,” December 9, 2016.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2016/12/09/ocr-receives-record-number-complaints#:~:text=You%20have%205%20articles%20left,education%2C%22%20the%20department%20stated.>

Response Language For Sexual Assault Reports in SFUSD

SFUSD has strong, non-retaliation policies designated to protect those who report harassment. According to SFUSD's Board Policy 5145.3 on Nondiscrimination/Harassment, "any form of retaliation against any individual who reports or participates in the reporting of unlawful discrimination" is strictly prohibited and will lead to another investigation treated as a case of discrimination. When students file a sexual misconduct case in SFUSD, both the complainant and the respondent are sent a Notice of Allegation (NOA), mandated under other district policies and the federal law Title IX. Past advocacy from SFUSD students, the Title IX Advisory Group, and other city CBOS on implementing an additional and clearer language section has helped SFUSD improve the NOA and input age-appropriate information for students to understand their rights and the process SFUSD takes in sexual assault reports.

An area of improvement for the NOA also includes the addition of language regarding protection for undocumented students and their families. As of 2026, San Francisco strongly reinforces its status as a sanctuary city. The language in official city and district documents must reflect such values. Even though SFUSD has a separate sanctuary protection clause in Board Policy 5145.10, and student leaders have advocated for it to be on the NOA, it is not officially included in the NOA, which is the official document students and their families receive when filing these reports. The United Educators of San Francisco has called for this implementation through their negotiations with SFUSD as of 2026. Multiple organizations in San Francisco, including Calle 24 Latino Cultural District, the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, and the San Francisco Immigration and Legal Education Network, have shown their support for the protection of undocumented communities in both paper and practice, which would include the addition of this language to the NOA. The Equal Rights Advocates (ERA) has also shown support through their Title IX toolkit, which reinforces and highlights the message that undocumented students are protected under Title IX.

Youth Impact and Response

According to the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), adolescents are the age group with the highest risk of sexual assault. A study conducted by the National Institute of Health showed 47% of teenagers seek mental health support a year before they were assaulted; this increased to 80% a year after the assault.¹¹ An increase from 65% to 82% of adolescents seeking healthcare services after the assault was also reported. The consequences were also shown in academic performance. Absences from school more than doubled, which led to an increase in poor performance in school. These impacts create a bigger need for change in addressing sexual assault and harassment cases within SFUSD.

¹¹ "Sexual Assault Has Lasting Effects on Teenagers' Mental Health and Education," September 23, 2022, https://doi.org/10.3310/nihrevidence_53533.

In 2021, students from over eight San Francisco schools walked out to advocate for support for victims of sexual violence, protesting against the district's poor response to allegations.¹² Youth action is not limited only to walkouts but also through their work in youth councils. The Title IX Student Advisory Group has done work advising SFUSD on district policies that include prevention, support, and student empowerment.¹³ They must reconvene for the next school year and remain active to continue working towards a safer school district. A safer school district ensures a comfortable and inclusive learning environment.

CBO Support and Impact

The San Francisco Department on the Status of Women funds around 8 million dollars in grants for CBOS that support youth and adults on gender based violence. Some of these CBOS have programs specializing in youth advocacy, such as the Community Youth Center's Young Asian Women Against Violence Project (YAWAV). This project focuses on empowering and teaching Asian American and Pacific Islander young women on sexual violence and safety through hands-on workshops and lessons. Every year, YAWAV educates 550 San Francisco youth in over six content areas. San Francisco Woman Against Rape, another CBO under this grant, holds educational youth services such as bilingual community presentations and the Students Talking About Non-Violent Dating Program (STAND). STAND is San Francisco's "oldest youth sexual and dating violence prevention project", dating back to 1997. It provides youth with violence prevention education and training, facilitates support groups, and assists SFUSD in policy development to reduce youth violence. Violence prevention CBOS must receive the financial support necessary to continue providing these services to all of San Francisco's youth.

Recommendations:

- 1. Support School Employee Misconduct: Child Abuse Prevention Act (SB 848) -** This law expands child abuse prevention policies in both public and private schools, requiring school employers to check employees' background when hiring. This fights back against previous district practices that have allowed offenders to quietly resign and work in other city departments or local districts.
- 2. Recommend SFUSD to improve inclusive language in notices of allegations -** Reaffirm and highlight sanctuary language when notices of allegations are sent to students and their families to reinforce protection for undocumented communities in San Francisco.
- 3. Recommend SFUSD to renew the Title IX Student Advisory Group -** Title IX Student Advisory Group advises the district on school policies to address sexual violence in

¹² Holly McDede, "Hundreds of SF High School Students Walk Out of Class, Demanding More Support for Sexual Assault Survivors," KQED, March 16, 2022, <https://www.kqed.org/news/11895886/hundreds-of-sf-high-school-students-walk-out-of-class-demanding-more-support-for-sexual-assault-survivors>.

¹³ "Title IX Student Advisory Group (SAG) | SFUSD," n.d., <https://www.sfusd.edu/title-ix-student-advisory-group-sag>.

SFUSD. We urge the Board of Supervisors to support a renewal for the advisory group and work alongside them to continue creating policies against gender based violence

- 4. Continue grants for CBOS that offer youth services against violence - San Francisco's Gender Based Violence Prevention and Intervention Grants Program** provides essential funding to CBOS supporting adults and youth in areas such as sexual violence, domestic violence, stalking, and trafficking through services from emergency shelters, hotlines, and legal services. These partner agencies also provide services to marginalized communities in our city through these grant fundings.

CONTINUE IMPLEMENTING EFFORTS TO PROTECT NEWCOMER FAMILIES AND SUPPORT LANGUAGE ACCESS

The Youth Commission urges the City & County of San Francisco to continue honoring its role as a “City and County of Refuge”, ensure that all San Francisco families facing deportation have access to guaranteed legal support, and support the improvement of language accessibility.

Background

Nationally, newcomers represent a significant portion of the United States population and play a central role in the nation’s economy and society. As of June 2025, about 51.9 million newcomers lived in the U.S., comprising roughly 15.4 % of the total population, one of the highest proportions in decades. Federal immigration law and policy, including asylum access, deportation enforcement, and work authorization, remain highly contested, affecting newcomers’ access to healthcare, education, legal protections, and social services. Limited English proficiency and uneven access to legal support further impede many families’ ability to assert their rights and navigate complex systems, contributing to increased vulnerability and exclusion.

At the local level, many cities and counties across the United States have enacted policies to protect immigrant communities and expand access to services beyond what federal law requires. “Sanctuary” or “welcoming” policies, for example, limit local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, ensuring that residents can access public services without fear of deportation. Local governments also increasingly provide funding for legal aid, multilingual services, and community-based organizations that support immigrant families, particularly those with limited English proficiency. These efforts help bridge gaps created by federal enforcement priorities and systemic barriers, enabling newcomers to participate more fully in civic, economic, and social life.

San Francisco continues to serve as a critical point of entry for newcomer and refugee families. In recent years, San Francisco has experienced a significant increase in newcomer households navigating public education, healthcare, housing, and workforce systems—often while facing language barriers. Despite longstanding commitments to language access and newcomer-protection policies, implementation gaps persist in legal literacy. Therefore, youth in newcomer families face barriers to academic success and wellbeing, frequently assuming translation responsibilities for their households when translation, interpretation, and culturally responsive services are inconsistent. As federal immigration policy remains uncertain, continued local investment in language access programs and newcomer stabilization services is essential to uphold San Francisco’s commitment to all families.

Newcomer Protections and Legal Literacy

In San Francisco, multiple community-based organizations provide increasingly important, critical services to Immigrants, given the mounting aggression of immigration enforcement at the federal level. These include resources like legal representation, emergency shelter, know-your-rights training, and family support. The operation of the organizations providing these services, though, is largely contingent on funding from the City and County of San Francisco: many of these services continue to be at risk given budget shortfalls and deficits at the city level.

Legal literacy remains a critical but under-resourced component of newcomer protections. Many immigrant families are unaware of their rights during interactions with immigration enforcement, housing authorities, schools, or law enforcement, which increases vulnerability to misinformation, fraud, and coercion. Community organizations frequently conduct “Know Your Rights” trainings, but these efforts are often reactive and dependent on short-term funding. Strengthening legal literacy empowers youth and families to make informed decisions, reduces panic during enforcement actions, and reinforces San Francisco’s commitment to protecting all residents regardless of immigration status.

Unfortunately, the current mayoral administration has systematically underprioritized justice and legal access for newcomers. Funding for critical legal services has been cut or left unrenewed, including both newcomer representation and general civil legal services. For example, a one-time \$878,000 city grant that previously supported local newcomer legal organizations through the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development was not renewed, leaving groups like CARECEN without funding amid rising immigration cases. In addition, the mayor’s 2025 proposed budget reduced roughly \$250,000 from the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs, cutting nonprofit contracts that provide legal assistance, housing, and other support for newcomer families. These cuts have compounded existing challenges: San Francisco ranks among the worst counties in the state for access to legal representation, with only 57.8% of newcomers receiving counsel in court, leaving many vulnerable to detention, deportation, or exploitation. Research by the American Immigration Council shows that immigrants with attorneys are four times more likely to be released from detention, more likely to apply for relief, and more likely to succeed in court.

One of the largest protectors of Immigrants in San Francisco, Mission-based La Raza Community Resource Center offers free family-based legal aid (including for naturalization, DACA, asylee petitioning, and green card renewal purposes), deportation defense services (including representation in removal proceedings and in special Immigrant juvenile status cases), and a food pantry program providing free groceries to low-income families on a twice-per-week basis. La Raza also provides housing and rental subsidies to families in need, and, in

collaboration with DAHLIA Housing and San Francisco's Emergency Rental Assistance Program, submits over 800 affordable housing applications on behalf of low-income families.

Open Door Legal provides free immigration legal representation to low-income families, including deportation defense aid, representation in asylum proceedings, relief for domestic violence survivors, in addition to an expansive housing assistance program. With four main locations in the city—offices in the Bayview, Excelsior, the Sunset, and Western Addition—the organization's services are broad, especially in San Francisco's southeast. According to Open Door Legal, 1 in 5 families in the Bayview sought help from the organization within its first decade of operation (2013-2023). As of May 2024, they have served over 10,000 individuals and estimate having obtained upwards of \$270,000,000 in non-cash outcomes (the value of keeping one's home, becoming safe from violence, obtaining immigration status, and more).

San Francisco's Latino Task Force (LTF) is a grassroots organization providing direct services to Latino, Black, Pacific Islander, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities in San Francisco's Mission District. Acting on reports of ICE raids, LTF conducts multi-language know-your-rights raids and referrals to legal services. They partner with various city departments, commissions, and agencies, most notably the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigration Affairs, the Human Rights Commission, SFUSD, and the San Francisco Public Library.

In October 2025, the Board of Supervisors allocated \$10.5 million for immigrant legal aid, after proposals to cut the budgets of immigrant-serving groups (like the aforementioned) entirely. An additional 4.2 million dollars were allocated towards immigrant and domestic violence survivor legal aid in the General Civil Legal Fund in Mayor Lurie's finalized 2025 budget.

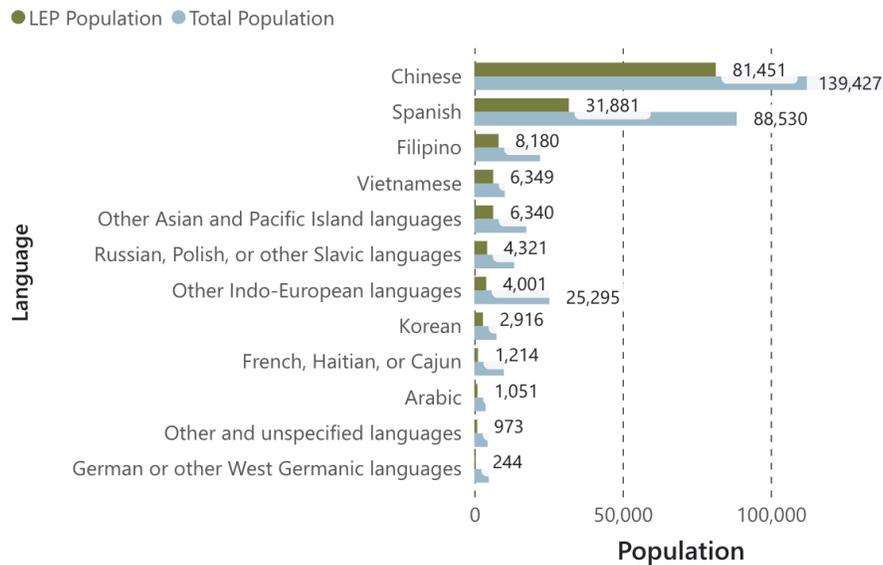
Language Access

In San Francisco, the total Limited English Proficient (LEP) population is 149,000+. The term, Limited English Proficient refers to individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and therefore have a limited ability to read, write, or understand English. Among LEP residents, Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese) is the most widely spoken language (81,451), followed by Spanish (31,881), Tagalog (8,180), and Vietnamese (6,349).

The San Francisco Language Access Ordinance was enacted in 2001 to require public-facing City departments to provide equal access to information and services for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). The LAO was amended in 2024 to strengthen its provisions, increase accountability, and expand language access. Furthermore, to meet the growing need from Vietnamese communities for language access support, the 2024 Language Access Ordinance (LAO) amendments adjusted the Substantial Number of Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons threshold required to certify Vietnamese in the city. This threshold changed from 10,000 to 6,000 LEP individuals, effective January 1, 2026. This amendment now requires all

City departments to provide interpretation services and translated materials in Vietnamese. To support the implementation of language access for threshold languages in City departments, the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs has a team of Language Specialists that provides departments with support in meeting their compliance benchmarks, along with supplementary services for translation and interpretation. While there are language specialists for Chinese, Spanish, and Filipino, there is currently not one for Vietnamese.

Population by Language



According to OCEIA’s 2026 Language Access Compliance Summary Report, they found that for the 2024 - 2025 Fiscal Year, LEP client interactions reached a record high of 1,754,088, an 11% from the year before and a 36% increase from the five-year-average (FY 2020-2021 to FY 2024-2025) of 1,286,434. With the advent of Vietnamese becoming a threshold language, LEP client interactions grew by about 115% compared to the previous fiscal year, totaling 60,823, almost doubling the average of 31,413 LEP contacts per year for the past five years. LEP client interactions in Filipino, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Cantonese also saw substantial increases, with Mandarin most notably experiencing a 682% increase from the previous fiscal year.

The number of translated materials in these languages also experienced a record high, from almost 2,500 in FY 2023-2024 to about 55,200 in FY 2024-2025, a 2,123% growth. The most notable growth was Vietnamese, which saw a 3,636% rise in the quantity of translated materials. This pattern continues with telephonic language services, which experienced a 400% increase in total volume from the previous fiscal year, and in-person language services, which experienced a 228% increase.

Bilingual staffing also saw a 52% increase, with Departments reporting about 3,960 bilingual employees. Lastly, City Departments also spent a record \$22.94 million on language services, with the greatest percentage increases in language services budgets being seen in the County Clerk, Department of Public Health, Treasure Island Development Authority, Port of San Francisco, and the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families.

To further advance language access, especially for non-threshold languages, OCEIA's Language Access Community Grants fund community initiatives to meet the language access needs of San Francisco's underserved monolingual and Limited English Proficient (LEP) community members. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Grantees educated and informed over 10,700 PEP residents about their language access rights. They distributed more than 15,630 educational written materials and organized a total of 250 events and workshops about language access. Grantees provided 2,945 people with language assistance through over 2,994 hours of interpretation services. Over 80% of these interpretation hours were related to helping community members access City services. OCEIA's Language Access Grantees are Asociación Mayab, Self-Help for the Elderly (SHE), Southeast Asian Community Center (SEACC), South of Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN), and the Language Access Network (LANSF). LANSF is a coalition of organizations that serve newcomer communities in San Francisco, which consists of Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), African Advocacy Network (AAN), Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC), Central American Resource Center of San Francisco (CARECEN SF), People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER), and South of Market Community Action Network (SOMCAN).

As immigrant communities navigate fear, misinformation, and shifting federal policies, it's critical that the city fully leverages its robust language access protections to uphold the city's "City and County of Refuge" status and ensure newcomers can access support safely. As language access protections face growing challenges nationwide, strong local action is more important than ever. Language access helps residents feel safe accessing services, reporting concerns, and participating in civic life, which strengthens safety, inclusion, and opportunity within newcomer communities.

Community Ambassador Program

The Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs launched the Community Ambassadors Program in 2010 in the Bayview and Visitacion Valley neighborhoods as a response to cultural and linguistic tensions, increased violence, and the need for better community safety options. For instance, in 2010, the Bayview saw four high-profile MUNI-related attacks on Asian people, one resulting in the death of 83-year-old Huan Chen. Since the inception of the program, the Community Ambassadors program has expanded its coverage to the Sunset, District 5, Chinatown, Mission, Bayview/Visitacion Valley, and Mid-Market/Tenderloin neighborhoods.

The Community Ambassadors program trains trusted community members to provide crisis response and intervention, safety and wellness services, and neighborhood support, while also serving as a visible, reliable, non-law enforcement safety presence. During the 2025-2026 fiscal year, Community Ambassadors interacted with community members 67,363 times, providing critical field services such as 24,000+ wellness checks, 19,000+ merchant visits, 8,576 service referrals (including to a shelter bed or an immigration legal service), and 1,134 safety escorts. Furthermore, a unique aspect of the program is that it works to support newcomer communities with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), with its team speaking over 20 languages, including Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Filipino, Russian, Vietnamese, and Samoan.

This model responds to a clear trust gap in traditional policing. During a 2023 City Survey on Safety and Policing, residents were asked to grade both their trust in the police and the quality of police services in their neighborhood on an A to F scale, with the average of the two grades becoming the overall police rating. The survey found that, on average, across neighborhoods and a wide array of demographics, the police received a grade of C+. Meanwhile, increased interior newcomer enforcement, both nationally and locally, has deepened fear and mistrust in newcomer communities, heightening concerns about contact with law enforcement and reducing willingness to access basic safety and support services.

Unfortunately, in the past budget cycle, to meet the City Administrator's Office's General Fund Reduction Target of \$20 million, the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs' budget was slashed by \$2.6 million, with their grant budget being reduced by \$250,000 and their outreach budget being reduced by \$383,000. The additional \$2 million reduction came in the form of sunsetting the Community Ambassadors Program. The program has already ended coverage in the Sunset, District 5, and Chinatown neighborhoods, and will fully end in 2027, leaving the Mission, Bayview/Visitacion Valley/Portola, and Mid-Market/Tenderloin neighborhoods without coverage.

As federal newcomer enforcement intensifies, we must ensure newcomer communities in San Francisco have reliable access to services and accurate information, while also equipping residents with practical training to strengthen safety and trust across their neighborhoods.

Language Education

ESL and foreign language classes have proven to be useful for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) speakers, but they are often difficult to access. ESL and foreign language classes are especially important in a city like San Francisco, as there are approximately 109 unique languages are spoken in the city.

Foreign language classes in San Francisco have been at risk of receiving budget cuts or

being cut entirely. For example, in 2021, the Cantonese program at City College was at risk of elimination from the college's provided classes. This was due to a lack of enrollment due to the Cantonese classes not offering certificates upon completion. Cantonese remains one of the most widely spoken languages among San Francisco's Chinese community, particularly among newcomer families. According to former City College Trustee Alan Wong, "Saving the Cantonese program is not only about protecting Chinese culture, language, and history. It is also about the very practical need to ensure that our very large Cantonese-speaking Chinese community has access to public safety, health care, and social services". In 2022, through community advocacy with the "Save Cantonese at CCSF" movement, City College approved a Cantonese certificate program. However, in early 2023, the City College Board of Trustees voted to withdraw the certificate program due to concerns of enrollment and program viability, prompting public outcry and subsequent reconsideration. Then in July of 2023, the Board reversed its decision and reinstated the Cantonese certificate program. This sequence highlights the ongoing instability of heritage language programs and the need for sustained, stable funding to prevent recurring threats to language instruction.

The Longfellow Elementary Tagalog program provides another example of foreign language classes at risk. In 2022, the Tagalog program was at risk of severe downsizing by combining the Kindergarten and 1st Grade classes, essentially cutting the number of spots in the program in half, which would not have been able to accommodate the large Filipino American population at Longfellow. Furthermore, only two elementary schools provide Tagalog instruction in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), Bessie Carmichael and Longfellow, and with the downsizing of the Tagalog program at Longfellow, access to Tagalog instruction for youth would also dwindle. According to Nikki Santiago, an SFUSD parent, newcomer, and community organizer, "This program has really helped my child blossom into the person that she is. She used to be very, very reserved, and now she's not just a proud American, but she's a proud Filipino". Additionally, Longfellow Elementary alumnus Matthew James Mingoa shared, "I learned a lot about my history and culture from all the after-school programs and from WLES". This program not only teaches about Filipino history, culture, and language but also helps connect Filipino students to their roots and their immigrant families. With parents, teachers, and community members urging SFUSD to revisit the cap to preserve equitable access, the cap on the program was lifted, allowing more students to have access to this life-changing program. As of the latest SFUSD program listings, Longfellow's Filipino Foreign Language in Elementary School program remains active.

Balboa High School, an SFUSD school located in the Excelsior District, is one of the very few high schools in the country to provide a Filipino world language program. The program provides Filipino 1-3, which all students can enroll in while fulfilling the SFUSD world language A-G requirements. According to a Balboa student who was enrolled in the program, this program teaches students about different dialects of the Philippines, but with Tagalog being the most

common, most of the material is taught in Tagalog. Students in this program also participate in field trips that dive into Filipino culture and history, such as going into the SOMA District to learn about historical Filipino landmarks and figures. At the end of the year, the program traditionally holds a Kamayan, a gathering of people eating, which is a popular hand-in-hand celebration in the Philippines, to bring all of the classes together. Many Balboa students have expressed their gratitude for this program and wish to have it offered in other schools as well.

Youth Commission Involvement

Undocumented youth rights, newcomer pathways, and language access have been topics in the Youth Commission Budget and Policy Priorities from 2010-2016, 2018-2019, and 2023-2025.

In the 2024-2025 term, Commissioners Fong and Listana authored a statement on ICE Raids on the Undocumented Community in San Francisco, and Commissioner Dang passed Motion No. 2425-AL-29 to Submit Letters of Support for Immigration Bill SB 48.

During the 2021-2022 term, Commissioners Asfaw, Santos, Listana, Shaw, Catubig, Foley, and Pimentel established the Transformative Justice Workgroup. One of the main priorities of this Workgroup was newcomer support and services. To educate themselves more on this topic, Commissioners reached out to many organizations in San Francisco that worked with undocumented people to hear more about the challenges they experienced. On February 28th, 2022, the Transformative Justice Workgroup heard a presentation from La Raza, an organization that provides legal services to undocumented people to educate themselves more on the issues they face.

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

NEWCOMER PROTECTIONS

- 1. Reaffirm and strengthen San Francisco’s “City and County of Refuge” ordinance.** The city should strengthen zero-tolerance policies through language in city contracts and written policy—except when justly warranted or required by law—that prohibit aiding federal immigration officials and outline consequences for doing so.
- 2. Enhance and expand funding to community-based organizations serving and aiding Immigrant communities in San Francisco.** Through grants and inclusion in city fiscal budgets, the City should continue to fund the services of community-based organizations and legal centers dependent on city funding. In addition, the city should guarantee multi-year funding contracts to community-based organizations.
- 3. Hold those violating San Francisco’s “City and County of Refuge” ordinance accountable.** The City should pursue consequences for those found assisting federal

immigration enforcement on behalf of city departments and agencies, including law enforcement officers.

4. **Integrate “Know Your Rights” Training Across City Services.** The City should require “Know Your Rights” training for all city employees and explore expanding it to contractors providing city services. This would ensure that newcomer youth and families, as well as staff who interact with them, understand legal protections and how to access trusted services.

LANGUAGE ACCESS AND EDUCATION

1. **Budget for language services and plan for the implementation of a new required language.** City departments should receive adequate funds to plan and budget for delivering language access services, especially for the progressive implementation of Vietnamese. Additionally, departments should plan for working towards meeting compliance benchmarks for Vietnamese, including translating vital information, providing telephonic and in-person interpretation services, and updating their respective language access policies.
2. **Provide funding for OCEIA’s Language Access Community Grants and support City and community-based language access services.** The city should not only ensure grantees continue to receive funding for the next two fiscal years to meet this demand, but should also implement strategies to overcome barriers to City services and ensure City information and programs reach all San Franciscans in culturally and linguistically responsive ways.
3. **Recruit and retain bilingual staffing.** City departments should continue to hire and retain bilingual staffers, especially those with Vietnamese language skills. Additionally, OCEIA should receive additional funding to hire a Vietnamese language specialist who can support City departments in implementing Vietnamese language access services.
4. **Provide increased financial support for ESL and foreign language programs in both SFUSD and CCSE.** Allow schools to better address the educational, cultural, and linguistic needs of San Francisco’s immigrant communities.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: WORKFORCE AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM ACCESS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to provide increased funding to programs that expand access to trade schools, financial literacy education employment opportunities, and workplace protections, particularly to youth in low-income communities and communities of color, to promote economic stability and career development.

Background

For many years, youth in San Francisco and the broader Bay Area have struggled to find stable career opportunities. The city of San Francisco has experienced significant economic transformation due to the tech boom as well as increasing housing prices starting in the 1990s. While some people became better off, these changes also intensified the divide between the available opportunities for many working adults and youth, specifically for those who do not have advanced degrees or specialized skills, and the highly paying tech jobs. These economic changes, increasing prices, and rising competition within the job market have made it challenging for young people to attain stable employment.

Traditional four-year college pathways are not always an option, particularly for youth from neighborhoods like Chinatown, Bayview Hunters Point, and Tenderloin, due to financial and systemic barriers. In the Chinatown neighborhood, the college graduation rate is 23%, Bayview Hunters Point is 27%, and Tenderloin is 36%.¹ Transitional-aged youth (TAY) in California face particularly steep challenges in finding stable employment, with 9.3% of 20 to 24-year-olds either unemployed or disconnected from education and work.² Trade and vocational programs equip students with practical skills and open doors to well-paying jobs without the burden of long-term student debt. These efforts have helped connect some youth to new career paths, particularly in high-demand fields like technology, entrepreneurship, and healthcare. However, these programs remain limited in scale and don't reach all vulnerable populations, highlighting the ongoing disparities in access. The new working generations should be able to fill this vocational gap to ensure that affordable resources are available for young people of any background, as this directly leads to stable, well-paying jobs, breaks the cycle of financial disparity, and offers an opportunity to create a successful future.

Youth Employment Programs

San Francisco offers many youth employment programs, such as SFUSD Summer Internships, Code Tenderloin, Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program (MYEEP), San Francisco YouthWorks, Opportunities for All (OFA), SF Stem Academy, and SFTech. Many of these programs are funded through the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

¹ Jiyun Tsai, "One in Three Homes in This San Francisco Neighborhood Lives Below the Poverty Line," The San Francisco Standard, December 8, 2021
² EducationEmployment Program

The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) funds and coordinates programs that support the academic, social, and economic well-being of children and youth across San Francisco. They support youth employment initiatives such as the Youth Workforce Development, High School Partnerships, and the Mayor's Education and Employment Program (MYEEP). These programs are essential for not only providing income for youth, but to prepare young people for the workforce by building job readiness, soft skills, and professional communication abilities. Organizations like the Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC) play a critical role in implementing these goals through mentorship and workshops. JCYC creates supportive spaces where youth can learn workplace expectations, develop resumes, and gain hands-on experience.

As a result of the 2024-2029 RFP (Request for Proposals) and adjustment to the city's budget deficit, many of the programs that relied on this funding either received little or no funding at all. Out of the \$414,713,817 for 698 proposals submitted, only \$93,467,300 for 234 proposals were granted. Many programs experienced major budget cuts or even had to stop programming as a result of their lack of funding.

In January 2025, Mayor Daniel Lurie announced to city department heads that the administration is enacting a hiring freeze, calling for justifications and closer scrutiny of new hires to "ensure effective delivery of core government services." This directive has already caused temporary pauses in job postings for youth positions such as summer camp internships and counselor roles with the Recreation and Parks Department. While some postings were ultimately reinstated following review, there is still uncertainty surrounding how much these new hiring measures will impact youth internships and jobs with city departments. With the city continuing to confront shortfalls and departments facing constrained staffing and potential layoffs, there is real risk that future youth jobs, internships, and entry-level programs will be prioritized less, undermining opportunities for young people to gain work experience. Therefore, ensuring stable funding for youth-oriented programs is not only an investment in wellbeing, but a safeguard against the deprioritization of youth job opportunities under fiscal difficulties.

Trade Schools

A vocational school, also called a trade school or career school, provides specialized education designed to equip students with the practical skills and expertise needed for high-demand careers in various fields. Trade schools and programs offer a direct path to success, providing hands-on training for careers in industries like automotive, construction, HVAC, and healthcare. In countries like Germany and Switzerland, vocational education is highly regarded, with trade schools playing a central role in preparing students for stable, well-paying careers.⁵ These countries have integrated apprenticeships and vocational programs into their education systems, allowing students to transition smoothly from education to skilled labor. Additionally, in other

countries, such as the United Kingdom, individuals with vocational certifications often experience higher employment rates and job security compared to those with only academic degrees.⁶ The three main providers of trade programs in San Francisco are the City College of San Francisco (CCSF), the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) apprenticeship program, and the Bay Area Medical Academy (BAMA). They offer certifications for automotive, construction, HVAC, and healthcare trades. Approximately 31% of all jobs in San Francisco consist of trade jobs such as construction, transportation, manufacturing, education, and health services.⁷ With the growing demand for skilled labor and the rising cost of living, it is more urgent than ever to expand these initiatives. However, many youth in San Francisco face barriers to accessing these valuable resources, such as funding constraints, limited availability, and transportation challenges, which can make it harder to enter these in-demand fields. According to high school students surveyed by DCYF in 2021, more than 80% reported an interest in jobs and internships, and 65% of the high school students surveyed expressed interest in career preparation programs/activities. Only 43%, according to parents/caregivers of the survey respondents, agreed that they had access to job training for their TAY-aged child.⁸ In response, San Francisco has implemented several programs aimed at improving employment access, such as the Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC), Larkin Street Youth Services, and Enterprise for Youth, but these programs need more support.

Youth Workforce Development

After graduating from SFUSD, many are faced with the decision of either pursuing higher education or joining the workforce, while some do both. Many do this in order to build a resume for the plan of their future career. However, those in underserved communities like Hunters Point-Bayview, Mission, Alice & Griffith, Sunnysdale, the Tenderloin, etc. face systemic barriers to employment due to transportation, professional networks, lack of funding for programs that assist youth to find employment, etc. With the cost of living on the rise, youth are having difficulties finding affordable housing even while working full-time jobs. Many youths must sustain more than one job, while some juggle higher education and familial duties. This leads to youth, especially Transitional Aged Youth (TAY), becoming homeless. According to the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, 63% of homeless youth in San Francisco are in school or employed, up from 49% in 2022. Specifically, 28% of these youth are employed, an increase from 22% in 2022.⁹ To re-emphasize San Francisco's hiring freeze, TAY has been impacted by having difficulty in affording the cost of living in San Francisco.

Financial Literacy

Financial literacy is a critical yet often overlooked component of youth workforce development and long-term economic stability. Many young people in San Francisco, particularly BIPOC youth, immigrant youth, foster youth, and youth from low-income and low-wealth households, enter adulthood without access to culturally relevant financial education or practical tools to manage income, credit, savings, and debt. Nearly 30% of SF youth live in families earning below

300% of the Federal Poverty Level, and nearly 47% of families have less than \$2,000 in savings, leaving youth vulnerable to financial insecurity and long-term poverty. Financial insecurity is widespread: nearly 47% of San Francisco families have less than \$2,000 in savings, making it difficult for youth to build financial resilience. While programs like Bank On San Francisco have reduced unbanked rates from 15–20% in 2005 to around 5% citywide, disparities persist in low-income communities of color.

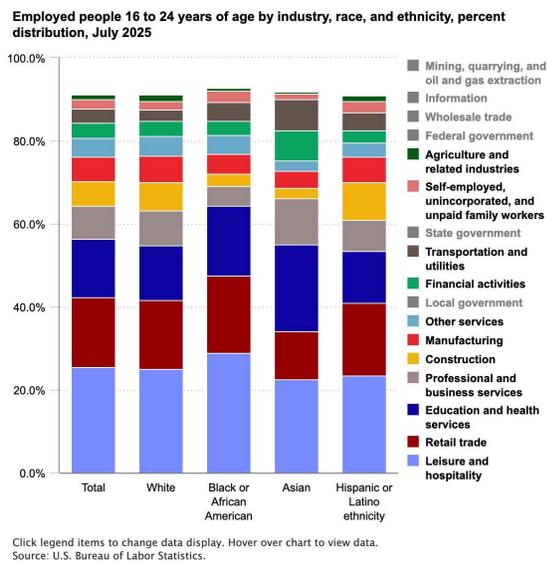
In 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 2927, which will require California high schools to offer a semester-long personal finance course beginning in the 2027-28 school year and make that course a graduation requirement by the 2030-31 school year, aiming to give all students essential financial literacy skills before entering adulthood. Local efforts have followed suit: San Francisco–based nonprofit MyPath, alongside other community-based organizations such as Mission Asset Fund (MAF), Bay Area Financial Education Foundation (BAFEF), and Junior Achievement, addresses these gaps by providing youth-centered financial education, coaching, banking access support, and tax assistance programs. Youth in San Francisco have taken it upon themselves to financially empower young people with the creation of youth run organizations such as the Junior Economic Club of San Francisco. Through its Youth Economic Bill, MyPath outlines a set of Youth Economic Rights that recognize financial knowledge and economic opportunity as fundamental rights rather than privileges. These rights include the right to a guaranteed income paired with financial education, eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), access to a national model for youth banking, easily accessible credit reports, and quality financial education and coaching embedded within youth employment programs. MyPath’s policy framework emphasizes that financial literacy must be paired with structural support. Integrating financial capability education into youth employment programs allows young people to translate wages into long-term economic stability and wealth-building.

Despite the effectiveness of these approaches, financial literacy programming in San Francisco remains fragmented and underfunded, and is not consistently embedded within schools or workforce development initiatives. Increased investment in youth-centered financial education, particularly through partnerships with the community based organizations listed above, is necessary to ensure that young people are equipped to manage income, avoid financial harm, and build economic security for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Work Place Protections

Employment is a critical source of income and financial independence for young people, particularly those supporting themselves or contributing to household expenses. Many youth work part-time during the school year and increase their hours in the summer, when youth employment typically peaks. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 53.1% of 16 to

19-year-olds were employed in July 2025.² As of December 2025, 36.6% of workers across the nation are 16-19 year olds.³



Under California Law, minors under the age of 18 must have a work permit issued by their schools in order to work.⁴⁵ However, community members have reported incidents of wage theft and inappropriate working conditions such as mistreatment from employers including sexual harassment; violations of paid sick leave, overtime protections, and minimum wage laws. Youth workers, many of whom are employed in part-time, seasonal, or summer jobs, often work in industries with high turnover and high rates of labor violations, such as food service and retail. Despite making up a significant portion of the workforce, young workers frequently face unsafe, exploitative conditions. Further,

newcomer youth and protections concerning their legal status bars access to safe working conditions.

The Office of Labor Standards Enforcement Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 has limited data about underpayment and workplace protections for youth⁶, which makes it more difficult to track reported cases of workplace violations, risking youth from continued wage theft, unsafe working conditions, and retaliation without adequate oversight or accountability. Additionally, while the OLSE enforces many labor laws⁷ including workers rights⁸, none of them have any specific definitions or mentions of the employee’s age.

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. “For Release 10:00 a.m. (ET) Thursday, August 21, 2025.” News Release Bureau of Labor Statistics US Department of Labor, August 21, 2026. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/youth.pdf>.

³ “Transmission of Material in This News Release Is Embargoed until USDL-26-0169.” News Release Bureau of Labor Statistics US Department of Labor, February 11, 2026. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>.

⁴ California Department of Education. “Frequently Asked Questions: Work Permits.” Frequently Asked Questions: Work Permits - Work Experience Education (WEE) (CA Dept of Education), n.d.

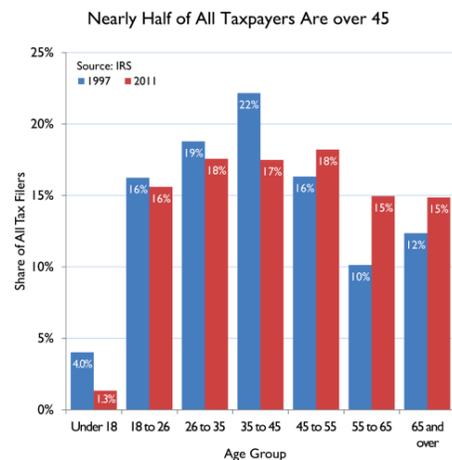
⁵ California Department of Industrial Relations, State of. “Information on Minors and Employment.” Information on minors and employment, December 2020.

⁶ Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. “CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO Office of Labor Standards Enforcement ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2024 - 2025.” FY24-25_OLSE_Annual_Report, February 2026. https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/Six-Month_Report_FY24-25_FINAL.pdf.

⁷ City and County of San Francisco. Office of Labor Standards Enforcement, n.d. <https://www.sf.gov/departments--office-labor-standards-enforcement>

⁸ Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. “Worker Rights in San Francisco.” SF.gov. Accessed February 22, 2026. <https://www.sf.gov/worker-rights-san-francisco>.

Filing taxes is another issue youth face in the workplace. Despite holding multiple jobs, tax return services are mainly accessible through community organizations. Even then, the lack of outreach and education is a major issue. Filing taxes has barred many low-income individuals from accessing critical tax benefits such as Earned Income Tax Credit. 80% of youth get tax advice from social media, which can mislead youth to make financial decisions.⁹ Despite youth making up 13.5% of the U.S. labor force, only 1.3% of people ages 18 and under filed their taxes¹⁰, resulting in earned income tax credit and withheld wages that eligible young workers could have recovered.¹¹ Therefore, employee education about filing taxes is a critical component to workplace education.



Formula Retail

A Formula Retail Establishment is a business with at least 40 stores worldwide and 20 or more employees in San Francisco. In 2014, the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors passed the Retail Workers’ Bill of Rights (RWBOR), also known as Formula Retail employee Rights Ordinances (FRERO); the city has still not supported specific industry-level implementation efforts. While FRERO establishes protections for workers, such as safeguarding against dismissal, harassment, and other violations, compliance relies heavily on employer initiative.¹² Violations of the RWBOR including the dismissal of work permits and workplace harassment can result in youth losing employment opportunities. From community outreach, consequences of job loss discourage them from reporting unsafe work conditions. Because many employers are motivated by avoiding fines and protecting their business licenses, consistent, proactive oversight, such as random audits of business at state and local levels, can help increase compliance without relying solely on individual complaints.

While work permits are heavily emphasized in locally funded youth employment programs like JCYC and SFUSD-partnered internships and job opportunities, private entities, especially small businesses and food-service sectors (like boba shops), are especially undermonitored. Employers often neglect work permits and workplace protections for youth employees. When employees

⁹ Jones, Douglas. “Experts Warn Almost 80% of Youth Get Tax Advice from Social Media.” Scripps News, March 30, 2023. <https://www.scrippsnews.com/business/finance/almost-80-of-youth-use-social-media-for-tax-advice>.

¹⁰ English, Jessica. “Question of the Day: How Many Teenagers File Tax Returns?” Question of the day: How many teenagers file tax returns? - blog, April 13, 2015.

<https://www.ngpf.org/blog/question-of-the-day/question-of-the-day-how-many-teenagers-file-tax-returns/>.

¹¹ Edwards, Kathryn Anne, and Alexander Hertel-Fernandez. Economic Policy Institute, April 7, 2010.

<https://www.epi.org/>.

¹² Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. “Formula Retail Employee Rights Ordinance.” SF.gov, 2016.

<https://www.sf.gov/information--formula-retail-employee-rights-ordinance>.

retaliate by speaking up, employers have responded by cutting hours, reducing shifts, treating workers in hostile mannerisms, or terminating employment altogether. However, there is a lack of public data on labor enforcement for youth independently working in private entities.

Recently, the passage of California Labor Code 6311 protects workers by shifting the burden of proof on workplace violation from the employee to the employer. Previously, if a worker filed a claim that the boss retaliated, the worker must prove retaliation. Now, if a worker files retaliation, the boss has to prove that they didn't retaliate. Under new law, workers can refuse to perform work that violates workplace safety standards and prohibits employers from laying off or discharging employees for exercising this right; workers who are retaliated against have the right to recover lost wages.¹³

Community programs that facilitate relationships with OLSE are pivotal in advocating for workers rights. With the OLSE, the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) advocated with workers to recover \$108,000 in stolen wages from boba and noodle shops. CPA's worker organizing team supported low-income Chinese workers at Little Sweet experiencing unpaid overtime, improper tip distribution, lack of paid sick leave, inadequate breaks, and unsafe working conditions by offering consultations and explaining legal options when filing claims. Ultimately, the choice to take action remained with the workers, and pursuance of complaint filing is rare.¹⁴ They have called for expanded anti-retaliation laws on the local level to ensure that young workers feel safer asserting their rights without fear of losing their jobs. To many workplace organizations, an ideal workplace for youth workers includes clear communication of rights, transparent payroll documentation, safe working conditions, and protection from retaliation. Employers should be aware of youth protections and required to educate workers about their rights including minimum wage, overtime, and paid sick leave under state and local policies. CPA has noted that workers are especially unaware of sick leave—for every 30 hours worked, workers accrue one hour of paid sick leave.

The Workers Rights Community Collaborative

The Workers Rights Community Collaborative is a network of nonprofit organizations that receive city grants to conduct community-based outreach and education on labor rights, including minimum wage and paid sick leave protections. Organizations such as the Chinese Progressive Association are members of this collective and regularly collaborate with OLSE on worker complaints and case support. However, in past fiscal cycles, including Fiscal Year 25-26, city administrators target this grant and related contracts for reductions. In Fiscal Year 25-26, the

¹³ FindLaw Staff. "California Code, Labor Code - Lab § 6311.5 | Findlaw." California Code, Labor Code - LAB § 6311, January 1, 2025. <https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/labor-code/lab-sect-6311-5/>.

¹⁴ Chinese Progressive Association. "Worker Victory: Boba Chain and Noodle Factory Workers Win Back Stolen Wages." Chinese Progressive Association, July 7, 2025. <https://cpasf.org/updates/worker-victory-boba-chain-and-noodle-factory-workers-win-back-stolen-wages/>.

Office of Labor and Standards Enforcement (OLSE) reduced funding for this program by nearly \$400,000, which was roughly half its budget.¹⁵

Protecting funding for the Workers Rights Community Collaborative is imperative. Contracted community organizations conduct essential outreach to inform workers of their rights in language accessible and culturally relevant ways. This direct partnership also ensures that urgent cases of workplace violations can be addressed efficiently. The Little Sweet boba wage theft case, for example, was a result of coordinated efforts of the Workers Rights Community Collaborative between CPA and the OLSE. Their partnership ensured that worker files, updates, and necessary enforcement steps moved forward.

The Office of Labor Standards Enforcement and youth outreach

While the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE) in San Francisco is the city agency responsible for enforcing local labor laws and protecting workers' rights. They enforce labor laws through investigations of policy violations, audits, and presenting at hearings; public annual fiscal reports; conduct outreach about workers rights; and negotiate settlements between workers and employees.¹⁶ Since its founding, OLSE has collected approximately \$150 million in worker restitution since its founding.¹⁷ In their past fiscal report, OLSE has resolved 454 cases, affected 17,767 workers, and collected \$21.6 million in wages, benefits, penalties, and restitution, which was returned directly to workers whose rights were violated.¹⁸

Integrating youth-focused workplace outreach for 16- to 17-year-olds is critical because this age group often enters the workforce without understanding their rights. In conversations with OLSE, with adequate funding, their fully staffed capacity can integrate 16 to 17 year old youth-focused workplace outreach within their team and in collaboration with organizations in the Workers Rights Community Collaborative. With consistent funding, they can produce outreach materials, coordinate educational events, and review more claims of youth facing workplace violations.

Recommendations

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to:

¹⁵ Rodriguez, Joe Fitzgerald, and Noah Baustin. "Nonprofits Brace for Blood Bath as Lurie Slashes Grant Funding." The San Francisco Standard, June 5, 2025.

<https://sfstandard.com/2025/06/05/daniel-lurie-budget-cuts-san-francisco-nonprofit-grants/>.

¹⁶ City and County of San Francisco. Office of Labor Standards Enforcement, n.d. <https://www.sf.gov/departments--office-labor-standards-enforcement>.

¹⁷ Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. "About the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement." San Francisco city seal. Accessed February 20, 2026. <https://www.sf.gov/departments--office-labor-standards-enforcement--about>.

¹⁸ Office of Labor Standards Enforcement. "CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO Office of Labor Standards Enforcement ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2024 - 2025." FY24-25_OLSE_Annual_Report, February 2026. https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/Six-Month_Report_FY24-25_FINAL.pdf.

1. Establish defined pathways for youth who are transitioning to employment in the following ways:

- a. Create and strengthen partnerships with SFUSD high schools, career-focused programs or courses in community colleges, trade/vocational schools, and industry employers
- b. Host youth-focused job fairs with launching new internships, entry-level employment, and apprenticeship opportunities.

2. Integrate Equity into Workforce Development – by making workforce programs such as SF Youth Works, MYEEP, and OFA more accessible in underserved neighborhoods, youth can find opportunities to seek employment in their area. Also, integrating programs to be culturally responsive to ensure that they meet the unique needs of BIPOC, newcomer, LGBTQ+, and disabled youth.

3. Address and dissolve the systemic barriers that prevent youth from reaching employment – addressing the barriers of transportation, housing stability, and lack of support that affect youth to be unable to uphold any form of employment. Making simple changes like expanding programs that support youth and reintegrate them into education and employment like Project Rebound or Young Community Developers (YCD), and creating pathways for youth to have transitional housing in hand with job opportunities would be a great benefit. By increasing funding for workforce development wrap-around services including transportation access, transitional housing, and other barriers that uphold youth employment, youth can have more access to job opportunities. Expanding programs like Project Rebound and YCD, which have integrated the services above through education, can bridge systemic barriers.

4. Increase support for community-based financial literacy organizations – by expanding sustained City funding and formal partnerships with San Francisco–based CBOs such as MyPath, Bay Area Financial Education Foundation (BAFEF), and Junior Achievement to deliver culturally responsive financial education, coaching, and credit-and wealth-building resources to youth, particularly those from low-income communities and communities of color.

5. Prioritize the Workers Rights Community Collaborative—Outreach and education about workers rights is critical for raising complaints about workplace violations. Community organizations who do this work often bridge language barriers and cultural understanding to restore wage thefts and address workplace violations, fostering stronger workplace environments.

6. Recommend the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement to strengthen workplace protection accountability for youth workers by planning and implementing the following:

- a. **Gather data to produce a comprehensive report on youth workplace protection violations** affecting youth employed in formula retail, small businesses, and boba shops. The report, written in partnership with community organizations, employers, and youth, should identify strategies to protect young workers and prevent future violations; and include outreach metrics.
- b. **Mandate Employer compliance training on youth-specific trauma-responsive harassment prevention and anti-discrimination workplace protections** to ensure employers are prepared to responsibly and safely work with youth employees.
- c. **Mandate Employee training about workplace protections—**
- d. **Establish work permit verification and oversight for all youth workers** in annual compliance reviews
- e. **Expand outreach to 16-17 year olds.** As a fully staffed office, members of OLSE have expressed interest in expanding workplace protection outreach materials to 16-17 year olds. By integrating youth-friendly outreach, the hope is for more youth to better understand their rights and help prevent workplace violations.

7. Strengthen Formula Retail Workplace protections in the following ways:

- a. **Mandate Employer education about youth workplace protections**
- b. **Enforce California Labor Code §6311 with youth input and pass Anti-Retaliation Laws in San Francisco—**Given positive responses from community organizations about state law protections, enforcing Anti-Retaliation laws on the local level to emphasize Anti-Retaliation can significantly encourage workers to report complaints.
- c. **Hold a hearing on the implementation of local FRERO laws** to ensure that retail businesses are compliant to protecting workers, especially youth workers.

ETHICAL GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN LABOR, POLICING & EDUCATION

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and city agencies to plan for the exponential growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including generative video, photo, and audio models in the coming months, and ethically govern AI, including through regulatory policy, with state legislators. In so doing, the Youth Commission urges the city to monitor AI implementation in labor, employment, and education, while addressing impacts on San Francisco's youth and systemically marginalized communities.

Background

Though a concept since the dawn of computing, Artificial Intelligence has only recently materialized in the 2010s and become a commodity post-2022. Tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, and Grok now empower hundreds of millions of people to generate text, visual, and audio content near-instantly and at no cost. As of February 2026, AI tools can generate material in all three domains that is virtually indistinguishable from reality.¹

Exponential leaps in AI capabilities are so grand that the world's top experts warn we're on a trajectory to Artificial Intelligence systems that would supersede human intelligence in practically all tasks. Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), as coined by experts, describes AI systems with reasoning at or above human-level—superintelligence—something that CEOs like Sam Altman of OpenAI, Dario Amodei of Anthropic, and Demis Hassabis of Google DeepMind predict as tangible in the next five years.²

With the lack of regulation at the state and federal levels, AI capabilities are advancing faster than legislation can respond. San Francisco sits at the epicenter of this transformation, given its location near Silicon Valley and as the home of companies driving global AI development like OpenAI, Anthropic, Meta, Salesforce, Google, and more (these companies either have headquarters or substantial operations in San Francisco). Decisions made by our policymakers, therefore, have the potential to shape how AI is deployed worldwide.

AI often embeds the biases of developers—frequently white, male, cisgender, and of elite educational backgrounds—meaning that these systems are prone to exhibiting disproportionate biases towards the marginalized, including low-income residents, communities of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ residents, immigrants, and young people. In their 2019 study *Discriminating Systems: Gender, Race, and Power in AI*, researchers at New York University

¹ Nestor Maslej et al., "The AI Index 2025 Annual Report," AI Index Steering Committee, Institute for Human-Centered AI, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, April 2025, <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2504.07139>.

² Daniel Kokotajlo, Scott Alexander, Thomas Larsen, Eli Lifland, and Romeo Dean, *AI 2027* (AI Futures Project, April 3, 2025), PDF, <https://ai-2027.com/ai-2027.pdf>

warned that the lack of diversity within the AI sector, termed by them as a diversity crisis, would reflect itself as grim biases within AI used for classification and detection of race and gender.³ These systems may be as fundamentally flawed as their creators.

For today's young people, it is undeniable that Artificial Intelligence will play a lifelong role. Today in San Francisco, AI transcends content generated by Large Language Models or Text-to-video models online: it's present physically, is changing the fabric of school and work, and enables granular surveillance by law enforcement. AI brings both harm and benefit, depending on real-world applications and the extent to which it replaces human output, from manual labor to policymaking within government, institutions, and organizations.

AI IN LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

AI-driven automation is changing the size and scope of the workforce, including manual labor jobs that working-class San Franciscans depend on. For young people, AI threatens to eliminate entry-level positions that have historically served as economic pathways.

In recent years, for instance, Autonomous Vehicle companies have begun commercially operating in San Francisco. Though Autonomous Vehicles are overwhelmingly safer than human drivers, concerns lie in Autonomous Vehicles as a means to replace rideshare and delivery drivers. Because of their accessibility and low barrier to entry, such positions provide flexible income for groups that depend on them, including immigrants, students of working age, and those with limited English proficiency.

Automation is nothing new. As early as the 2000s, however, many have issued warnings about disparities in the distribution of *what* jobs are susceptible to automation, *who* depends on them, and *who*, therefore, is impacted the most by AI-driven automation (and the progression of machine learning).

At the start of 2019, policy analysts at the Brookings Institution asserted that while AI-driven automation will affect all groups of workers, these impacts will happen at varying intensities, especially towards young workers, men, and underrepresented communities—these are precisely the groups holding the most automatable occupations.⁴ Young people in particular, according to them, face the most risk of job automation due to their overrepresentation in the food preparation and serving industry (fast food).

³ Sarah Myers West, Meredith Whittaker, and Kate Crawford, "Discriminating Systems: Gender, Race and Power in AI" (New York: AI Now Institute, April 2019), <https://ainowinstitute.org/discriminatingystems.html>

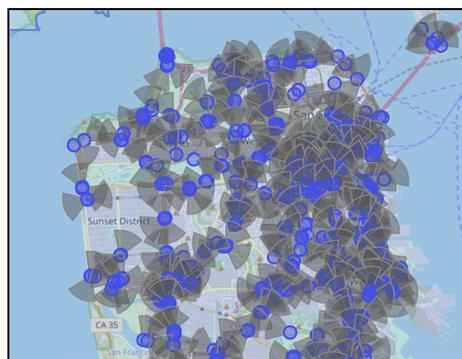
⁴ Muro, Mark, Robert Maxim, and Jacob Whiton. "Automation and Artificial Intelligence: How Machines Are Affecting People and Places." *bibbase.org*, January 2019. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/2019.01_BrookingsMetro_Automation-AI_Report_Muro-Maxim-Whiton-FINAL-version.pdf
that

Automation puts jobs that young people have historically depended on and entered the workforce with—like associates in retail and in grocery, within fast food preparation, tutoring, and delivery—at risk.

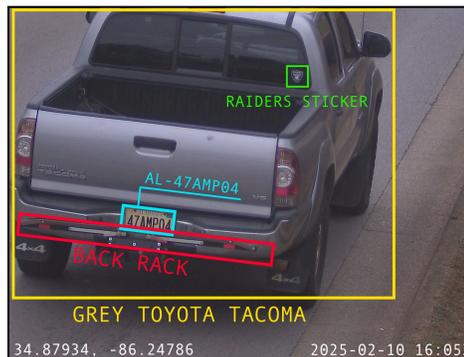
AI IN POLICING

Since 2024, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) has adopted the use of AI to police, to surveil, and as policing algorithms through Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs or LPRs), Flock Safety cameras, drones, and predictive formulas.⁵ Many regard these measures as a foundation for mass surveillance, citing privacy concerns and potential disproportionate impacts on San Francisco's eastern neighborhoods and communities of color.

Mapped by activist groups like deflock.org (right), there exist upwards of 200 LPRs located throughout all of San Francisco's districts. Their disproportionate distribution is visible in mapped data: predominant in neighborhoods like Bayview-Hunters Point, the Mission District, the Portola, and SoMa, San Francisco's eastern neighborhoods are overburdened by LPR placement relative to the city's west side.



LPRs capture images of passing vehicles, recording data points like license plates, dents, marks, and other identifying features, along with location, date, and time. SFPD policy maintains that LPR or drone data is not enough of a basis to issue warrants, pursue, apprehend, or stop an individual, but remains in a searchable database for up to 1 year (or up to 5 years when relating to a criminal investigation) accessible to in-state law enforcement agencies.⁶ Journalists have uncovered, however, that between 2024 and 2025, agencies from Texas and Georgia ran over 1.6 million searches of SFPD LPR data, including to aid Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.⁷



⁵ MacColl, Margaux, and George Kelly. "SFPD Plants High-Tech Crime-Fighting Hub Downtown as Foot Traffic Rebounds." San Francisco, CA: SF Standard, December 3, 2025.

<https://sfstandard.com/2025/12/03/sfpd-plants-high-tech-crime-fighting-hub-downtown-as-foot-traffic-rebounds/>.

⁶ San Francisco Police Department. "Surveillance Technology Policy: Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)." San Francisco, CA: San Francisco Police Department, September 10, 2025.

⁷ Chien, Tomo. "SFPD Let Georgia, Texas Cops Illegally Search City Surveillance Data on Behalf of ICE." *San Francisco Standard*, September 8, 2025. <https://sfstandard.com/2025/09/08/sfpd-flock-alpr-ice-data-sharing/>

There is no doubt that LPRs, drones, and similar technology *can* and *do* fight crime, especially as it relates to petty theft, car break-ins, auto theft, and sting operations (where this technology proves critical), but placement and biases within algorithms can be problematic. Besides, with potential future (and extension of current) contracts between the SFPD and surveillance companies, many people insist that the former is ushering in a new era of AI-powered, bias-prone surveillance under which civil liberties and privacy are threatened.

AI IN EDUCATION

It's an understatement to say that AI is transforming the educational landscape in San Francisco and beyond, creating both opportunity and risk for students. For one, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) has begun to embrace AI—including, the district asserts, for literacy rate improvement—but the district must also grapple with concerns about student privacy, academic integrity, and corporate influence.

In January 2026, a technology officer on behalf of SFUSD signed a contract with OpenAI to grant 12,000 subscriptions to ChatGPT EDU, an educational version of ChatGPT, which included access to higher-end models and suppressed usage limits.⁸ Problematically, this move came without the approval of the school board *and* was only placed on the school board's consent calendar after the fact (in February), meaning that it could have been approved without public discussion and in a quick manner. The publicized version of the contract redacts pricing, scope, and limitations of the agreement, making it unclear what the district had agreed to.⁹

The district's AI policy and the board's handling of it were among the leading points of contention leading up to the United Educators of San Francisco (UESF) strike in February. As part of its labor negotiations (and in addition to demands including upholding sanctuary status, staffing and pay improvements, and healthcare improvements) in its first strike since 1979, UESF demanded "protections from negative impacts of Artificial Intelligence".¹⁰

OPENAI ORDER FORM

Offer Valid Until: January 30, 2026

OpenAI GCo, LLC
1455 3rd Street
San Francisco, California 94158
United States

BILLING INFORMATION

Bill to: San Francisco Unified School District
Billing contact: ngor@sfusd.edu

Ship to: 555 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102, United States
Primary contact: znd_90@hotmail.com

CHATGPT SERVICES

Service	Quantity	Net Unit Price	Start Date	End Date	Net Total
ChatGPT EDU	12,000 End Users	[REDACTED]	February 2, 2026	February 1, 2027	[REDACTED]
					Net Amount

CHATGPT ADDITIONAL TERMS

- Billing Schedule.** Customer will be invoiced annually upfront for the Net Amount on the Start Date pursuant to the Payment Terms table below.
- Additional End Users.** Customer may increase the number of End Users (the "Additional End Users") at any time during the Term through its designated Administrator(s). Customer will be billed on a quarterly basis in arrears for each Additional End User exceeding the End Users already paid for, prorated through the remainder of the Term.
- Pooled Credits.** The Exhibit: ChatGPT Platform Pooled Usage Credit Pricing attached to this Order Form will apply to Customer's usage of ChatGPT Enterprise (Platform and Pooled Credits).
- Enterprise API.** Customer's use of the API, if any, is subject to the Agreement and the pricing set forth at <https://openai.com/enterprise>, unless otherwise agreed in writing by both parties. API usage is provided on a monthly basis in arrears according to the Payment Information below.
- Student Data.** The OpenAI Student Data Privacy Agreement set forth at <https://oai.chsd.openai.com/oaia-openai-edpa.pdf> will apply to use of the Services.
- Local Storage.** The ChatGPT Services will permanently store Customer Content at rest in US (the "Region") in accordance with Exhibit: ChatGPT Storage Addendum attached hereto.

PAYMENT TERMS

Payment Term:	Net 30	PO required?	No
Currency:	USD	PO Number:	N/A
Payment Method:	ACH	VAT/GST number:	N/A

⁸ SFUSD Technology Services Office. *SFUSD-OpenAI Order Form / Agreement*. Signed January 22, 2026. Google Drive document. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QT3TOvzOfbIdvvhxh0Wuq30sDfn0FFsqQ/view>

⁹ Sylvie Sturm, "School District Approves OpenAI Contract, Bypassing Board and Raising Student Privacy Concerns," *San Francisco Public Press*, February 5, 2026.

<https://www.sfpublishpress.org/school-district-approves-openai-contract-bypassing-board-and-raising-student-privacy-concerns/>

¹⁰ United Educators of San Francisco. *UESF AI Proposals / Labor Negotiation Documents, 2023–24*. Google Drive document. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i4to5L_wYmG3xDrQH0HBVTsvtG2YUINm/view

Protections, as pushed for by UESF, include transparency, where the details of AI tools and implementation are disclosed to staff before they happen; oversight, where human review is part of learning and grading processes (and this is not just “left” to AI); job protection in that AI is not used to reduce or eliminate positions; and development, where educators are trained on AI tools when expected to use them.

In its educator-facing guide *Using Generative AI: Growthrails for Staff*, the district recommends applications for AI tools within the classroom while suggesting dangers and benefits.¹¹ It suggests using AI for differentiating texts to cater to students’ specific needs, generating (in conjunction with human input) lesson plans, and increasing productivity over written communication. The document concedes, however, that there exist limitations and dangers, such as privacy concerns, conversations used as training data, hallucinations, and biases. The data on which AI tools are often characterized by an absence of underrepresented groups and racial and gender stereotypes.

The privacy of data is *especially* important when it pertains to the personal information of students—young people—that they might share during conversations. As seen when LPR data finds itself in the hands of federal immigration agents, the mishandling of sensitive information has negative consequences, which, for San Francisco’s most vulnerable students, are possibly life-altering. If a student who is undocumented, for instance, or with undocumented parents shares their familial situation with ChatGPT, these details become jeopardized; LGBTQ+ students may be at risk in unsupportive households when discussing gender or sexuality with AI; students experiencing abuse or neglect can develop unhealthy overreliance on AI tools as opposed to trained professionals.

In 1974, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) was codified into law to govern the protection of students’ data within schools. Though amended multiple times since, it hasn’t been meaningfully updated for the rise of AI in education; AI companies can exploit loopholes therein. If data are “de-identified” (names and personal attributes stripped), companies can still use them for research, product development, and commercial purposes. In 2019, researchers alarmingly estimated that, even in anonymized data sets, up to 99.98% of Americans could correctly be identified.¹² Hypothetically, therefore, if a group of 50,000 SFUSD students had substantial data about them collected through AI, all but 10 would be identified.

In terms of applications, the district reports positive results nonetheless.

¹¹ San Francisco Unified School District. *Using Generative AI: Growthrails for Staff— Educator Recommendations for AI Use in SFUSD*. Google Docs. Accessed February 2026. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/13YbL1tvrhxYlHrogW13UkszdC7rLNh1uSk6iHFPHz7g/preview?tab=t.0#heading=h.si3zhdu75dqoo>

¹² Luc Rocher, Julien M. Hendrickx, and Yves-Alexandre de Montjoye. "Estimating the Success of Re-identifications in Incomplete Datasets Using Generative Models." *Nature Communications* 10, no. 3069 (July 23, 2019). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-10933-3>

In August 2024, SFUSD launched *Ready, Set, Read!*, a citywide program to increase literacy levels and transform writing and reading instruction with nonprofit SPARK SF Public Schools. As part of its initiative, *Ready, Set, Read!* uses Amira, an AI tutoring tool where students read aloud and receive real-time feedback on pronunciation and comprehension. According to an SFUSD press release¹³, in the first year after the program's inception, reading proficiency has improved:

- Among kindergarteners, from 65% to 69%
- Among first graders, from 55% to 62%
- Among Black and Pacific Islander kindergarteners, from 39% to 53%

In its year 1 *Ready, Set, Read!* impact report,¹⁴ SPARK SF Public Schools delineated that 1,484 elementary teachers were trained on *Into Reading*, SFUSD's new literacy curriculum, and impacted over 20,000 students citywide—though SFUSD officials acknowledge that growth in literacy levels was not as dramatic for second and third graders.¹⁵

Drawbacks of implementing AI exist despite reported successes. Academic integrity, the ability to effectively preserve it, *and* the ability to detect academic dishonesty remain challenges—AI detection tools like GPTZero and Turnitin often produce false positives and disproportionately flag non-native English speakers, African American Vernacular English, and neurodivergent students. In 2023, Stanford researchers found not only that popular AI detectors “consistently misclassify non-native English writing samples as AI-generated,” but that simple strategies can bypass detection altogether.¹⁶

Furthermore, in October 2025, the Washington D.C.-based nonprofit Center for Democracy and Technology surveyed 1,030 high schoolers, 806 middle and high school teachers, and 1,018 parents: they found that 85% and 86% and teachers and students reported using AI during the 2024-25 school year, respectively.¹⁷

¹³ San Francisco Unified School District. "Ready, Set, Read!: SFUSD's New Literacy Effort Delivering Results After First Year." Press release, October 3, 2025.

<https://www.sfusd.edu/about-sfusd/sfusd-news/press-releases/2025-10-03-ready-set-read-sfusds-new-literacy-effort-delivering-results-after-first-year>

¹⁴ Spark SF Public Schools. *Ready, Set, Read! Year 1 Impact Report*. October 2025. AnyFlip.

<https://anyflip.com/odnzj/bmrk/>

¹⁵ Greg Wong, "SF School Leaders Credit AI Tool for Improved Literacy," *San Francisco Examiner*, October 2, 2025.

https://www.sfoxaminer.com/news/education/sf-school-leaders-credit-ai-tool-for-improved-literacy/article_51925a25-e4b7-4342-bac9-64e687170b31.html

¹⁶ Weixin Liang, Mert Yuksekgonul, Yining Mao, Eric Wu, and James Zou. "GPT Detectors Are Biased Against Non-Native English Writers." arXiv:2304.02819v3 [cs.CL], July 10, 2023. <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2304.02819>

¹⁷ Center for Democracy and Technology. *Hand in Hand: Polling on AI, Education, and Student Privacy*. October 2, 2025. <https://cdt.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/FINAL-CDT-2025-Hand-in-Hand-Polling-100225-accessible.pdf>

The people surveyed maintain top concerns about data breaches, AI-enabled sexual harassment and bullying, and troubling interactions, especially regarding mental health. Of all surveyed students,

- Half say the AI use in classrooms creates a disconnect from teachers;
- 42% said they've interacted with AI for mental health counseling;
- 19% said they have pursued romantic relationships with AI;
- 31% worry that AI will treat them unfairly;
- and 35% said that they've been exposed to extreme or radical views.

Students falsely accused of AI report lasting psychological harm, such as anxiety and self-doubt. Other AI-induced harm may come from students seeking romantic or parasocial relationships with AI chatbots.

Recommendations

San Francisco lawmakers have an opportunity to set a national precedent for regulating AI without hindering innovation.

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

- 1. Establish a city-level Board or Commission to oversee the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence.** In addition to monitoring AI implementation in employment and policing, especially where privacy concerns are prevalent, this body should oversee the implementation of AI in San Francisco's public schools.
- 2. Work with State and Federal Legislators** to regulate Artificial Intelligence growth, including mandating watermarks, usage limits, and means of identification for AI-generated content, especially video, photo, and audio.
- 3. Work with State and Federal Legislators** to uphold FERPA, the safeguards for student privacy therein, and explore adapting FERPA to protect student privacy in the AI era.
- 4. Explore private-public partnerships focused on bolstering student learning.** Working with professionals across industries to bridge gaps in student literacy can enhance classroom learning, given the success of SFUSD's *Ready, Set, Read!* Program.
- 5. Consider local legislation that protects student and staff privacy in classrooms during the implementation process of AI usage,** especially to uphold the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and CA's Student Online Personal Information Protection Act.
- 6. Protect teacher jobs and paraeducators from Artificial Intelligence replacement** in collaboration with United Educators of San Francisco.

EXPAND FREE MUNI FOR ALL YOUTH TO INCLUDE TRANSITIONAL-AGED YOUTH (18–24)

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to expand the Free Muni for All Youth program to include Transitional-Aged Youth (TAY) ages 18–24, prioritizing low-income residents and City College of San Francisco (CCSF) students.

Background

Transitional-aged youth (TAY), defined as young people ages 18–24, experience a sharp reduction in public support upon turning 18. At the same time, they are expected to transition into adulthood by entering higher education, entering the workforce, and securing independent housing. In San Francisco’s high-cost environment, many TAY face heightened risks of housing instability and homelessness, with transportation costs posing a major barrier to accessing employment, college, health, and essential services.

The majority of TAY do not own personal vehicles and rely heavily on public transportation, making Muni access critical to economic mobility and educational attainment. Research shows that young people are significantly less reliant on private automobiles than previous generations. A study reported by the San Francisco Examiner found that between 2001 and 2009, miles driven by people ages 16–34 dropped by 23%, while public transit use increased by 40%, with additional increases in walking and biking.¹ This demonstrates that young people are increasingly dependent on accessible and affordable public transportation systems.

This burden heavily impacts City College of San Francisco (CCSF) students, who are predominantly low-income, first-generation, transitional-aged youth and working students. Unlike four-year institutions, CCSF students often commute long distances, attend multiple campuses, and balance school with employment and caregiving responsibilities. Transit costs can directly affect enrollment, persistence, and completion.

While institutions such as San Francisco State University and UC Berkeley provide institutional transit access programs for their students, CCSF students do not receive comparable, guaranteed transit support despite facing significantly higher rates of financial insecurity.

¹ “Young People Relying Less and Less on Auto Travel,” *San Francisco Examiner*, n.d.

Evidence of Need and Equity Impact

CCSF student equity data demonstrates that CCSF students represent some of the most financially vulnerable youth populations in the city.²

- 45% of CCSF students are low-income and receive CCPG or Pell Grants.
- 29.5% of CCSF students are first-generation college students.

Transportation barriers directly compound these inequities. When nearly half of the student body is low-income, and nearly one-third are first-generation college students, the cost of daily transit becomes a structural barrier to persistence and completion.

Expanding Free Muni to include Transitional-Aged Youth would align transportation policy with the City’s educational equity goals and workforce development priorities.

Transit Access Increases Ridership and Retention

The Clipper BayPass pilot program demonstrated that individuals with unlimited transit access took 30–35% more transit trips.³ Students participating in the program were less likely to leave their university and reported an increased likelihood of remaining enrolled.

The findings show that when financial barriers to transit are removed, transit use increases and school retention improves. While BayPass is a program that supports multiple different organizations, it demonstrates that fare-free or unlimited access meaningfully impacts educational stability and workforce participation.

By expanding Free Muni eligibility from ages 0–18 to ages 0–24, San Francisco would create a continuous youth mobility pipeline that supports students during the most economically vulnerable period of their lives.

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

1. Expand Free Muni for All Youth eligibility to include Transitional-Aged Youth up to age 24.
 - a. Prioritize low- to moderate-income San Francisco residents.

² City College of San Francisco, “Student Equity & Achievement Data,” December 2024.

³ Metropolitan Transportation Commission, “Clipper® BayPass,” n.d.

2. Ensure City College of San Francisco students are eligible for Free Muni through an equity-based approach.
 - a. Prioritize students eligible for need-based financial aid, including CCPG or Pell recipients.
 - b. Prioritize first-generation college students.
 - c. Prioritize students experiencing housing instability, foster youth, and other designated equity populations.
3. Align expansion of Free Muni with the City's student equity and workforce development goals by recognizing transportation access as an educational retention strategy.
4. Integrate Transitional Aged Youth access into the existing Free Muni for All Youth program structure to ensure a seamless extension from ages 0–18 to ages 0–24.

EXPAND MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES IN SFUSD AND SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Youth Commission encourages the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to create more mental health initiatives in San Francisco and in SFUSD schools.

Background

Over the last several years, children and adolescents aged 5 to 14 have experienced a sharp incline in worsening mental health challenges. Contributing factors include the lasting impact of COVID-19, academic pressure, and limited access to early mental health intervention. As further evidence of the effects of COVID-19, a study conducted by the National Library of Medicine on nearly 600 young people found high levels of clinical depression (48%), anxiety (51%), and loneliness among participants.¹ In short, although the COVID-19 pandemic has ended, its effects on youths' psychological and emotional well-being have not. As a result of these factors, several elementary and middle school students are navigating anxiety, depression, and emotional distress without consistent support. The lack of early intervention from both families and schools allows challenges to escalate into larger problems, resulting in crisis-level needs during adolescence.

SFUSD Intervention

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) serves 122 schools, comprising 64 elementary, 13 middle, and 14 high schools. It provides mental health support through school counselors, social workers, and Coordinated Care Teams (CCTs), which collaborate to identify students' needs and connect them to additional resources. Some schools also offer wellness centers that similarly provide counseling, crisis intervention, and health education directly on campus.

However, access to resources is uneven. San Francisco Wellness Centers operate in 35 of SFUSD's 112 schools, primarily serving high school and middle school students. Many students from ages 5 to 11 attend school without comprehensive, on-site mental health support. This disparity is evident, excluding elementary-level students, despite this being a critical developmental period. In the United States, 50% of all mental health disorders show their first signs by the age of 14 years old². The consequences of unmet mental health needs are severe, as suicide is the second leading

¹ Bell IH, Nicholas J, Broomhall A, Bailey E, Bendall S, Boland A, Robinson J, Adams S, McGorry P, Thompson A. The impact of COVID-19 on youth mental health: A mixed methods survey. *Psychiatry Res.* 2023 Mar;321:115082. doi: 10.1016/j.psychres.2023.115082. Epub 2023 Jan 28. PMID: 36738592; PMCID: PMC9883078.

² "Mental Health in Schools," National Alliance on Mental Illness, last modified April 8, 2021, accessed January 18, 2026, <https://www.nami.org/advocacy-at-nami/policy-positions/imtaken-the-proving-health/mental-health-in-schools/#:~:text=How%20We%20Talk%20About%20It,get%20the%20help%20they%20need>

Effects of the SFPDH Cuts on Mental Health Services

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFPDH) is the city's agency responsible for protecting and promoting the health of all San Francisco residents.³ As of February of 2026, SFPDH is moving forward with more than \$17 million in proposed cuts to community-based organizations' contracts.⁴ These cuts are disproportionately affecting underserved communities, including those supported by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) San Francisco.⁵

Notably, NAMI SF's programs have been eliminated.⁶ NAMI SF focused on expanding mental health access and cultivating peer leadership in the African American community through support groups, faith centers, and affordable housing sites.⁷ These culturally responsive, peer-led services reached individuals who face significant barriers to traditional behavioral health care.⁸ Their elimination threatens to deepen existing mental health disparities and undermine efforts to create equitable mental health support in San Francisco.

Efforts to Reduce Mental Health In Other Countries

Many countries around the world have taken the initiative to address adolescent mental health issues as health concerns and have launched campaigns and coalitions in countries such as Australia, Denmark, and the United Kingdom to raise awareness.⁹ The programs have brought together research experts, nonprofit agencies, government agencies, community groups, and skilled volunteers to address social isolation through evidence-based interventions and advocacy.¹⁰ Examples include:

- Japan passed an important piece of legislation this year: the Act to Promote Measures Against Loneliness and Isolation.
- The Danish government has introduced a loneliness strategy, underpinned by a plan setting out 75 cross-governmental actions.
- In the United States, US Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy launched an advisory that called Americans' attention to the epidemic of loneliness and isolation and provided detailed guidance for addressing these issues in public life.
- The European Union has launched a five-point plan to tackle mental illness, which it says currently affects one in ten people in Europe.¹¹

³ "Department of Public Health," SF.gov, accessed February 19, 2026, <https://www.sf.gov/departments--department-public-health>.

⁴ San Francisco AIDS Foundation, "SF Department of Public Health Moves Forward on \$17 Million in Budget Cuts Primed to Devastate LGBTQ+, African American, and Chinese Communities Health Equity and Economic Recovery," San Francisco AIDS Foundation, last modified February 2, 2026, accessed February 19, 2026, <https://www.sfaf.org/collections/breaking-news/sf-department-of-public-health-moves-forward-on-17-million-in-budget-cuts-primed-to-devastate-lgbtq-african-american-and-chinese-communities-health-equity-and-economic-recovery/>.

⁵ San Francisco AIDS Foundation, "SF Department," San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

⁶ San Francisco AIDS Foundation, "SF Department," San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

⁷ San Francisco AIDS Foundation, "SF Department," San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

⁸ San Francisco AIDS Foundation, "SF Department," San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

⁹ Novotney, A. American Psychology Association.

¹⁰ Novotney, A. American Psychology Association.

¹¹ Watson R. EU launches plan to tackle mental illness and reduce number of suicides. *BMJ*. 2008 Jun 21;336(7658):1394. doi: 10.1136/bmj.a381. PMID: PMC2432147.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) is launching a three-year Commission on Social Connection to foster the accumulation of evidence that will inform causes and treatments, strengthen advocacy, and encourage effective practice.¹²

Recommendations:

- 1. Encourage more CBO / City partnership with SFUSD** – These organizations host events that bring communities from all around San Francisco together. They encourage everyone to socialize and build strong relationships.
- 2. Address COVID-19's Impact on San Francisco Youth** – The COVID-19 pandemic has caused profound disruptions to young people at a critical period of psychosocial development. In San Francisco, the youth had to stay home and take classes online, depriving them of face-to-face interactions for almost two years. As such, the Mayor and Board of Supervisors must find ways to help the large numbers of San Francisco youth still suffering from COVID-19.
- 3. Model SF's Response(s) on Successes in Other Countries** – Review the legislation, campaigns, and coalitions passed and/or launched in other countries (e.g., Japan, Denmark, and the United Kingdom) to develop (or consider developing) legislation and/or campaigns targeting adolescent mental health issues.
- 4. Improve communication for the Community Health Programs for Youth Clinic** – Improve response time and quality to youth calls. Students often get no response from CHPY's referral appointment system, barring them from receiving help.

¹² Paul Cann, "How Communities Around The World Are Connecting Social Isolation and Health," *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, last modified December 6, 2023, accessed February 13, 2025.

IMPROVE SFUSD EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to address the educational outcomes within SFUSD while strengthening comprehensive sexual health education. Academic inequities and short-term sexual health instruction continue to affect all students in San Francisco, especially those in low-income communities.

Background

Education has been failing students, not just in San Francisco and California, but nationwide. As of 2022, 40% of 4th graders and nearly a third of 8th graders are reading below the "basic" level, meaning that they struggle to understand the meaning of basic words, have a hard time answering simple factual information presented in the written text, and cannot read with enough fluency to get through the material on time and answer questions.¹ About 39% of 4th graders, 28% of 8th graders, and 22% of 12th graders were considered proficient or advanced in math in 2024.² Finally, a report from *It's On Us* found that just 45% of college men received sexual assault prevention training, and only 24% learned about dating, sex, and relationships in their K - 12 education.³ In California, only 45% of its 48,000 students meet grade-level expectations (just 11% of Black students and 17% of Latino students are at grade level in math). Despite those low numbers, it's actually doing *better* than the state average, where only 36% of students are at grade level in math.⁴ Although addressing national educational disparities is beyond our reach, strengthening educational opportunities in SFUSD schools can improve student outcomes.

SFUSD's Accountability

Even though these statistics are alarming, SFUSD has taken steps to improve the education it provides for students in grades K-8. Recently, they implemented Math (Imagine Learning Illustrative Math), which focuses on problem-based learning, conceptual understanding (the why), real-world application, digital tools, and collaboration. Secondly, SFUSD has implemented Literacy (Intro Reading / EL Education), which is research-backed, has inclusive foundational skills, and builds knowledge of vocabulary through daily reading and writing. The new curriculum is a shift toward a proven, evidence-based approach to instruction.⁵ After piloting the

¹"State Achievement - Level Results," The Nation's Report Card, accessed January 18, 2026, <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/mathematics/states/achievement/?grade=8>.

² "What Percentage of Students in the US Are Proficient in Math?," USAFacts, accessed January 18, 2026, <https://usafacts.org/answers/what-percentage-of-students-in-the-us-are-proficient-in-math/>.

³Nadra Nittle, "'They're Just Not Enough': Students Push to Improve Sexual Assault Prevention Trainings for College Men," The Hechinger Report, last modified October 27, 2023, accessed January 18, 2026, <https://hechingerreport.org/theyre-just-not-enough-students-push-to-improve-sexual-assault-prevention-trainings-for-college-men/evidence-basedresearch-backed>.

⁴"New Math Curriculum Approved by SFUSD, Where Just 45% Are at Grade Level," grow SF, last modified August 8, 2025, accessed January 18, 2026, <https://growsf.org/news/2025-08-08-sfusd-math/>.

⁵Maria Su, "SFSUD Focused on Fundamentals as School Year Begins," *San Francisco Examiner*, last modified August 17, 2025, accessed January 18, 2026, https://www.sfexaminer.com/forum/sfusd-focused-on-fundamentals-as-2025-26-school-year-begins/article_efc347c8-03ae-4ff8-81ab-cde4ba9c0863.html.

curriculum in 2023, in middle and elementary schools, SFUSD saw real results: Students using the new curriculum outperformed those using the old curriculum on standardized tests.⁶ Lisa Levin, Supervisor of Elementary English Language Arts at SFUSD, states that SFUSD “wants every student to have similar access to knowledge. It shouldn’t be dependent on how long a teacher has been teaching or whatever resources are present in a certain school.”⁷ This new curriculum has proven to be effective and has dramatically improved students' test scores. Along with switching the SFUSD curriculum, Mayor Lurie and SFUSD recently announced that SFUSD children will have more access to one-on-one tutors. SFUSD is now expanding tutoring reach to over 2,700 students, trying to improve third-grade literacy. Access to one-on-one tutors for students has shown to be effective. In one-on-one sessions, tutors devote nearly all instructional and relational interactions to a single student.⁸ Research finds that one-on-one tutoring nearly doubled impacts on literacy outcomes compared to tutoring two students at a time.⁹ Research also reveals that one-on-one tutoring supports personalization, providing greater customization to students’ academic needs, and increased use of encouragement.¹⁰

Implementing Title IX

Title IX is a landmark federal law from 1972 that prohibits sex-based discrimination in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.¹¹ All federal agencies that provide grants of financial assistance are required to enforce Title IX’s nondiscrimination mandate.¹² Examples of the types of discrimination that are covered under Title IX include but are not limited to: sex-based harassment; sexual violence; pregnancy discrimination; the failure to provide equal athletic opportunity; sex-based discrimination in a school’s science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses and programs; discriminatory application of dress code policies and/or enforcement; and retaliation.¹³ Although Title IX prohibits sexual harassment and sexual violence, students still face cases related to sexual harassment or violence. Research reflects that 1 in 9 female high school students and 1 in 36 male students report experiencing dating violence in the past year.¹⁴ In a survey of 27 universities, more than 23% of female undergraduate students reported sexual assault or misconduct, and 11.7% of all students

⁶ Su, "SFSUD Focused," *San Francisco Examiner*.

⁷ "SFUSD Adopts," Spark SF Public Schools

⁸ Stanford Graduate School of Education, "Why One - on - One Tutoring Works," Stanford, Scale Initiative Accelerator for Learning, last modified January 16, 2026, <https://scale.stanford.edu/news/why-one-one-tutoring-works#:~:text=Prior%20work%20from%20the%20same,two%20students%20at%20a%20time>.

⁹ Stanford Graduate School of Education, "Why One - on - One Tutoring," Stanford, Scale Initiative Accelerator for Learning.

¹⁰ Stanford Graduate School of Education, "Why One - on - One Tutoring," Stanford, Scale Initiative Accelerator for Learning.

¹¹ "Title IX and Sex Discrimination," U.S. Department of Education, accessed February 2, 2026, <https://www.ed.gov/laws-and-policy/civil-rights-laws/title-ix-and-sex-discrimination>.

¹² "Title IX and Sex Discrimination," U.S. Department of Education.

¹³ "Title IX and Sex Discrimination," U.S. Department of Education.

¹⁴ "Sexual Misconduct in Schools," AAUW Action Fund, accessed February 2, 2026, <https://www.aauw.org/issues/education/sexual-misconduct/>.

experienced nonconsensual contact.¹⁵ Furthermore, 1 in 10 female graduate students report being sexually harassed by a faculty member.¹⁶ According to the San Francisco Youth Commission's "Address Sexual Assault and Harassment in Schools" budget and policy priorities, sexual assault and harassment have continued to impact schools across San Francisco severely. Within six months in 2022, more than 50 lawsuits were filed against school districts across San Francisco and the larger Bay Area.¹⁷ Over the past 7 years, more than 19 employees of the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) accused of sexual misconduct were allowed to resign to avoid termination. The City must make necessary changes to address this systemic issue that continues to impact and harm San Francisco youth. Regarding SFUSD, recent reporting shows allegations that an SFUSD athletic director at George Washington High School has been accused of sexual abuse, and despite law enforcement being contacted and an active lawsuit, he was permitted to "quietly resign" and obtain similar employment elsewhere.¹⁸ A California Public Records Act Request showed that only 5 out of 24 Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints within the SFUSD were investigated in 2022. The lack of action and investigation further demonstrates the flaws of the reporting system and the lack of accountability throughout SFUSD. Further, age-appropriate sexual violence education can teach K-12 students to help identify, prevent, and report sexual violence.

Helping children learn to identify and prevent sexual violence is particularly important when many children are socially delayed from school closures during the pandemic.¹⁹ Along with this, teaching students about sexuality and sexual health equips children and young people with the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that help them to protect their health, develop respectful social and sexual relationships, make responsible choices, and understand and protect the rights of others.²⁰ Evidence consistently shows that high-quality sexuality education delivers positive health outcomes, with lifelong impacts.²¹ Young people are more likely to delay the onset of sexual activity—and when they do have sex, to practice safer sex—when they are better informed about their sexuality, sexual health, and their rights.²² Sexuality education also helps

¹⁵ "Sexual Misconduct," AAUW Action Fund.

¹⁶ "Sexual Misconduct," AAUW Action Fund.

¹⁷ Sophia Ballog, "These 51 Bay Area Schools Face Sexual Abuse Lawsuits. Here Are the Details of Each Case," San Francisco Chronicle, last modified January 10, 2024, accessed February 6, 2025

¹⁸ Cynthia Dizikes, "New Sexual Assault Accusation Is Made against SFUSD Athletic Director, Who Was Allowed to Quietly Resign," San Francisco Chronicle, last modified September 2022, accessed February 6, 2025

¹⁹ Melanie Bennett, "Train Children on Sexual Violence Preexploitationvention," *United Educators*, last modified March 2024, accessed February 2, 2026,

<https://www.ue.org/risk-management/sexual-assault-and-misconduct/train-children-on-sexual-violence-prevention/#:~:text=Age%2Dappropriate%20sexual%20violence%20education,school%20closures%20during%20the%20pandemic>.

²⁰ "Comprehensive Sexuality Education," World Health Organization, last modified May 18, 2023, accessed February 2, 2026,

<https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/comprehensive-sexuality-education#:~:text=Sexuality%20education%20equips%20children%20and,protect%20the%20rights%20of%20others>.

²¹ "Comprehensive Sexuality," World Health Organization.

²² "Comprehensive Sexuality," World Health Organization.

them prepare for and manage physical and emotional changes as they grow up, including during puberty and adolescence, while teaching them about respect, consent, and where to go if they need help.²³ This in turn reduces risks from violence, exploitation, and abuse.²⁴

SFUSD must reinforce its Title IX curriculum so students are aware of their rights and how to file reports within SFUSD. In 2021, hundreds of SFUSD students organized a walkout to protest against SFUSD's management of student sexual assault reports and Title IX complaints. Many students felt unsupported with their Title IX complaints and said administrators often dismissed their reports.²⁵ Because students were aware of their rights, they were able to speak out on areas SFUSD could improve on. A well-rounded health curriculum in SFUSD should highlight and take time on the Title IX lessons already established. This includes hands-on, real-life activities such as learning how to file a Title IX report and educating students on their schools' Title IX coordinators. Hands-on activities that apply to real-life scenarios reinforce student learning and help with long-term retention. Students can retain up to 90% of information taught to them by applying these lessons.²⁶ By incorporating hands-on Title IX lessons, students are able to effectively learn their rights and retain that information to create a safer school environment.

Recommendations:

- 1. Support SFUSD's newly rolled out curriculum** – SFUSD is improving its curriculum to inclusively and effectively teach foundational skills to its diverse student body.²⁷
- 2. Support SFUSD's new 1:1 tutoring program** - 1:1 tutoring has proven to be effective for all students, and with SFUSD's new implementation of 1:1 tutoring for their students will greatly impact children's learning and overall education as tutoring is customized to support an individual student's needs.
- 3. Support the expansion of on-site CBO partnerships that offer academic support** – On-site community-based organizations, such as the Community Youth Center (CYC), Community-Based Organizations (CBOS), and the Richmond Neighborhood Center, provide accessible tutoring, mentoring, and academic resources. Expanding these partnerships allows students to receive consistent, personalized support directly on campus and reduces academic barriers.
- 4. Support Proposition C, legislation that expands child-care subsidies to families earning up to 200% of the area median income (AMI) (approximately \$207,000 for**

²³ "Comprehensive Sexuality," World Health Organization.

²⁴ "Comprehensive Sexuality," World Health Organization.

²⁵ Madeleine Johnston, "Demanding a Difference," The Lowell, n.d., <https://thelowell.org/10619/features/demanding-a-difference/#:~:text=In%20the%20fall%20of%202021,show%20solidarity%20for%20SOTA's%20cause.>

²⁶ Siliezar, Juan, and Juan Siliezar. "Finding Hands-on Approaches to Remote Learning." Harvard Gazette, November 9, 2023.

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/10/study-finds-students-learn-better-through-physical-participation/#:~:text=It%20found%20that%20while%20students,that%20employed%20the%20active%20strategies.>

²⁷ SFUSD Adopts a New Literacy Curriculum," Spark SF Public Schools, accessed January 18, 2026, <https://www.sparksfpublicschools.org/new-page-5.>

a family of four) – San Francisco children need high-quality, affordable early care and education. Evidence demonstrates that quality early childcare leads to a more skilled workforce²⁸ and helps close the opportunity gap²⁹. Expanding eligibility from 150% to 200% AMI annually would allow the City to effectively use the remaining unused Prop. C reserves.

- 5. Implement curriculum in SFUSD schools that teaches students about sexual assault, Title IX, and sexual health** – Educating students about sexual health as early as kindergarten about sexual health is vital to instilling what it means to be in a safe and consensual relationship with another. Knowing what this means dramatically reduces sexual assault and harassment cases among teenagers and college students. United Educators provides a structure of sexual health education among K - 12 schools:
 - a. Kindergarten - 5th Grade:
 - i. Learning about bodily autonomy, the right to say “no”, the definition of consent, and where or to whom to report anyone who violates bodily autonomy
 - b. Sixth - Eighth Grade:
 - i. State-specific definitions of consent and statutory rape
 - ii. Examples of what is and what isn’t consent in the context of sexual activity
 - c. Ninth - Twelfth Grade:
 - i. When a person is incapable of giving sexual consent due to age, incapacitation, or intellectual disability.
 - ii. Consider covering the difference between intoxication and incapacitation.
- 6. Increase high school curriculum on Title IX** - Extending the curriculum on Title IX by spending more time on Title IX hands-on and scenario-based activities. Curriculum on Title IX should also include incorporating information on mandated case reporters in each SFUSD school and a step-by-step process on how to file a Title IX complaint through the school and district.

²⁸ Heckman, J., Grunewald, R. & Reynolds, A. (2006). The Dollars and Cents of Investing Early: Cost Benefit Analysis in Early Care and Education. Zero to Three, 10-17.

²⁹ Fall 2017 San Francisco United School District Kindergarten Readiness Inventory Report

INCREASING COLLEGE ACCESS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to sustain funding for existing community-based organizations providing college support, grants for community colleges, and resource centers for transitional-aged youth. Additionally, the San Francisco Youth Commission calls on the City and County of San Francisco to urge SFUSD to maintain staffing for College Ambassadors to ensure critical support for first-generation and low-income students.

Background

Under the San Francisco Unified School District’s Vision, Values, Goals, and Guardrails, SFUSD has a goal for all 12th graders to reach 70% of college/career readiness by June 2027. ¹ In 2020, 57.7% of 12th graders were college/career ready. No further data has been collected, but SFUSD has stated that they are not on track to meet this goal.

Achieving college/career readiness requires the necessary funding for college access programs and academic support. Low-income communities lack access to college preparation support, including academic advising, college counseling, and college exploration, which creates disproportionate impacts on graduation rates. In San Francisco, Chinatown has a 23% college graduation rate, Bayview–Hunters Point 27%, and the Tenderloin 36%. ²

In 2023, SFUSD had a graduation rate of 88.3%, where 20% of the class of 2023 enrolled in one University of California (UC) college; 60% of the UC student body is first-generation and low-income. Being first-generation means that neither of a student’s parents has graduated from college, and low-income status indicates that a student’s household income is below 200% of the federal poverty line. In SFUSD, 48.6% are low-income, but only 40.2% of students have “college readiness.” College access disparities reflect the need for focused high school support, especially in low-income communities of color. Community organizations, the school district, individual schools, colleges, and government entities such as DCYF need sustained funding to support student-centered programs that expand college preparation, advising, and awareness.

High School Support

In SFUSD, high school counselors face incredibly demanding caseloads. For the 2019-2020 School Year, the counselor-to-student ratio is 110:1. For every student, counselors provide support with class advising, scheduling, credit recovery, truancy, graduation, college applications, in addition to attending school-based events and working beyond their paid hours to support students. In addition to high school counselors, many high schools have active college and career rooms or centers, where staff from community-based organizations such as the Japanese Community Youth Council or community volunteers provide career mentoring, college essay writing support, and financial aid support.

Additionally, 12 of 17 high schools, identified with a student body that is predominantly low-income, first generation students, have college ambassadors, a paid position by SFUSD to

¹ San Francisco Unified School District, “SFUSD Progress Monitoring Report Goal 3 College and Career Readiness Measures,” San Francisco Unified School District, February 25, 2025

² Jiyun Tsai, “One in Three Homes in This San Francisco Neighborhood Lives Below the Poverty Line,” The San Francisco Standard, December 8, 2022

support low-income, youth of color with college applications, post-high school options, financial aid, scholarships, City College of San Francisco (CCSF) dual enrollment classes, and anything else college/postsecondary access related.

Increased Support for Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Students

SFUSD high school students can enroll in college-level courses and earn transferable credits before graduation through dual enrollment, an effective college preparation tactic. Dual enrollment provides many students, particularly those from first-generation or low-income families, with an early introduction to college expectations, academic rigor, and campus procedures. Completing these courses successfully reduces the time and expense needed to obtain a college degree while also boosting academic skills and confidence.

To effectively support youth in continuing and completing dual enrollment, schools and partner organizations can provide clear incentives and structured support. Academic advising to help students choose suitable courses, frequent progress checks, study assistance or tutoring for difficult assignments, and a stipend that recognizes the extra work needed to juggle high school and college coursework are all included. To keep students from becoming overwhelmed, it's also essential to provide them with guidance on navigating college platforms, deadlines, and credit transfers.

TRIO Programs

TRIO Programs are federal outreach and student service programs that support youth in right sectors, including low-income individuals and first-generation college students. Since 1995, the TRIO Upward Bound grant has funded the Japanese Community Youth Council to serve students in the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). JCYC serves 150 high schoolers through the Upward Bound program, and 1,865 students through the Education Talent Search Program. Both programs serve four SFUSD high schools. The \$2.6 million in grants supports services across 13 SFUSD High Schools, supporting 3,000 first-generation, low-income students.

At schools, JCYC programming aims to reach as many students as possible. JCYC ETS covers approximately one-third of the senior class. Last year, 79% of four-year-bound students were part of JCYC ETS.

In October 2025, the federal administration's DEI team closed 120 grants for TRIO programs, affecting 43,600 students nationwide. Resultantly, JCYC has been forced to handle layoffs, limiting college events like financial aid workshops that deliver critical information and support for federal aid like FAFSA and CSS Profile; reduce merit scholarships; and college exploration, such as college field trips—an integral part of college exploration that enables students to visualize their best fit in college beyond name recognition or geographical familiarity. Survey data reveal that around 69% of high school students who visit a campus and enjoy their experience significantly increase their interest in college.

In the long term, the Japanese Community Youth Council Educational Talent Search Program hopes to onboard more staff to provide grade-specific college access programming, college matriculation services for graduating seniors, and free CSU waivers for non-qualifying students. These efforts would encourage students who are right on the cusp of being four-year eligible to apply.

Due to a limited budget, JCYC collaborates with other CBOs to increase their college access programming. The San Francisco Student Success Fund (SSF), a city-created grant program established by voters under Prop G in 2020, intended to improve student outcomes through academic support, social-emotional interventions, and strategies that address challenges related to poverty and trauma. While the SSF is not exclusively for college preparation programming, increasing language in the grant to support college readiness initiatives are important components of academic support and strategies to address poverty.

By tackling systemic and academic obstacles to college persistence and access, TRIO programs offer Transitional Age Youth (TAY) vital, all-encompassing support. TRIO provides stable mentorship, personalized advising, and unambiguous direction through intricate procedures like financial aid, enrollment, and academic planning for TAY youth who might not have regular family or institutional support. These services support students in establishing long-term learning objectives, boosting their self-esteem, and maintaining connections to resources that help them succeed in college.

Community-Based Organizations

In the Excelsior and Mission, Mission Graduates provides academic development and college preparation for low-income Latinx, Black, and newcomer youth.³ However, they are operating only on one grant from DCYF – their only source of funding – to support hundreds of youth.

Across San Francisco, Boys & Girls Clubs provide homework and SAT/ACT assistance through their Power Hour program and Teen Center. They also offer opportunities for career exploration and college prep through workshops and mentorships.



Breakthrough Summerbridge provides middle school students with a tuition-free summer program to strengthen skills in math, humanities, and science while building social-emotional growth. The program offers high school students opportunities to explore electives, participate in enrichment workshops, and engage in college-prep activities to support long-term academic success.

Despite all three programs’ impact, they received \$0 in RFP funding.⁴⁵⁶⁷

³ “Mission Graduates | Making College the Expectation for Mission Youth and Families,” Mission Graduates, January 4, 2024.

⁴ Department of Children, Youth, and Families. “DCYF Request For Proposals.” SF.gov, 2023.

<https://www.sf.gov/resource--2024--dcyf-request-proposals>.

⁵ DCYF. “Proposal Score Report: Breakthrough Summerbridge.” Proposal Score Report, 2023. <https://apps.dcyf.org/proposals/57437429.html>.

⁶ DCYF. “Proposal Score Report: Boys and Girls Club College Prep.” Proposal score report, 2023.

<https://apps.dcyf.org/proposals/57189792.html>.

⁷ DCYF. “Proposal Score Report: Student Success Coaches Mission Graduates.” Proposal score report, 2023.

<https://apps.dcyf.org/proposals/57386031.html>.

Recommendations

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

High School Support:

1. **Maintain funding for community-based organizations** such as Japanese Community Youth Center Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and Cal-SOAP; Mission Graduates; Boys and Girls Club; Breakthrough San Francisco and Breakthrough Summerbridge; and CollegeTrack that work closely with youth in communities that are predominantly low-income and people of color. By expanding staffing capacities and resources, JCYC can provide necessary grade-specific college access programming, college matriculation services for graduating seniors, and free CSU waivers for non-qualifying students to incentivize more students to pursue higher education.
2. **Expand funding for school counseling support through the Student Success Fund.** Funding school-based initiatives that encourage college access enables students across SFUSD, particularly those from low-income communities and communities of color, to receive crucial support in persisting and navigating through the college admissions process. Expanding the Student Success Fund criteria for college-related items would stabilize and sustain essential school-based and community-based supports that directly impact postsecondary outcomes.
3. **Recommend SFUSD with the following budget priorities:**
 - a. **Prioritize funding for counseling staff positions across all SFUSD High Schools**—counselors are central to high school operations. In addition to arranging each student's class schedule, informing students about credit recovery, supporting transfer students, and meeting 1:1 with students to ensure they are on track with graduation, they often work outside of working hours to meet deadlines for college reports and recommendations. Beyond this, they submit numerous reports to track school-site specific education goals.
 - b. **Maintain funding for SFUSD High School Ambassadors** to ensure that low-income communities can have continuous staffing, community events, and outreach relating to college access.

PROTECT AND ENHANCE FREE MUNI FOR ALL YOUTH

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to continue funding the Free Muni for All Youth program and explore enhancements.

Background

The Youth Commission has consistently advocated for Free Muni For All Youth (FMFAY). This advocacy began in 2010 with RESOLUTION NO. 1011-AL041¹ calling on the SFMTA and SFUSD to implement the Youth Lifeline Fast Pass. Further Resolutions called for the expansion of the program to 18-year-olds and later to expand the program to all youth.

The FMFAY program was created in 2013 as a pilot program that allowed low to moderate-income youth aged 5-17 to ride for free. The program was partially funded with a grant from Google and was a partial response to SFUSD school bus cuts. The means-tested pilot program became permanent in 2015.² In April 2020, the program was expanded to 18-year-olds and students enrolled in Special Education and English Learner programs through age 22.³

The 2019-2020 Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 1920-AL-144⁴, where it was highlighted that the Free Muni for Low and Moderate-Income Youth program suffered from a complex application process and was not widely known, especially to people with limited English proficiency and who did not have easy access to the SFMTA offices. Youth Commissioners proposed the current Free Muni for All Youth (FMFAY) Program in the resolution. The new program reduced the administrative burden on SFMTA to process applications, verify eligibility, and issue Clipper cards.

During the 2020-2021 budget advocacy season and forward, Youth Commissioners met with SFMTA budget staff and urged them to fund the 1-year pilot program. Additionally, Youth Commissioners included the FMFAY program in RESOLUTION NO. 1819-AL-03⁵, on Omnibus Preliminary Budget Priorities. On August 15, 2021, Muni, with \$2 million in funding included in Mayor London Breed's Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 and FY 2022-2023 budget proposal, launched the 1-year pilot FMFAY program until August 14, 2022. On April 19, 2022, the SFMTA Board of Directors voted to approve their FY 2021-2022 and FY 2023-2024 budget, which included \$4.1 million over two years to continue the FMFAY program until June 2024⁶.

¹ https://www.sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/hrt021224_supporting.pdf

² KQED News Staff and Wires, "Google to Fund San Francisco's Free Muni for Youth Program," KQED, February 28, 2014

³ Stephen Chun, "Young People to Ride Muni for Free," SFMTA, July 26, 2021.

⁴ https://www.sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/hrt021224_supporting.pdf

⁵ <https://www.sfgov.org/youthcommission/sites/default/files/1819-AL-03%20-%20Resolution%20Omnibus%20Preliminary%20Budget%20Priorities.pdf>

⁶ SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council, "FY 2023 & 2024 Consolidated Budget," February 17, 2022.

Impact of Free Muni for All Youth

Following the implementation of free Muni fares for all youth in 2013, ridership among young passengers has increased significantly, demonstrating that eliminating fare barriers substantially improves access to public transportation and encourages greater transit use.⁷ SFUSD's most recent travel tally survey found that 60% of SFUSD 9th graders use Muni on any given day⁸.

The FMFAY program is critical in removing the financial burden of fares for families. The easy and equitable access to public transportation that the FMFAY program provides is essential for San Francisco's young people to access school, extracurricular activities, jobs, and other opportunities. The program also decreases absences in schools, encourages youth to spend more time outside and participate in the local economy, and enables youth to hold local jobs to support the community.

Possible Enhancements to Free Muni for All Youth

Currently, youth riding Muni have no proof of fare. This means that youth have no quick, easy, and consistent way to prove their age during Muni fare inspections. As the SFMTA expands its fare enforcement efforts, it is essential that youth with the right to ride for free are not inadvertently targeted.⁹

One possible solution is making physical or online student ID cards also function as Clipper Cards. Currently, San Francisco State University ID cards already act as Clipper cards.¹⁰ The SFMTA could collaborate with the SFUSD and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to explore modeling SFUSD ID cards after the SFUSD ID cards' Clipper capabilities.

Recommendations

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

Keep and Enhance Free Muni For All Youth

1. Provide funding for Free Muni for All Youth for FY 2026-2027 and FY 2027-2028.
2. Find a permanent source of funding for Free Muni for All Youth, including FMFAY in the SFMTA baseline budget.
3. Explore making San Francisco Unified School District student identification cards compatible with Clipper
 - a. Urge the SFMTA to collaborate with the SFUSD and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to explore making SFUSD student ID cards and/or

⁷ SFMTA's Free Muni for Youth Program - San Francisco

⁸ "2019-20 SFUSD Travel Tally Data K, 5th, 6th, 9th 3.11.20.xlsx," Google Docs, n.d

⁹ Danielle Echeverria, "Muni Is Cracking Down on Fare Evasion. Tickets Have Hit Pre-pandemic Levels," San Francisco Chronicle, November 18, 2024.

¹⁰ "Clipper Card Transit Benefits | OneCard | SF State," n.d.

online ID cards (use of StudentVUE) compatible with Clipper to provide youth with proof of fare.

ADVERTISE SUBSIDIZED CLIPPER CARDS

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to allocate funds for the advertisement of the ClipperStart program.

Background

Clipper START is a program under SFMTA that allows those with an annual income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty level to receive a 50% discount on all Clipper single fare rides. This program is available for people 19-64 years of age. The program is not well-known across the city. Campaigns advertising SFMTA's flexibility and inclusion would not only improve public opinion about the organization but also reach those who would benefit from it the most. By advertising this pre-existing program, San Francisco has the opportunity to support those in need, strengthen SFMTA's user base, and help curb fare evasion.

In particular, this program could benefit Transitional Aged Youth, or TAY. This age group acts as the transition between childhood and adulthood, and carries the responsibilities that come with it, such as entering the workforce and securing housing¹¹. TAY San Franciscans are often unsupported in city measures, with more recent advocacy leading to more TAY-centered housing and healthcare. Transit is not an area where they have received support thus far.

SFMTA also supports specific age classes in receiving subsidized Clipper Cards. These groups include riders between the ages of 5-18, as well as those 65 and over¹².

In November, SFMTA reported ridership to be at 82%¹³ of pre-pandemic levels, an incredible improvement in recent years. What has not gone up simultaneously, though, has been the levels of adult passes purchased. In 2024, SFMTA reported that pre-pandemic levels of fare evasion were around 12%. In 2024, they were calculated to hover around 20%¹⁴ and were still growing. According to Mission Local¹⁵, some riders choose not to pay due to a sense of culture. Others aren't able to afford adult passes.

¹¹<https://ccwip.berkeley.edu/TAY/articles-memos/TAY-Hub%20Employment%20and%20Earnings%20Outcomes%20-%20Report%202.14.24.pdf>

¹² <https://www.clippercard.com/discounts>

¹³ <https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/sf-muni-ridership-nears-pre-pandemic-levels-21140811.php>

¹⁴<https://www.sfmta.com/blog/paying-our-%E2%80%9Cfare%E2%80%9D-share-fare-compliance-and-enforcement-muni>

¹⁵ <https://missionlocal.org/2023/03/has-fare-evasion-on-sfs-muni-become-the-new-norm/>

Impact of Free & Subsidized Transit

Since the start of the Free Muni for All Youth program, SFMTA has found¹⁶ that exposure to public transportation from an early age decreases later car dependency and leads to continued use of public transportation later in life. By making public transportation free for youth, and therefore more accessible, San Francisco has effectively created a legacy of future users. But as fare evasion becomes more common, it's important we consider the root of this problem. Given Mission Local's¹⁷ report that some choose not to pay for public transit because of affordability, Clipper START and other subsidized Clipper Cards specific to age are viable solutions to encourage more people to pay. After Bart and AC Transit upped their Clipper START discount from 20% to 50%, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission reported that both saw sharp upticks in usership, not only furthering ridership but also accessibility¹⁸.

Recommendations

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

1. Urge the SFMTA to partner with the San Francisco Human Services Agency to advertise Clipper START and age-specific Clipper Card subsidies across their nine offices and in support centers such as:
 - a. Soup kitchens
 - b. Homeless shelters
 - c. Food pantries
 - d. Drop-in centers
 - e. TAY-specific centers and shelters
 - f. Other non-profits that serve families
2. Urge, expand, and fund the SFMTA to advertise¹⁹ Clipper START and age-specific Clipper Card subsidies on Queen, Tail, and Interior Car Card locations on city buses, as well as in transit shelters and Muni stations.
3. Urge the SFMTA to advertise at Clipper START at City College of San Francisco, San Francisco State University, and the University of San Francisco.
4. Urge SFMTA to advertise Clipper START and age-specific Clipper Card subsidies in low-income neighborhoods through mail advertisements and posters.

¹⁶[https://www.sfmta.com/blog/young-people-ride-muni-free#:~:text=By%20allocating%20\\$2%20million%20in%20the%20upcoming,years%2C%20along%20with%20a%20decrease%20in%20auto%20Downership](https://www.sfmta.com/blog/young-people-ride-muni-free#:~:text=By%20allocating%20$2%20million%20in%20the%20upcoming,years%2C%20along%20with%20a%20decrease%20in%20auto%20Downership)

¹⁷ <https://missionlocal.org/2023/03/has-fare-evasion-on-sfs-muni-become-the-new-norm/>

¹⁸https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/meetings/attachments/6406/3a_25_1060_2_Presentation_ClipperSTARTUpdate_0.pdf?cb=4297faca#:~:text=doubled%20in%20calendar%20year%202024,4

¹⁹ <https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/muni/advertise-muni>

EXPAND FREE YOUTH TRANSIT TO INCLUDE BART IN SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to extend the current free MUNI accommodation for youth to include BART access within San Francisco.

Building on the Free Muni Program

San Francisco has already demonstrated the effectiveness of fare-free access to public transportation for youth. According to survey responses, over 76% of youth combined to agree or highly agree that the Free Muni for Youth Program was helpful for young people in San Francisco²⁰. A 2019 study on transportation innovation suggests that, as cities consider the future of transport, they would be wise to consider expansion of youth policies that reduce barriers to transit access, particularly as they invest in the future of transit riders in their respective ecosystems²¹.

The free MUNI program was piloted in 2013 to include a subset of San Francisco youth based on socioeconomic status, and was later extended universally to all youth as a part of the Free Muni for Youth (FMFY) program in 2021, at the time estimating that 100,000 youth would make use of the services. In 2021, an additional \$2M was allocated towards the expansion of the program²². Since then, the program continues to enable youth of all socio-economic backgrounds to move around the city for school, work, and recreation with minimal transportation barriers. For the city of San Francisco, this program has also been a way to address broader issues like the politics of austerity, budget cuts, and the affordability crisis confronting San Francisco's working class and immigrant communities²³.

In San Francisco, expansion of the fare-free program to include BART stops within the city would make a significant enhancement to the program. San Francisco has eight BART stops

²⁰ Riggs, William and Escobar, Jesse, Opportunities to Expand Transit Ridership Among Youth: Lessons from San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (December 31, 2021). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3998565> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3998565>

²¹ Riggs, W. Disruptive Transport: Driverless Cars, Transport Innovation and the Sustainable City of Tomorrow. Routledge, London, 2019.

²²<https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/free-muni-for-youth-program-to-expand-to-include-youth-19-and-under/2592246/>

²³ <https://urbanhabitat.org/campaigns/free-muni-youth/>

serving diverse communities and youth populations. These stations connect neighborhoods that are often less connected by MUNI, and transit through BART is less time-consuming than its alternatives. Currently, a youth traveling from Mission to Downtown would have free access to MUNI, but hopping on BART would cost them at least \$2.50 one way. Cost is a barrier to the free use of the most efficient and accessible mode of public transportation.

A Case for Free Access to BART in SF

For many youth, travel cost is a deterrent to accessing other city programs, services, and recreational activities that would enhance their civic participation, enable connections with other youth, and even increase physical activity.

Beyond the time and economic efficiency factor, it would be helpful to see BART and MUNI functioning as one system. If the city is moving towards an integrated transit system²⁴, to make transit more accessible and to achieve environmental and climate goals through reduction in car dependence, then piloting this system integration by extending free BART access within SF to youth would be a great place to test out this idea.

BART already offers reduced youth fares, showing recognition that youth need lower costs. Extending this to \$0 within city limits is a logical evolution. In fact, the infrastructure already exists as Youth Clipper cards are already used systemwide. The Clipper card is already designed to include a monthly option that includes unlimited access to MUNI and BART within city limits²⁵. For adults 19-64, a monthly MUNI-only pass costs \$86, and a combined MUNI/BART pass is only \$20 more per month. This suggests that the extension of access would not involve a significant increase to the current Free Muni for Youth budget. It would also be important to consider the equity and opportunity benefits as well as to see this as an investment in future ridership and system sustainability.

Mobility within one's own city should not depend on which transit agency operates the service. Youth should be able to choose the most efficient route without economic penalty. True transportation equity means youth can move throughout San Francisco—their home city—without cost barriers on any public transit system.

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

1. Urge the BART Board of Directors to establish universal free BART access for youth at all San Francisco stations and amend San Francisco's transportation equity policies to

²⁴ <https://www.spur.org/news/2026-01-21/three-years-progress-toward-more-integrated-transit-system>

²⁵ <https://www.sfmta.com/getting-around/muni/fares>

provide fare-free BART access for all youth 18 and under at the eight BART stations within San Francisco city limits.

2. Urge the BART Board of Directors to integrate free BART into the existing youth Clipper card system through an automatic enrollment process for youth 18 and under, consistent with the Free Muni model adopted in 2021.
 3. Urge the BART Board of Directors to pilot this integrated transportation system with youth with clear metrics for identifying success, such as assessing youth BART ridership overall and by home neighborhood, and tracking mobility patterns and travel times to schools, programs, and other opportunities.
-

PROTECTING SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL AND FOOD INSECURITY PROGRAMMING

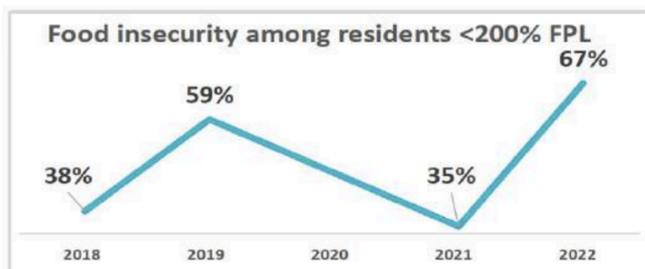
The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to recognize school meals and nutrition programs as essential components for youth health, education, and long-term public health outcomes, and to fund nutritional health education and food security services.

Background

Food insecurity, a household-level economic and social limitation to adequate, healthy food, is one of the most detrimental youth issues in our city. In San Francisco, 15% of all households with children are food insecure. The 2019 San Francisco Community Health Needs Assessment reported that 2 in 3 youth do not eat 5 servings of fresh food daily. These students are at higher risk for chronic health conditions, including diabetes, obesity, and heart disease, among others.

According to the San Francisco Health Improvement Partnership (SFHIP), not meeting dietary recommendations is associated with low-income, Hispanic, and African Americans, and neighborhoods of Southeastern San Francisco, in particular.¹ Further, a 2024 report from the San Francisco Food Security Task Force, reveals that “In 2021, food security among this population was 32%, and by 2022 increased to 67% (about 116,886 residents) - an increase of 109%.”² These disparities reflect long-standing inequities in access to affordable and nutritious food, particularly in neighborhoods with higher concentrations of low-income families and immigrant households. As a result, youth food insecurity in San Francisco is concentrated in communities already facing disproportionate health and educational burdens.

Food insecurity among low-income San Franciscan households increased drastically between 2021 and 2022.



Despite participating in City-funded and community food programs,



of people report still being food insecure.

¹ “Nutrition – SFHIP,” n.d. <https://sfhip.org/chna/community-health-data/nutrition/>.

² San Francisco Food Security Task Force, “2024 Year Report”, n.d.

https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/FSTF%202024%20FSTF%20Recommendations_FINAL%206.4.24-compressed.pdf

According to Feeding America, childhood food insecurity also leads to poorer academic performance.³ A recent study from Brown University found that the highest level of food-insecure students faced 40% greater rates of absenteeism than other food-secure students. Given that SFUSD's already-tightened budget revolves around Average Daily Attendance (ADA), it is critical to ensure that students' nutrition needs are met.⁴

For SFUSD students, access to nutritious food is inseparable from access to education. Higher absenteeism linked to food insecurity translates into missed learning opportunities and weaker academic outcomes, particularly for students already facing economic hardship. Ensuring that robust, high-quality school meals and nutrition education is therefore essential to supporting student success and sustaining SFUSD's capacity to serve its most vulnerable communities.

SFUSD School Meals

In 2019 and later in 2023, San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) Student Nutrition Services (SNS) recognized the importance of the quality and cultural diversity of school meals. The program promised to provide a more culturally relevant menu and implement the most current research on child health into their nutrition practices. As of 2024, SFUSD provides the most food to students in the entire city. These schools are often the main source of nutritious meals for many students.

For many low-income and housing-insecure students, school breakfast and lunch are their most reliable nutrition sources. Reducing meal quality, access, or nutrition education harms students' physical health, academic success, and overall well-being. Nutrition education also fosters lifelong healthy habits, with school and community programs shown to improve food literacy and increase fruit and vegetable consumption.

However, students and other SFUSD community members have repeatedly expressed concerns about the quality of SNS's nutrition programs. The San Francisco Youth Commission has consistently advocated for increasing support for city-funded food programs in alignment with this strong youth sentiment (23-24 and 24-25 Budget Policy Priorities, Resolution N0. 2526-AL-01, Resolution No. 2425-AL-03). Making high-quality school meals more accessible over longer hours and across all SFUSD schools is vital to sustaining student health and future success in schools.

Under current Student Nutrition Guidelines, all meals must adhere to strict guidelines, set by the US Department of Agriculture and California Department of Education, for each specific age

³ Feeding America, "Child Hunger in America | Feeding America," n.d. <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/child-hunger-facts>.

⁴ Canbolat, Yusuf, Leslie Rutkowski, and David Rutkowski, "Empty Plates, Empty Seats: Food Insecurity and Student Absence in the US and Across the Globe." EdWorkingPaper 24-1106, Providence, RI: Annenberg Institute at Brown University, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.26300/nzy0-jy50>.

group. Menus must also reflect the USDA MyPlate model, including vegetables, lean protein, fruits, dairy like low-fat or fat-free milk, and whole grains.⁵ SFUSD also maintains additional requirements that can limit flexibility in menu experimentation, such as ensuring at least 50% of grains are whole-grain rich and prohibiting par-fried foods like french fries.⁶

Traditionally, SFUSD has partnered with Revolution Foods, whose team includes a Certified Child Nutritionist, the Executive Director, students through tastings and feedback, and a dedicated menu development team. Together, they produce quality-controlled menus that are both nutritious and appealing. All meals are pre-packaged and delivered daily to school sites from Revolution Foods' facility in San Lorenzo, California.

Recently, SFUSD began working with Refresh, which develops meals exclusively for schools with on-site kitchen facilities. These meals are prepared fresh using locally grown, small-business-sourced ingredients. Currently, only 40% of SFUSD students—spread across 11 middle schools and 8 high schools—receive Refresh meals. All other schools in SFUSD get their meals from Revolution Foods.

Given these constraints, new recipes have become delayed in their development process. The SFUSD Student Nutrition team has also mentioned that supply does become an obstacle at times. Therefore, when supply for a new product pops up, they try to move quickly to adapt, test, and implement new recipes.

Community Based Organizations

Despite their reach, SNS continues to engage youth in their menu tasting at community events and school site visits. Local community organizations, particularly those funded by the Sugary Drinks Distribution Tax (SDDT), play a critical role in addressing barriers such as cultural relevance, language accessibility, and community trust, helping ensure that nutrition education and food security reach populations that SFUSD alone may not fully serve. Beyond supporting students, these organizations provide essential health and wellness information to the broader community.

Protecting SDDT funds is essential to providing a dedicated revenue stream that directly supports preventative health initiatives in communities disproportionately impacted by diet-related illnesses. The soda tax funds programs regarding nutritional security, physical activity, water access, oral health, workforce development, and community building.⁷ For example, Fa'atasi Youth Services, All My Usos (AMU), and Florence Fang Community Farm⁸ are SDDT-funded programs that empower their local communities through the cultural relevance of their work and direct food support. Therefore, preserving these funds safeguards not only youth-focused programming, but also the broader public health foundation that strengthens communities across San Francisco.

⁵ Community Vitality & Health. "Are Healthy Foods Really More Expensive?," January 17, 2024. <https://uwyoextension.org/uwnutrition/newsletters/are-healthy-foods-really-more-expensive/>.

⁶ SFUSD Nutrition Services. "Attachment 15 SFUSD Nutrition Guidelines.pdf," n.d. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oUPj0HNZ0-ElCjSrqrzIS8cf1V-Y7Yf/view>.

⁷ "Soda Tax Programs | SF.gov," n.d. <https://www.sf.gov/soda-tax-programs>.

⁸ San Francisco Public Health Foundation (SFPHF). "SDDT Past Funded Entities," August 2025. https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/SDDT_Past_Funded_List_August_2025.pdf.

School Meals for All Program

California's School Meals for All program guarantees free nutritious breakfast and lunch to every public school student. SFUSD Student Nutrition Services provides over 37,000 meals per day to students across 136 schools during the school year through the School Meals for All program.⁹ In 2025, the federal administration cut \$660 million for the Local Food for Schools program, which eliminated access to free or reduced-price school meals and terminated funding to locally source ingredients for school meals through the Community Eligibility Supports Program.¹⁰ In California, 6,425 schools serving 3,627,6709 children were affected by this school lunch program, with 82 schools serving 42,575 students in SFUSD.¹¹ Due to these cuts, California deferred to Proposition 98 funds to ensure free or reduced-price school meals stay accessible. SFUSD has reduced staffing and ingredients to innovate new recipes.

Additionally, hundreds of thousands of students across the state risk direct eligibility status for federally funded school meal programs, like the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). Both programs limit income eligibility at 130% and 185% below the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) respectively. SFUSD is part of both. In California, a family of four must earn no more than \$39,000 per year for their children to receive free school meals, and no more than \$55,500 to qualify for reduced-price meals this school year. However, 44% of families in the state did not meet the eligibility requirements for federal meal assistance, even though they continue to face high living expenses.¹²

The effects of food insecurity are particularly significant in San Francisco, where the median income for a family of four is \$155,850¹³ and the federal low-income threshold is \$32,150.¹⁴ The cost of housing, childcare, and basic necessities far exceeds national averages. However, in order for families to qualify for federal meal programs, like SNAP, a family of four, must earn less than \$57,000 per year to qualify. A family of four making \$58,000, considered acutely low-income in San Francisco, may be ineligible for assistance under federal metrics, despite struggling to cover basic needs. Near eligibility should not prevent families from having a nutritious meal for dinner or force them to choose between groceries and healthcare.

The Center for Ecoliteracy, a state-wide food security organization who co-sponsored the School Meals for All Program legislation, outlines key budget priorities focused on strengthening school food programs, expanding access to fresh and locally sourced meals, investing in climate-smart agriculture, and advancing food literacy curriculum.¹⁵ These priorities are critical to addressing student food insecurity, improving public health outcomes, supporting local farmers, and building a more sustainable and equitable food system for future generations.

⁹ LeBarre, Jennifer. "Why School Meals for All Is Essential for San Francisco Students - School Meals for All," n.d.

<https://www.schoolmealsforall.org/news/why-school-meals-for-all-is-essential-for-san-francisco-students/>.

¹⁰ Prothero, Evie BladArianna. "Congressional Budget Cuts Threaten Free School Meals for Millions." Education Week, March 13, 2025.

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/congressional-budget-cuts-threaten-free-school-meals-for-millions/2025/03>.

¹¹ Food Research & Action Center. "Eligibility for Community Eligibility Provision Database," 2024.

https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/Community-Eligibility-Provision-Fact-Sheets_CA5.pdf.

¹² California Budget & Policy Center. "Universal School Meals Help All California Children Thrive - California Budget & Policy Center," December 17, 2024. <https://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/universal-school-meals-help-all-california-children-thrive/>.

¹³ San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development. "MAXIMUM INCOME BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE." Report, April 1, 2025. https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/2025_AMI-IncomeLimits-HMFA_08Rw8dU.pdf.

¹⁴ HealthCare.gov. "Federal Poverty Level (FPL) - Glossary," n.d. <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/federal-poverty-level-fpl/>.

¹⁵ Center for Ecoliteracy. "2026 Advocacy Priorities," n.d. <https://www.ecoliteracy.org/article/2026-advocacy-priorities>.

Local responses to SNAP Halts & Federal Government Shutdown

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest anti-hunger program in the United States, serving as a critical safety net for many low-income families. By providing monthly benefits to purchase groceries, SNAP helps millions of households access consistent, nutritious food. In high-cost cities like San Francisco, SNAP plays a vital role in reducing food insecurity, supporting child development, and stabilizing family expenditures. Beyond alleviating hunger, SNAP also strengthens local economics as benefits are spent directly at neighborhood grocery stores.¹⁶

About 62% of SNAP participants are in families with children, with approximately 40% of SNAP recipients under age 18, and around 20% are older than 60—groups especially vulnerable to food insecurity.¹⁷ According to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, SNAP has shown to reduce food insecurity by helping families afford nutritious foods that support healthy diets and development. In fact, public health experts note that SNAP participation is associated with lower food insecurity and even reduced healthcare costs for conditions such as heart disease and hypertension, while deep funding cuts threaten to reverse decades of progress against health disparities.¹⁸

In late 2025, a prolonged federal government shutdown and funding cuts threatened to halt SNAP benefits for millions of families. Since SNAP is federally funded, lapses in funding can interrupt the delivery of monthly food assistance, leaving families without grocery support they heavily rely on. In response to this crisis, San Francisco leaders took local action as Mayor Daniel Lurie signed legislation authorizing \$9.1 million in city funds, in partnership with Crankstart, to support nearly 112,000 San Francisco children, families, and workers whose benefits were disrupted by the shutdown.¹⁹ San Francisco residents enrolled in SNAP received instructions to access pre-loaded grocery cards so residents could continue buying groceries.

Ultimately, SNAP is a program that children, families, and seniors across our city rely on for consistent access to nutritious food to thrive. For families living paycheck to paycheck, even a short delay in SNAP benefits can result in difficult trade-offs between food, rent, and healthcare. Ensuring reliable federal support, alongside strong local programs, affirms that food security is foundational to the community.

Recommendations

- 1. Protect School Meals for All State nutrition programs.** The School Meals for All program is imperative to providing fresh meals for students across California's public

¹⁶ Center for Rural Affairs - Building a Better Rural Future. "SNAP Economic Multiplier Effect," January 6, 2026. <https://www.cfra.org/publications/snap-economic-multiplier-effect>.

¹⁷ David W. Chen. "42 Million People Are Enrolled in SNAP. Who Are They?" San Francisco Examiner, November 12, 2025. https://www.sfoxaminer.com/42-million-people-are-enrolled-in-snap-who-are-they/article_69a71fca-3bdf-5552-a0ae-09859d1c4450.html.

¹⁸ Todd Datz. "SNAP Funding Cuts Threaten Food Security, Health | Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health." Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, August 21, 2025. <https://hsph.harvard.edu/news/snap-funding-cuts-threaten-food-security-health/>.

¹⁹ "Mayor Lurie Signs Legislation to Support San Francisco Families After Federal Government Shutdown Disrupts SNAP Benefits | sfhsa.org," November 10, 2025. <https://www.sfhsa.org/about/announcements/mayor-lurie-signs-legislation-support-san-francisco-families-after-federal-government-shutdown-disrupts-snap-benefits>.

education system. Given last fiscal year's federal budget cut risks to school meals, preserving the program is especially important to ensure student access to nutritious food during school.

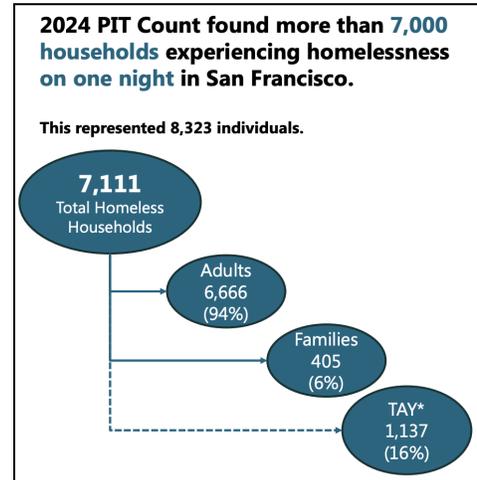
- 2. Support the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Budget Recommendations.** Food insecurity is a prevailing issue in San Francisco. Especially in light of SNAP benefit cuts, lessening the impact of food insecurity means maintaining HSA funding for immediate food security services. Sustained funding for SDDT community organizations, particularly serving AAPI and BIPOC communities providing food assistance, nutrition and health education, and outreach, is critical to protecting residents' health and well-being.
- 3. Recommend SFUSD to maintain current staffing within SFUSD Student Nutrition Services Team and crucial services** such as menu development, emphasizing on student feedback and implementation
- 4. Maintain current staffing within the Food Security Task Force and San Francisco Department of Public Health** staff focused on food insecurity data collection. Given that the current federal administration has concealed and expressed termination of FPL, FRAC, and Federal census data, local metrics, including local censuses for food insecurity, are more imperative to understanding constituent behavior for food insecurity to inform policy needs.
- 5. Engage in research and case studies about food insecurity in comparison to other national metropolitan cities.** Given that a significant number of residents experiencing food insecurity do not fit traditional profiles of homelessness and federal requirements for poverty, real-time assessment is challenging but also critical in supporting other cities
- 6. Pass a motion of support for the Center for Ecoliteracy Budget Priorities** to affirm San Francisco's commitment to sustain investment in environmental education, student-led sustainability initiatives, climate literacy curriculum, and equitable access to green campus resources across all school sites

REDUCE YOUTH & TRANSITIONAL-AGED YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to create a youth-specific housing assessment and placement process, protect funding for high-impact CBOs that provide resources for homeless youth, expand collaboration between public and private organizations to create a coordinated support system, invest in wraparound support services for unhoused youth, and expand youth outreach to ensure access to information about resources for unhoused youth.

Background

Youth and transitional-aged youth (TAY) represent 19% (4,434 individuals) of the total unhoused population in San Francisco (23,561 individuals).¹ On a given night in the City, 7,000 households including 405 youth and 1,137 TAY experience homelessness, according to the 2024 Point-In-Time Count. The homeless crisis in San Francisco is deepening: between 2022-2024, homelessness increased by 7%. For every individual that exits homelessness, approximately three more become homeless. Critically, family homelessness grew by 82% and TAY homelessness by 11% during this two-year time period. With emergency shelter and transitional housing beds available for just 50% of people in need (4,440 total beds), the City must pursue immediate and innovative steps to address this crisis.² The San Francisco Youth Commission has consistently advocated for youth and TAY housing resources in each annual budget and policy priority report. Youth need youth-specific housing intake assessments, rapid rehousing, wraparound resources, and long-term stabilization plans.³



Addressing youth homelessness is key to tackling the City's homelessness crisis in the long-term as 50% of homeless adults first became unhoused under the age of 25.⁴ Reducing youth homelessness, and ultimately homelessness overall, could have major positive impacts on the City given San Francisco spends \$1 billion on homeless resources each year.⁵ Moreover, 44% of drug overdose calls come from unhoused people, expending City resources and tragically resulting in deaths.⁶ In addition, 4.2% of SFUSD students experience homelessness.⁷ These youth are 8-9x more likely to repeat a grade and 4 times more likely to drop out of school

¹ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/HBTB_Youth_Addendum_FINAL_11.21.25.pdf.

² https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/2025_Homelessness_Needs_Assessment.pdf.

³ <https://larkinstreetyouth.org/2023-larkin-street-policy-brief-a-focus-on-stability/>.

⁴ <https://risingupsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Rising-Up-Report-January-2024.pdf>.

⁵

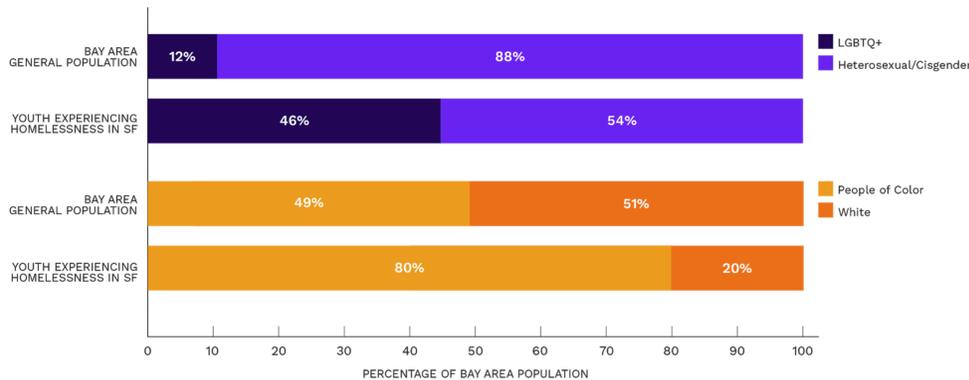
<https://www.hoover.org/research/despite-spending-11-billion-san-francisco-sees-its-homelessness-problems-spiral-out>.

⁶ <https://larkinstreetyouth.org/2023-larkin-street-policy-brief-a-focus-on-stability/>.

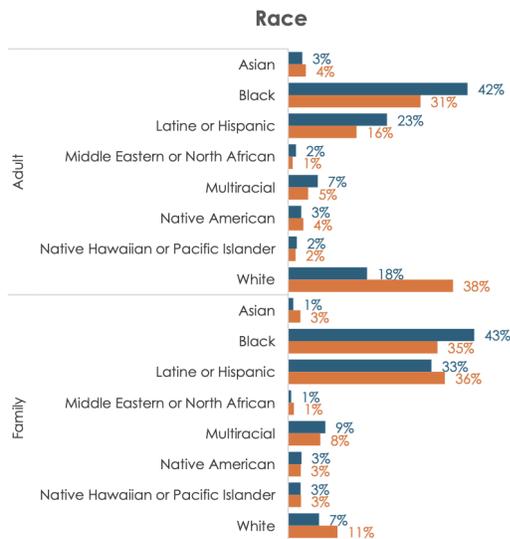
⁷ <https://larkinstreetyouth.org/2023-larkin-street-policy-brief-a-focus-on-stability/>.

entirely.⁸ Reducing youth homelessness can improve the City’s budget deficit, drug crisis, and school system.

Homelessness is driven by systemic issues, including transphobia, homophobia, racism, economic inequality, and barriers to employment, education, and healthcare access. As a result, homeless youth are disproportionately black, multiracial, LGBTQ+, female, have a disabling physical or mental health condition, and/or have been a foster youth or involved in the juvenile justice system.⁹ Moreover, homeless youth are twice as likely to have asthma, infections, and other chronic illnesses.¹⁰ Resources for homeless youth must be tailored to the specific and diverse needs of this population.



11



Incomplete for 2% of clients

12

Key:

⁸ <https://www.sf.gov/mayor-lurie-launches-innovative-program-to-prevent-family-homelessness>.
⁹ <https://risingupsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Rising-Up-Report-January-2024.pdf>.
¹⁰ <https://www.sf.gov/mayor-lurie-launches-innovative-program-to-prevent-family-homelessness>.
¹¹ <https://risingupsf.org/>
¹² https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/HBTB_Youth_Addendum_FINAL_11.21.25.pdf

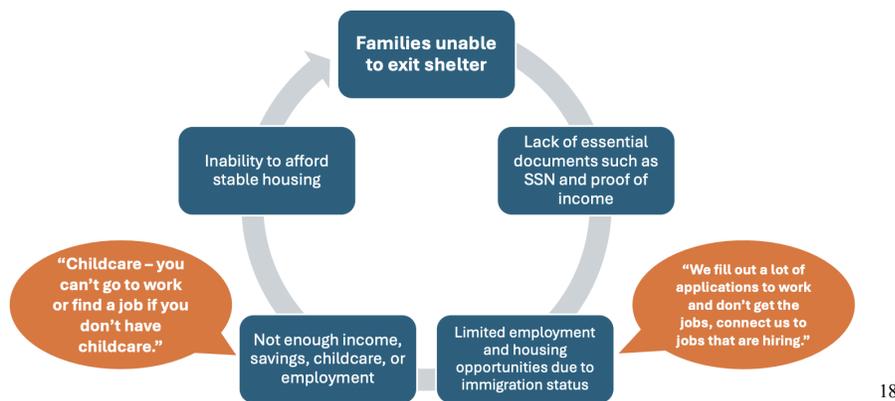
- Orange = unhoused youth and TAY
- Blue = all other unhoused individuals

Barriers to permanent stable housing include limited availability of permanent housing options, long waiting lists, ineligibility due to lack of income, immigration status, criminal background, lack of childcare, substance use, mental health disorders, chronic health conditions, high housing costs, and domestic violence.¹³ Multiple compounding issues contribute to homelessness, and therefore addressing homelessness requires comprehensive, wraparound services.

Unhoused Families

Unhoused families represent 6% of the City’s unhoused population.¹⁴ While the City provides 1,009 temporary family housing beds and 5,188 permanent family housing beds, over 300 families remained on the shelter waiting list in 2024.¹⁵ Unhoused families are more likely to be Black (40%) or Hispanic/Latine (28%) with parents ages 18-34, 85% female, and often survivors of domestic violence.¹⁶

Mayor Lurie launched the Family Homelessness Prevention Pilot between January 2025-June 2026. The initiative partners with Tipping Point Community to invest \$11 million to financially support 1,500 families and offer employment support, legal services, and other safety-net resources to help families stay housed. It also aims to increase coordination and collaboration between homeless service providers and CBOs that provide employment, childcare, etc. If successful, the program will be scaled to reach more families.¹⁷



Cycle of family homelessness

Unhoused TAY

¹³ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/2025_Homelessness_Needs_Assessment.pdf.

¹⁴ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/2025_Homelessness_Needs_Assessment.pdf.

¹⁵ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/2025_Homelessness_Needs_Assessment.pdf & <https://www.sf.gov/mayor-lurie-launches-innovative-program-to-prevent-family-homelessness>.

¹⁶ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/2025_Homelessness_Needs_Assessment.pdf.

¹⁷ <https://www.sf.gov/mayor-lurie-launches-innovative-program-to-prevent-family-homelessness>.

¹⁸ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/2025_Homelessness_Needs_Assessment.pdf

TAY represent 16% of the City’s unhoused population.¹⁹ Homeless TAY are most likely to be LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and/or have a physical or mental health condition. TAY-dedicated emergency shelter and transitional housing beds represent 6% of the 4,844 total temporary housing beds provided by the City and 4% of the 19,738 permanent housing beds in the homelessness response system.²⁰ In total, the City provided 315 temporary youth housing beds and 847 permanent youth housing beds in 2024.²¹ The main youth access point is the Transitional Age Youth Navigation Center located at 700 Hyde Street. It offers a range of services tailored to youth including medical and mental health services, workforce development support, and paid career training opportunities. According to the center’s 2023 report, they have served 1,825 youth, with 600 placed in affordable housing.²²

Many CBOs provide critical services for homeless TAY. Larkin Street Youth Services has supported 80,000 young people, offering the Lark Inn for Youth and Diamond Youth Shelter with showers, meals, hygiene supplies, computer/web access, housing intake and problem solving, education and employment programs, medical care, case management, and individual and group counseling.²³ Other CBOs include the 3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic, Homeless Youth Alliance, Huckleberry Youth Programs, LYRIC SF, Castro Youth Housing Initiative, Assisted Care/Aftercare, and LEASE. (Image source: <https://www.dropbox.foundation/tags/larkin-street-youth>).



In January 2019, Mayor Breed launched Rising Up, a \$50 million initiative to cut the population of homeless youth in half by 2023. The initiative is a public-private partnership between the Department of Homelessness and CBOs. Rising Up provided young people with a \$27,000 rent subsidy for three years, support to find a home, move-in assistance, job-finding and education support, and access to health services.²⁴ The program successfully rehoused 92% of participants, resolving homelessness for 228 youth through problem-solving and securing housing for 450 youth. A critical component of the program’s success was the integration of multiple organizations and their specialized resources.²⁵

¹⁹ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/2025_Homelessness_Needs_Assessment.pdf.

²⁰ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/HBTB_Youth_Addendum_FINAL_11.21.25.pdf.

²¹ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/2025_Homelessness_Needs_Assessment.pdf.

²²

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGCI-W2Xno/mmC5U7-sEQHJsZDCK3g9XQ/view?utm_content=DAGCI-W2Xno&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor#1.

²³ <https://larkinstreetyouth.org/>.

²⁴ <https://risingupsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Rising-Up-Report-January-2024.pdf>.

²⁵ <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/Evaluation%20of%20Rising%20Up.pdf>.

At the same time, youth faced long wait times (an average of 60 days between referral and housing application and an average of 125 days between housing application and receipt of housing assistance), low-funded program staff, and high housing costs that led to subsidies lasting less than three years and rehousing of 75% of youth outside the City.²⁶

In August 2023, the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and Google launched the Trust Youth Initiative, a two-year pilot program to help unhoused young people ages 19-24. It provided monthly \$1,500 payments to youth, enabling 8 out of 10 participants to find permanent housing and improve their mental health.²⁷



The City is currently implementing Home by the Bay, a plan to prevent and end homelessness in San Francisco between 2023-2028.²⁸ In addition, this November, Mayor Lurie announced the opening of 24 studio apartments at 42 Otis Street for young people exiting homelessness.²⁹ It will be important that these initiatives reach out to youth of different demographics and receive feedback from youth through listening sessions and surveys. (Image source:

[https://sfyimby.com/2023/07/city-proposes-purchase-of-42-otis-street-for-affordable-housing-in-t](https://sfyimby.com/2023/07/city-proposes-purchase-of-42-otis-street-for-affordable-housing-in-the-hub-san-francisco.html)
[he-hub-san-francisco.html](https://sfyimby.com/2023/07/city-proposes-purchase-of-42-otis-street-for-affordable-housing-in-the-hub-san-francisco.html)).

Housing Intake Process

There are currently two forms of housing assessment in San Francisco: the family housing assessment and adult/young adult assessment.³⁰ The latter combines both adults and young adults, even though these populations need distinct resources. Moreover, the form includes questions such as: “how long have you been homeless?”

“how many times in the past three years have you lived in a shelter, outdoors, in a vehicle, or other place not meant for people to live?” “How long in total have you lived in an

emergency shelter or place not meant for people to sleep, including today?” These questions

3) How long have you been homeless this time?

<input type="radio"/> Less than one year	<input type="radio"/> 15 years or more
<input type="radio"/> One year or more, but less than two years	<input type="radio"/> Client doesn't know
<input type="radio"/> Two years or more, but less than five years	<input type="radio"/> Client refused
<input type="radio"/> Five years or more, but less than ten years	<input type="radio"/> Data not collected
<input type="radio"/> Ten years or more, but less than fifteen years	

²⁶ <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/Evaluation%20of%20Rising%20Up.pdf>.

²⁷

https://www.sfoxaminer.com/news/the-city/sf-homeless-cash-assistance-larkin-street-youth-services/article_21d18792-202d-4bd4-b2a6-690227de03aa.html.

²⁸ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/HBTB_Youth_Addendum_FINAL_11.21.25.pdf.

²⁹ <https://www.sf.gov/news-mayor-lurie-announces-opening-of-housing-for-young-people-exiting-homelessness>.

³⁰ <https://www.sf.gov/resource--2024--coordinated-entry>.

place younger people at a disadvantage because they have been homeless for a shorter period than adults, even though youth are at a critical point in their lives when rapid rehousing can prevent years of future homelessness.³¹ After completing the intake process, respondents commonly waited 1-3 months or over 1 year to move into housing. Also, the majority of respondents said they did not receive a problem-solving conversation and/or were not listened to. Lastly, outreach to diverse youth is the first step to accessing housing resources. Youth aged 18-29 are about one-third less likely to know where to go for help when unhoused than other age groups. As a result, it is important that outreach targets youth, for example, locating information in third spaces where youth convene.³² (Image source: https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/Adult_CE_Housing_Primary_Assessment_Final_Updated_3.2025.pdf).

Recommendations

Short-Term:

- **1. Create an equitable, youth-specific housing assessment and placement process:**
 - Do not prioritize the individual’s duration of homelessness.
 - Build geography and age into the system to enable youth to live in communities with others around their age.
 - What else would make this process better for youth?
 - How do you define equity? Which measures are most important?
- **2. Protect funding for CBOs with demonstrated high impact that provide vital resources for unhoused youth to ensure they can continue running full programs and hiring and sustaining staff.**
 - Which CBOs focused on youth homelessness have been the most impactful and why?
 - What percentage of your funding comes from the city?
 - What are your top priorities for this funding?
 - Wage floors?
 - Discretionary spending?
 - Other?
- **3. Building on the success of Rising Up, expand collaboration between public and private organizations to create a coordinated, integrated support system.**
 - What has prevented this collaboration?
 - What would enable more of it to occur?
 - Is there a way to accomplish collaboration without funding? Are there other models in the city where this has been done effectively?

³¹ https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/Adult_CE_Housing_Primary_Assessment_Final_Updated_3.2025.pdf.

³²

<https://www.sf.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/San-Francisco-Coordinated-Entry-System-Evaluation-Qualitative-Findings.pdf>.

- **4. Invest in wraparound support services for unhoused youth, especially workforce development opportunities, mental health resources, financial literacy, and tenancy education.**
 - What resources currently exist?
 - Are there models in SF or other cities that have been effective at doing this?
- **5. Expand outreach to youth to ensure equitable access to information about the resources available to them.**
 - What are the challenges of getting information out to youth?
 - Which groups of youth are not getting enough access to information? Does this data exist?
 - What's the overall strategy to reach youth? How much funding does this require vs. strategic use of resources?

Long-Term:

- 1. Ensure capacity of emergency beds and permanent beds meets demand.
- 2. Expand diversity of youth housing options.
- 3. Reduce waiting times between housing application and housing placement.

Research:

- Larkin Street Youth Services
 - Served 78,000 young people.
 - Lark Inn for Youth
 - Diamond Youth Shelter
 - Showers, meals, lockers, laundry, clothing, hygiene supplies, computer/web access, housing intake & problem solving, housing intake & problem solving, life skills groups and special events, education and employment programs, medical care including free and confidential HIV testing, case management, individual and group counseling, and WiFi.
 - *Over the pandemic, observed a 10% decline in school enrollments and a 15% increase in clients at risk of leaving school before accreditation.*
- Transitional Age Youth Navigation Center on 700 Hyde St.
- Homeless Youth Alliance
- City spends \$1 billion on homeless resources each year.
- [Larkin Street Policy Brief 2022](#)
 - SF Coordinated Entry Opportunities for Improvement:
 - Use an equity lens to assess housing. Use a youth specific assessment tool, prioritize service matching that aligns with youth needs and choice, build geographic and age equity into the system to ensure that young people have opportunities to live in communities where they are connected with peers their own age.
 - Increase transparency: give youth status updates via website or phone number.
 - Enhance flow and operational definitions: remove the rule that individuals lose their priority status after 90 days.
 - Ecosystem of coordinated support: increase discretionary spending and staff resources for providers.
 - **Increase variety and amount of housing for young people.**
 - Fund initiatives to collect data on how direct cash transfer/minimum basic income can meet the needs for families and youth most impacted by poverty.
 - Fully implement the Prop C investment plan.
 - Allow direct referrals outside of the Coordinated Entry System into any housing units across the Homeless Response System that are vacant for 90 days.
 - Center and uplift youth voice so experts in homelessness are leading efforts to prevent it through paid youth advisory boards to policymakers and City departments.

- Provide cost of living subsidies for low-income youth workers to remain in and contribute to San Francisco’s livelihood.
 - Support local efforts to increase frontline workers’ pay equity to make nonprofit careers more sustainable.
 - Decriminalize quality-of-life offenses like the Sit-Lie law, tent and camping bans, and other minor offenses in the City and County of San Francisco.
 - Provide a “Moving On” resource to 100% of TAY who age out of the Transition Aged Youth age range in supportive housing, ensuring that housing programs without a time limit continue serving Transition Aged Youth.
 - Leverage existing housing incentive or require landlords to accept housing subsidies.
- [Larkin Street Youth Services Policy Brief 2023](#)
 - 4.2% of SFUSD students experience homelessness. 1 in 5 will not graduate.
 - 44% of drug overdose calls are from people who are unhoused.
 - Center LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth.
 - Offer wraparound services: education, employment, wellness.
 - Unhoused youth are a unique population and require tailored support.
 - Expand homeless spending to TAY to 20% of all homeless spending.
 - Invest in diverse youth housing: shelters, transitional, subsidy-based, supportive housing.
 - Invest in wellness services, including residential treatment beds and bilingual clinicians.
 - Invest in workforce development opportunities.
 - Invest in services for youth after housing programs to ensure permanent path out of homelessness.
- [2025 Homelessness Needs Assessment](#)
 - Systemic issues: transphobia, homophobia, racism, economic inequality, barriers to employment, education, healthcare access.
 - *high rate of “inflow” to the system. City’s inventory of shelter and housing is not aligned with the scale of the unhoused population.*
 - Overall recommendations from assessment:
 - *1. Increase access to behavioral health services*
 - *2. Prioritize marginalized groups, create culturally competent housing and support service programs, partner with community organizations.*
 - *4. Align interventions to population needs: families are more likely to require affordable housing and job training or employment services for a living wage*

■ *5. Increase flow out of shelter and increase sustainable exits; adjust inventory to meet the total demand across a broad spectrum of needs.*

- Facts:
 - 2024 PIT: 7,000 homeless households (6% or 405 youth; TAY 16% or 1,137) experience homelessness each night.
 - SF provided services to 20,000 households (2,764 or 14%; TAY 4,201 or 21%).
 - San Francisco only had enough emergency shelter and transitional housing beds for 50% of people in need (4,440 total beds). 315 youth beds, 1,009 family beds.
 - Point-in-time homelessness in 2024 increased 7% since the 2022 PIT Count.
 - **82% increase in Family homelessness. More than any other type of homelessness.**
 - 11% increase in TAY homelessness.
 - Permanent family housing beds: 5,188.
 - Permanent youth beds: 847.
 - City served 1887 families and 1479 youth.
 - For every person that exits from homelessness, approximately 3 people become homeless.
 - Specific demographics of families:
 - Families are young and more likely to be survivors of violence compared to Single Adults
 - Overrepresentation of Black (40%) and Hispanic/Latina/e/o (28%) families.
 - Mostly young families with parents 18-34. 85% women.
- Barriers to becoming housed:
 - Limited availability of permanent housing options, long waiting lists.
 - Ineligibility due to lack of income, immigration status, or criminal background.
 - Lack of childcare to enable parents to get jobs.
 - Higher rates of substance use/mental health disorders/long-term mental health challenges/chronic health conditions.
 - Rising housing costs.
 - Domestic violence.
- Invest in homeless prevention services:
 - Affordable Housing
 - Eviction Prevention
 - Rental Assistance
 - Rental Subsidies

- Temporary Housing
 - Subsidized Permanent Housing Tenant Counseling
 - Landlord Assistance
 - Immigration Legal Services
 - Align interventions to population needs: single adults are more likely to be experiencing health barriers; families are more likely to require affordable housing and job training or employment services for a living wage.
- [Rising Up:](#)
 - \$50 million.
 - Goal: cut the population of homeless youth by 50% by 2023. Ensure that youth homeless is “rare, brief, and one-time.”
 - Youth interventions are distinct from adult interventions.
 - **Prevents chronic adult homelessness. 50% of adults experiencing homelessness started experiencing it under age 25.**
 - Public/private partnership: Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), Larkin Street Youth Services, 3rd Street Youth Center and Clinic, At the Crossroads, Brilliant Corners, First Place for Youth, Five Keys Schools and Programs, Community Boards, and the Office of Financial Empowerment.
Working together across organizations to pool resources is critical.
 - Provided people with a \$27,000 rent subsidy. For three years. Provided rapid rehousing.
 - *Support finding a home in the private market, move-in assistance (security deposit, furniture, etc.), and a monthly rent subsidy for up to three years. Support finding and keeping a job, support in achieving their educational goals, and access to health services.*
 - Resolved homeless for 228 young people through problem solving.
 - Housing 413 young people.
 - Supported 450 young people to secure housing.
 - Pandemic led to increase in mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence.
 - Demographics:
 - 46% LGBTQ+ youth.
 - 80% people of color.
 - 60% had disabling health/mental health condition.
 - Challenges:
 - Long wait time. 60 days.
 - Hiring program staff. Wage floors.
 - High housing costs led program to rehouse 75% of youth outside of SF.
- [Evaluation of Rising Up:](#)
 - Successes:

- Rehoused 92% of participants.
 - Those least likely to be housed were Black/African American.
 - Median incomes of participants increased by 13.3%. 42% of participants increased their incomes, though 38% decreased incomes.
 - Challenges:
 - Long wait times to complete housing application and receive housing.
 - Average wait time = 60 days between referral and housing application. Some waited 17 months.
 - Participants then waited an average of 125 days between completing a housing application and receiving housing assistance. Some waited over a year. Driven by lack of capacity.
 - Youth used their subsidy to cover the full cost of rent, so it lasted less than two years. Driven by high housing costs, youth saving money to then pay on their own later.
 - Participants of color = more likely to be rehoused outside of SF.
 - Only 19% of participants identified as LGBTQ+. Due to disparities in access to services.
 - Recommendations:
 - Expand roommate and shared housing opportunities.
 - Provide housing search support throughout the program.
 - Require a minimum rent contribution.
 - Add support for participants with mental and behavioral health challenges.
 - Explore opportunities for connecting youth to employment.
- [S.F. set out to cut youth homelessness in half. Here's why it failed](#)
 - Helped 450 young people secure housing.
 - SF's youth homeless population has only dipped 4%.
 - *Unhoused youths sleeping in a shelter grew from 22% in 2019 to 31% in 2024, while youths living in tents or vehicles dropped from 970 to 823 during that same period, according to the point-in-time count. ness among families over past two years.*
- [Homeless SF youths say cash-assistance program 'a lifesaver'](#)
 - Trust Youth Initiative: two-year pilot program to help unhoused young people (19-24).
 - Monthly \$1,500 payments.
 - 8/10 recipients found housing and improved mental health.
 - San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and Google
- [Home by the Bay:](#)
 - Plan to prevent and end homelessness in SF between 2023-2028.
 - 2025 youth report.
 - Youth represented 19% (4,434) of people experiencing homelessness.

- TAY dedicated emergency shelter and transitional housing = 6% of the 4,844 total beds. 4% of the 19,738 permanent housing beds in the homelessness response system.
- Youth most likely to be black, multiracial, LGBTQ+, female compared to others experiencing homelessness.
- Center youth voices in shaping change: listening sessions, fund youth for their participation in YPAC, focus groups, surveys, develop youth engagement standards for HSH and providers.
- Ensure Coordinated Entry system process equitably serves youth: include places that youth frequent, pilot housing matching and placement criteria to match youth to housing that meets their needs and preferences.
- Improve educational and employment opportunities for youth: Identify more opportunities for private-public partnerships to support workforce development, partner housing subsidies with workforce development services;
- Provide expanded capacity, training for frontline staff.
- Expand coordinated system of services and are tailored to diversity of unhoused youth.
- Assess and analyze data about current shelter utilization trends among TAY youth to inform program design and funding.
- Assess street outreach strategy for unhoused youth. Fund third spaces for youth to build community and connect to resources.
- Increase access to behavioral health services for youth.
- Increase access to tenancy education, financial empowerment, and independent living skills.
- [Mayor Lurie Announces Opening of Housing for Young People Exiting Homelessness](#)
 - 24 studio apartments at 42 Otis St.
- [Mayor Lurie Launches Innovative Program to Prevent Family Homelessness](#)
 - January 2025-June 2026
 - Tipping Point Community is investing \$11 million financial assistance for \$1,5000 families, creation of coordination of systems.
 - employment support, legal services, and other vital safety-net resources to help families stay housed. Comprehensive support.
 - Coordination between service providers (homeless service providers and CBOs that provide employment, childcare, etc.).
 - APA Family Support Services, Booker T. Community Service Center, Mission Neighborhood Centers (MNC), and Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA)
 - Tipping Point, Compass Family Services.
 - Homeless youth are 8-9x more likely to repeat a grade and 4 times more likely to drop out of school entirely.

- Twice as likely to have asthma, infections, and other chronic illnesses.
- Goal is to scale this pilot program if successful.
- More than 300 families on shelter waiting list in SF.
- Lurie administration: neighborhood street outreach teams, Breaking the Cycle Fund that has \$37.5 million in private contributions, opened 24/7 stabilization center.
- *the city is investing \$50 million to shelter approximately 600 families and house more than 450 families through new investments and existing turnover?*
- Housing intake forms:
 - Family housing assessment, adult/young adult assessment.
 - “How long have you been homeless” puts young people at a disadvantage.
 - Respondents most commonly waited 1-3 months or over 1 year to move into housing from the time they asked for help. Also, the majority of respondents say they didn’t get a problem-solving conversation and/or were not listened to, and many who did get it said it was not helpful.
 - Outreach: Respondents aged 18-29 were about one-third less likely to know where to go for help than other age groups.
- Housing orgs:
 - Casa Adelante: offers 29 affordable apartment units for transitional age youth (TAY) and parenting youth, in partnership with the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC). Includes 9 units specifically for parenting TAY.
 - Casa Colibri: Managed in partnership with Mission Action.
 - Casa Esperanza: This program supports Transitional Age Youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness, particularly those from historically underserved communities, by connecting them with essential resources. In partnership with Mission Action.
 - Edward II: Long-term housing with on-site case management, in partnership with HomeRise.
 - Routz: Long-term housing with a focus on young people with mental health issues, managed in partnership with the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC).
 - Young Adult Court: Provides housing in partnership with Felton and the San Francisco Collaborative Courts.
- TAY Housing:
 - Castro Youth Housing Initiative (CYHI): Provides scattered-site housing for LGBTQ+ youth, including a specialized program for transgender individuals, for up to two years.
 - Assisted Care/Aftercare: Offers congregate housing with onsite specialty services for young people who are HIV positive or at high risk, available for up to two years.

- LEASE: Scattered-site housing designed for emancipated foster youth, including parenting TAY, available for up to three years.
- Geary House: Provides dorm-style transitional housing for the general youth population, available for up to two years.
- 1020 Haight: Offers dorm-style transitional housing focused on younger TAY, ages 18-21, for up to two years.
- Turning Point: A temporary, transitional housing program assisting young people aged 18-25 to obtain and maintain independent permanent housing, available for up to two years. Part of the Alameda County Coordinated Entry System.
- 53% aged 18-34.
- Rising Up.

Questions:

- What is currently working well? What progress has been made?
- What are homeless TAY's most urgent needs? What is currently not being addressed sufficiently?
- What are the biggest challenges that unhoused youth face?
- Why is it important not to lump youth and adults in the housing placement process? What could improve this process and what would enable youth to access housing more quickly?
- How have budget cuts affected your ability to provide services? With enough funding, what do you wish you could provide?
- Is Rising Up still active? What is the latest impact? How have budget cuts affected the program?

Organizations:

- **Larkin Street Youth Services**
- Rising Up
- **Home by the Bay**
- **HSH**
- Transitional Age Youth Navigation Center
- Homeless Youth Alliance
- Huckleberry House
- LYRICSF
- Five Keys

Protect Bike Lanes and Expand Pedestrianization to Ensure Youth Safety

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to allocate funds for the protection of bike lanes to create a safe citywide network of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to prevent injuries to bikers and promote transportation mobility for youth, and to consider the pedestrianization of Valencia Street.

Background

Transportation by bike in San Francisco too often feels dangerous. For many San Franciscan youth, biking is the most affordable and sustainable way to get to school, work, and see friends, but it only works if bike lanes and bikers are protected. The ability to move safely, no matter the type of transportation, is crucial to having a functioning and thriving city. As youth bicycle usage continues to rise, ensuring safety becomes even more urgent. Between 2024 and 2025, it was reported that youth bicycle usage in the United States increased from 49% to 56%, a stark difference from its historical decline since a study in 2018¹. With more young people choosing to bike, it's crucial that safety measures are implemented to preserve this trend and protect the mobility and freedom biking provides.

However, when biking is unsafe, it becomes inaccessible to the very youth who rely on it. SFMTA reports that between 2020 and 2024, there were over 2,100 bicycle injuries in San Francisco, or over 500 per year². This number does not include fatalities. These injuries represent not just statistics, but barriers to safe and equitable mobility for young people across the city. Youth are particularly vulnerable road users due to their physical size, developing spatial awareness, and limited access to alternative transportation options, especially when commuting to and from school³.

In October of 2024, a father and son, Nick and kindergartener Bowie, were hit by a car while riding their cargo bike and hospitalized⁴. If a child is able to be injured to the point of hospitalization while riding on the back of a bicycle with an adult, they are just as easily able to be injured on their own.

Safe bike lanes communicate that everyone, regardless of their age, income, or background, has the right to move freely, safely, and sustainably around San Francisco. They ensure people like Nick and Bowie are able to safely enjoy their neighborhood via bicycle. They help connect communities that have been historically disconnected, and they help our neighborhoods flourish. Additionally, they act as a reliable form of transit for those who don't have a driver's license,

¹ <https://www.peopleforbikes.org/news/bicycling-participation-report-2024>

² <https://www.sfmta.com/media/42796/download?inline>

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/road-traffic-injuries-children#:~:text=Children%20are%20at%20risk%20for%20road%20traffic,susceptible%20to%20serious%20head%20injury%20than%20adults.>

⁴ <https://sfbike.org/news/prioritizing-safer-streets-for-san-franciscos-children/>

something that is both expensive and age-restricted. Biking is one of the few independent transportation options available, but without safe infrastructure, even that independence is limited.

Beyond mobility and safety, biking has also proven to be an easy and accessible way to reduce one's carbon footprint. UCLA Transportation and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that choosing a bike over a car only once a day can reduce the average person's carbon emissions from transportation by 67%⁵. By investing in safe biking infrastructure, the City not only protects youth riders today, but it also supports environmental sustainability for future generations.

San Francisco already demonstrates its support for cycling through its partnership with Lyft to provide Bay Wheels community bikes, a system that in 2024 recorded 3.3 million rides⁶. This partnership reflects the City's endorsement of biking as a legitimate and encouraged form of transportation. Ensuring that streets are safe for riders, including through protected bike lanes and the potential pedestrianization of high traffic corridors like Valencia Street, is a necessary extension of that commitment.

Valencia Street Pedestrianization

In 2024, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 2324-AL-06, supporting the removal of the center bikeway on Valencia Street and the construction of curbside-protected bikeways⁷. As of 2026, the center bikeway has been removed and replaced. Valencia Street is a prominent location for frequent vehicle-related injuries in the city, as at least three pedestrians have been killed there since 2020⁸. Unsafe turning, misuse of bike lanes, double parking, and speeding cause many collisions, discouraging people from walking or biking, thus harming local businesses and recreational activities.

A pedestrianized, or car-free, Valencia Street, where people can walk and bike safely, with only vehicles permitted for commercial deliveries and residents, would greatly benefit the city. According to SFMTA's evaluation of the center bikeway project, the number of bikers went down 53% after its implementation, due to the center bikeway making cyclists feel unsafe⁹. Since then, the bike lane has been removed and restructured, but a pedestrianized Valencia Street would bring more cyclists and pedestrians back, cause fewer vehicle-related deaths and injuries, and result in an environmentally friendly, economically thriving Valencia Street in the heart of the Mission District. The Youth Commission believes that a plan to fully create pedestrianized

⁵ <https://transportation.ucla.edu/blog/how-bike-riding-benefits-environment>

⁶ <https://lyfturbansolutions.com/blog/2025/04/riding-the-ebike-wave-embracing-the-european-transformation#:~:text=On%20the%20West%20Coast%2C%20San%20Francisco's%20Bay,system%20recorded%203.3%20million%20rides%20in%202024.>

⁷ Imaan Ansari, Jason Fong, and Chloe Wong, "Valencia Street Protected Bike Lanes: RESOLUTION NO. 2324-AL-06," San Francisco Youth Commission, November 27, 2023.

⁸ Ricardo Olea. (2023, May 8). 2017-2022 San Francisco Traffic Crashes Report. SFMTA.

⁹ Valencia Bikeway improvements. SFMTA.

Valencia Street should be explored, funded, and developed with the opinions of local businesses and the public in mind.

Curbside Protected Bike Lanes

Other than the full pedestrianization of streets, curbside protected bike lanes alone can greatly benefit the city’s pedestrians, bikers, and drivers. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, separated, protected bike lanes can reduce vehicle-bicycle crashes by up to



53%¹⁰. Protected bike lanes reduce the risk of collisions while encouraging people to ride bikes, making them more accessible for less experienced riders. Curbside-protected bike lanes also improve traffic flow as drivers and bikers aren’t forced to change their speeds or lanes to accommodate each other. Additionally, a surge in bicycle popularity means fewer cars fighting for space, allowing for reduced congestion on the road. The Youth Commission encourages the City of San Francisco to normalize and expand curbside protected bike lanes by implementing them as standard across the city.

The Youth Commission firmly urges the City of San Francisco to collaborate with organizations such as the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and the Street Campaigns project to identify and evaluate areas throughout the city where pedestrian and vehicular safety can be improved. Through these partnerships, the City should explore and implement targeted changes that meaningfully enhance street safety through curbside protected bike lanes and beyond, to better protect San Francisco’s biking community.

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

- 1. Expand curbside protected bike lanes** as the standard San Francisco bike lane to protect bikers and pedestrians, ensuring that biking is a safe option for San Francisco youth.
 - a. Prioritize expansions in areas near schools, parks, and other locations highly frequented by youth.

¹⁰ “Separated Bike Lanes—Making Roads Safer for Bicyclists | Innovator | 2024 | March / April, n.d

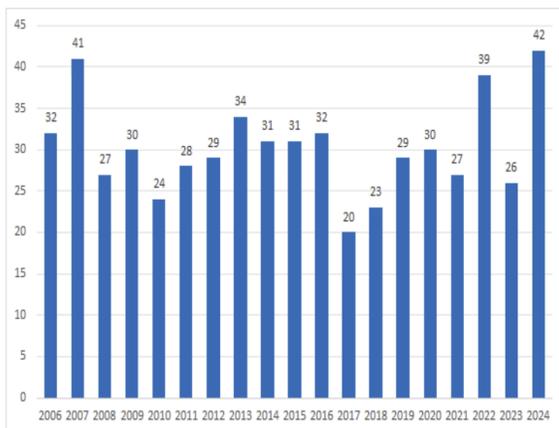
2. Communicate with local businesses, bicycle advocacy groups, and the SFMTA’s Slow Streets program to discuss and work towards a fully pedestrianized or slow Valencia Street.

3. **Partner with local community organizations** like the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition to better understand high-risk biking routes and implement necessary changes.

ENSURING STREET SAFETY

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the expansion of No Turn on Red infrastructure, the continued monitoring of speed limits in high-injury networks, and the maintenance of the slow streets program to reduce the number of street-related injuries and deaths and promote outdoor recreation and safety.

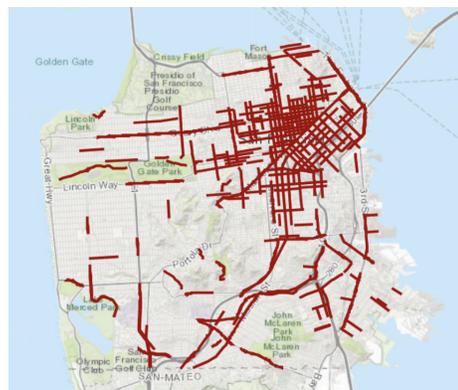
Background



Vision Zero is “a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.” It was first implemented in 2014 as an effort to build safer streets and traffic laws and educate the public. Every single year in San Francisco, about 30 people lose their lives, and 500 are seriously injured as a result of traffic fatalities¹¹. Mistakes are bound to occur on our roads, but it is the responsibility of the city to ensure we are doing all that we can to

make our streets safe for pedestrians, drivers, cyclists, and all residents.

While an evaluation report of traffic fatalities this year dropped from 43 to 25, there is still room for improvement¹². According to studies done by Vision Zero SF, 68% of severe and fatal traffic collisions occur on just 12% of streets in San Francisco, which are identified as high-injury networks (as shown in the



¹¹ Vision Zero SF,” SFMTA, October 24, 2024.

¹² <https://www.sfmta.com/press-releases/press-release-san-francisco-traffic-fatalities-drop-nearly-half-2025>

visual)¹³. The San Francisco Youth Commission firmly believes that infrastructure and programs centered around street safety should be continued and improved throughout the city, especially in high-injury networks.

No Turn on Red and Speed Limits



In 2023, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 2324-AL-07¹⁴, supporting the expansion of the No Turn on Red (NTOR) program. Currently, drivers in San Francisco are permitted to turn right on a red light if there is no sign installed prohibiting it. Turns on red are incredibly detrimental to pedestrians, drivers, and all San Franciscans, as they not only make our streets more stressful but also increase the chance of a fatal vehicle collision. After the implementation of NTOR on 50 intersections in the Tenderloin, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) found that 20% of pedestrian

or bicycle-related injury crashes involving turning drivers at signalized intersections demonstrate high compliance (92%) with NTOR restrictions.

Close calls for vehicle-pedestrian collisions, in which an accident was narrowly missed, decreased from five before NTOR signs were posted to 1 after restrictions were in place at observed intersections, and vehicles blocking or encroaching onto crosswalks on a red signal were reduced by more than 70%¹⁵.



On top of NTOR, lower speed limits can greatly decrease the number of traffic fatalities and deaths. Studies have shown that compared to the 20% chance of survival if someone has been struck by a vehicle traveling 40 mph, a person has a 90% chance of surviving being struck by a vehicle going 20 mph or slower. In 2022, SFMTA began implementing 5 MPH speed limit decreases in key business activity districts, as shown in the map above¹⁶.

These improvements are promising for the future of safe streets, and the San Francisco Youth Commission strongly urges the expansion of No Turn on Red and speed limit policies to all high-injury networks, as well as other parts of San Francisco.

Slow Streets

¹³ San Francisco Department of Public Health-Program on Health, Equity and Sustainability. 2017. Vision Zero High Injury Network: 2017 Update – A Methodology for San Francisco, California. San Francisco, CA.

¹⁴ Jason Fong and Chloe Wong, “No Turn on Red Policy: RESOLUTION NO. 2324-AL-07,” San Francisco Youth Commission, November 27, 2023.

¹⁵ SFMTA, “TENDERLOIN NO TURN ON RED EVALUATION PROJECT FINDINGS,” SFMTA, season-03 2021.

¹⁶ “Speed Management,” SFMTA, March 5, 2025.

In 2022, the Youth Commission passed RESOLUTION NO. 2223-AL-035 urging officials to approve a citywide network of permanent Slow Streets¹⁷. In December 2022, the SFMTA Board approved the permanent Slow Streets program. According to SFMTA's 2023 evaluation of the Slow Streets Program, only three of the sixteen permanent Slow Streets (23rd Avenue, Sanchez Street, and Shotwell Street) meet the Board-adopted volume and speed targets for Slow Streets¹⁸. The remaining 13 Slow Streets require volume management tools, speed management tools, or both to better meet the adopted targets for low-traffic streets. Funding and support should be given to SFMTA's efforts to improve the program, as Slow Streets encourages recreational activities, biking, and walking. Slow Streets gives way to community-building recreational activities, such as the Slow Streets Mural Program, which engages community members by putting art on the pavement. Current Slow Streets not only need to be improved and maintained, but should be explored and funded to further expand the program.

Our streets must be safe for all, especially our youth. Areas that youth frequent for school, recreation, and other uses should be prioritized in the creation of safe street infrastructure. High injury networks, equity priority areas, and streets with youth-focused spaces must be the center of street safety improvements.

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

- 1. Create and commit to a new 10-year Vision Zero goal.**
As traffic-related fatalities continue to increase, it is clear that the city must reaffirm and commit to a new Vision Zero goal to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2034.
- 2. Expand the No Turn on Red program.**
- 3. Continue to monitor and expand reduced speed limits citywide,** especially in areas located in the high-injury network.
- 4. Maintain the Slow Streets Program.** Provide funding and support for the SFMTA to fully implement, maintain, and expand the permanent Slow Streets program infrastructure.

¹⁷ Hayden Miller, "Supporting a Permanent Slow Streets Program: RESOLUTION NO. 2223-AL-03," San Francisco Youth Commission, November 14, 2022.

¹⁸ 2023 Slow Streets Evaluation. (2023). SFMTA.

Ensure Street & MUNI Safety for Youth

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to protect funding for youth-related safety programs, improve conditions at MUNI stops and stations, and ensure reliable services for youth riders.

Background

Public transportation is an essential aspect of urbanized culture, connecting residents with their city daily. For many youth, Muni is the primary mode of transportation for commuting to schools, after-school programs, part-time jobs, and other essential activities. In addition to the Free Muni for Youth program, which acts as a critical school bus initiative, most SFUSD



students depend on Muni, with some surveys reporting usage rates up to 70% among high school students.¹⁹ When the safety or reliability of Muni services is compromised, youth are disproportionately impacted.

As of 2024, there are roughly 13.9 Muni-related incidents reported daily, 54.4% of which are minor crimes, infractions, and disturbances.²⁰ Peak frequencies of Muni trouble occur between 2-4 PM and 6-9 PM, which are key school commute times for students. When youth feel unsafe on Muni, this may result in avoidance of certain routes and times, missing school, arriving late, skipping after-school programs, and turning down jobs and various opportunities that require consistent transit. This disproportionately affects low-income youth, youth without access to private vehicles, and youth who work late or attend schools far from home. Under 50% of riders have reported feeling “always” or “almost always” safe in recent surveys, and riders under the age of 25 feel the least safe on transportation compared to other age groups.²¹ Concerns regarding harassment, drug usage, and assault are common, particularly for women, people of color, and those with disabilities. This forces families with access to cars to prioritize driving, increasing traffic congestion and our carbon footprint daily.

The Youth Commission is aware of the ongoing budget deficit that Muni is facing. That being said, the corresponding service cuts and delays have led to overcrowding, longer stop waits, and

¹⁹<https://www.sfmta.com/blog/young-people-ride-muni-free#:~:text=The%20program's%20eligibility%20is%20set%20at%20an,youth%20are%20not%20covered%20in%20the%20program>

²⁰<https://sfbos.org/61-muni-security#:~:text=As%20illustrated%2C%20approximately%2054.4%20percent,percent%20of%20all%20trouble%20reports>

²¹https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-08/MTC_Snapshot_Survey_Summary_Report08-28-2024.pdf?utm_source

reduced staff presence throughout the system. These factors compound existing safety issues and undermine public trust in Muni as a reliable, safe form of transportation.

SFMTA Youth Safety Programs

Over the past several years, the SFMTA has worked to ensure youth safety in San Francisco through their various School Safety Programs. The Crossing Guard program has had approximately 195 crossing guards assisting students at various schools daily, and the Safe Routes to School initiative has ensured that walking and biking to schools is more accessible for all San Francisco students.²² In Summer 2025, Muni implemented service cuts of about 2% of total service to help close about \$50 million budget gap. Proposed changes included shortening routes such as the 5 Fulton, 9 San Bruno, and 31 Balboa, and combining others like the 6 Haight-Parnassus and 21 Hayes, actions which together were expected to save around \$7 million.²³ SFMTA is preparing to continue with these service cuts, hoping to reach a 5-7% cut of total service. In preparation, they've listed several services, including suspending cable cars and historical trains, eliminating fare subsidies for low-income travelers, and cutting various youth safety programs.

Although these service cuts are necessary to continue aiding the fiscal crisis, eliminating or reducing essential youth safety services will discourage youth from comfortably accessing education and resources across the city.

Transit Efficiency

Funding

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

1. Protect SFMTA funding for youth-related safety programs
 - a. Ensure the Crossing Guard Program, Safe Routes to School, and general transit safety are minimally compromised
2. Increased lighting, security cameras, and emergency call stations at high-traffic Muni stops during school commute hours and nighttime (3-6 PM and 8 PM-5 AM)
 - a. Consider stops near schools, residential neighborhoods, and other busy urban areas
3. Conduct annual youth ridership surveys through SFUSD to better understand resource allocation

²² <https://www.sfmta.com/sfmta-school-safety-programs>

²³ https://www.sfmta.com/projects/summer-2025-muni-service-cuts?utm_source

STRENGTHENING EFFORTS TO COMBAT & PREPARE FOR THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SAN FRANCISCO YOUTH

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to take urgent action to address climate change by maintaining funding for San Francisco Environment Department (SFE), supporting and increasing teacher training for climate education, maintaining funding for youth climate internships and fellowships, and dedicating a district wide-climate action day for the annual Climate Action Youth Summit organized by SFE.

Background

Climate change will not wait for a better fiscal year. The climate crisis poses a threat to San Francisco youth in both the short and long term. The City is already experiencing heightened intensity and frequency of extreme weather events exacerbated by higher global temperatures, including heat waves, air pollution from wildfires, and flooding, which is further compounded by rising sea levels.¹ These impacts position San Francisco's ecosystems, public health, and economy at major risk. Young people are particularly vulnerable to the physical and mental health effects such as heat stroke, lung disease, respiratory infections, and climate anxiety.² Already, more than 40 million children globally experience disruptions in their education each year because of climate disasters.³ Youth living in our City today will experience the impacts of climate change 50-75 years into the future. By the end of the century – when children born in 2025 will be 75 years old – they will experience 40-90 more extreme heat days and 3-6 feet of sea level rise.^{4,5} With last fiscal year's cuts to the San Francisco Environment Department (SFE), the City must commit to restoring and protecting funding to mitigate climate change.

San Francisco Environment Department Budget Cuts

SFE leads climate action in the City, spearheading efforts to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. With leadership from the department, the City has reduced 48% of its carbon footprint between 1990 and 2022. Moreover, the department's education programs have engaged over 20,000 youth in classroom visits, field trips, and the annual Climate Action Youth Summit.

SFE receives just 2% of their budget from the General Fund. As a result, 90% of funding is obtained through outside grants that are time-limited and tied to specific topic areas and deliverables, limiting their programs. For every \$1 dollar invested, SFE has turned it into \$29 through external funding, receiving \$84 million in grants since November 2022. Despite the department's impact and success finding alternate sources of funding, they are facing significant budget cuts that will delay the City's progress toward Climate Action Plan goals. In parallel, many of their federal grants have been terminated or stalled, making City funding for SF Environment more critical than ever.

This fiscal year (2025-2026), SFE lost three positions focused on community outreach and engagement for electrification efforts. Under current budget projections, the department is

¹ David Ackerly et al., "California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment: San Francisco Bay Area Region Report" (University of California, Berkeley, 2018).

² "Climate Change and Children's Health | US EPA," US EPA, January 14, 2025.

³ <https://www.unicef.org/reports/climate-changed-child>.

⁴ David Ackerly et al., "California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment: San Francisco Bay Area Region Report" (University of California, Berkeley, 2018).

⁵ "Sea Level Rise Adaptation | SF Planning," n.d.

expected to lose an additional eight positions which will directly impact clean transportation and electrification, equitable building decarbonization, Climate Action Plan accountability, and biodiversity efforts:

- Clean Transportation: 3.7 FTEs (Full Time Equivalent).
- Climate Equity Hub (building decarbonization): 2.5 FTEs.
- Climate Action Plan: 1.2 FTEs.
- Healthy Ecosystems: 0.65 FTEs.

These staffing cuts will affect low-income communities most by impacting SFE's programs that support equitable electrification initiatives. In addition, cutting staff positions has a snowball effect: fewer staff means lower capacity to pursue outside grants that provide the majority of SF Environment's budget, likely resulting in even more staffing cuts.

The Youth Commission strongly supports SFE's request of at least \$3.4 million to restore full department staffing and prevent additional staffing cuts. The Youth Commission also urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to find creative ways to create funding for SFE to keep the City on track to meet Climate Action Plan goals, following recommendations outlined in the Center for Law, Energy, & Environment's report on sources of funding for San Francisco's Climate Action Plan. One example might include proposing bonds for building decarbonization, housing, and transportation.⁶

Electrification

To reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions, San Francisco must electrify transportation and buildings which each account for 44% (88% total) of the City's annual emissions.⁷ Based on current and projected electric vehicle (EV) ownership, the City needs 5,000 EV charging ports by 2030.⁸ This estimate follows Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-79-20, mandating that 100% of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks are zero-emission by 2035, a target that could reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions by 35%.⁹ Given that 70% of San Francisco residents live in multi-unit housing and 67% of registered vehicles are parked in multi-unit housing spaces and street parking, it is critical to ensure equitable, convenient access to public chargers.¹⁰

The San Francisco Department of Environment has received over \$50 million through eight federal and state grants to support electrification efforts, including a \$15 million grant in January 2025 from the U.S. Department of Transportation to expand the existing number of charging ports by 30% in parking lots, garages, and curbside spaces, including installation of Level 2 and 3 chargers.¹¹ In April 2025, SFE and SFMTA installed the first public curbside EV chargers in San Francisco as a part of the public Curbside EV Charging Pilot Program. With data from these pilot chargers, it is important that the City quickly develops a large-scale public EV charging program. The City must also plan for chargers in off-street parking given the limited available

⁶ <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/clee/research/climate/california-climate-action/funding-sf-cap/>.

⁷ "Climate Action at the SFMTA," SFMTA, January 26, 2024.

⁸ Affirming Support for SFMTA and SFE, in Partnership with Public Works, SFPUC, and SFCTA to Expediently Implement Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging Feasibility Study and Pilot Program, R. 326-24, San Francisco Board of Supervisors (2024).

⁹ "Governor Newsom Announces California Will Phase Out Gasoline-Powered Cars & Drastically Reduce Demand for Fossil Fuel in California's Fight Against Climate Change | Governor of California," Governor of California, June 28, 2024.

¹⁰ R. 326-24, San Francisco Board of Supervisors (2024).

¹¹ "San Francisco Wins \$15 Million Grant to Meet Growing Demand for EV Charging Throughout City," San Francisco Environment Department (SFE), January 14, 2025.

curbside space and must focus on level 2 and 3 chargers. Moreover, it will be important to consider the equitable placement of chargers, for example, locating them near spaces that serve youth and their families, such as libraries and parks. Equitable implementation of electrification relies on SFE staff positions that have been and are at risk of being cut.

The City is also taking steps to electrify residential and commercial buildings. In 2020, San Francisco adopted the All-Electric New Construction Ordinance, prohibiting gas piping in all new buildings and requiring all-electric appliances.¹² In August 2025, San Francisco passed the All-Electric Major Renovations Ordinance that will require that buildings convert to all-electric appliances during certain major renovations. In September 2024, San Francisco was awarded a \$14 million grant through the Inflation Reduction Act for building electrification.¹³ Former Mayor Breed launched a series of programs to offer discounts and rebates for electric appliances for low-income residents.¹⁴ Currently, the SF Environment Climate Equity Hub offers free heat pump water heaters for low-income families whose communities have been disproportionately impacted by climate change. However, staff cuts to the Climate Equity Hub and electrification outreach team may reduce the number of households reached by these programs.

Expanding electrification infrastructure across the City must begin with community outreach, especially in low-income neighborhoods on the environmental justice map. Youth should play an active role in these efforts, given they are directly impacted by climate change and can provide insights into addressing community-specific concerns to ensure the implementation of electric infrastructure.

Climate justice in Bayview Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard Cleanup—Evelyn

 Climate BPP

Climate Education

Since 2023, the San Francisco Environment Department has hosted a citywide Climate Action Youth Summit (CAYS), led by youth for youth. For their most recent 2025 summit, focused on Climate Across Careers, over 3,000 youth gathered together to learn how they could transform their passions and interests into environmental action. Students showcased school projects, youth-led initiatives, a climate fashion show, and more. For instance, students from Jefferson Elementary shared their experiences tackling plastic waste in school lunches.

Due to SF Environment's current monetary constraint, 45% of its budget is from the Solid Waste Impound Account. The Environmental Education team derives most of its funding from the Impound Fund, limiting them to providing lessons related to zero-waste. This leaves out information central to understanding our environment, including biodiversity, conservation, and clean energy.

Even with financial constraints, SFE has provided educational programming to 100+ schools in San Francisco over the past year. This includes 27 Title I schools, most of them located in designated Environmental Justice communities (Oceanview/Merced/Ingleside, Outer Mission,

¹² "All-Electric New Construction Ordinance | SF.gov," n.d.

¹³ "San Francisco Awarded \$14 Million Federal Grant to Advance Building Electrification Projects | SF.gov," September 13, 2024.

¹⁴ "Mayor London Breed Announces New Programs to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Promote Equitable Access to Clean Energy | Office of the Mayor."

Excelsior, Bayview-Hunter's Point, Potrero Hill/Mission Bay, the Mission, South of Market, the Tenderloin, Western Addition, and Chinatown). They have also provided 11 lessons in Chinese and 18 lessons in Spanish. Even still, their lesson plans are limited to zero-waste and water, even environmental justice communities are impacted by a range of environmental issues. It is important to diversify climate education to resonate with youth experiences.

Recently, a federal grant in which SFE received 1 million for environmental justice has been terminated. From the grant, half a million was originally established for youth engagement. Due to these circumstances, youth outreach is becoming especially uncertain, further impacting communities that already face limited climate knowledge and resources because of challenges in education and community engagement.

Beyond understanding the science behind climate change, a comprehensive climate education must prepare youth to make sustainable choices for their futures.¹⁵ The Climate Action Youth Summit bridges gaps in classroom climate literacy by highlighting tangible climate solutions, environmental justice narratives, green jobs, and cross-disciplinary connections.

Under the current SFUSD Next Generation Science Standards High School curriculum, connections to climate change are integrated within classes such as Chemistry, Biology, and Physics. However, results from the 2024 Youth Commission High School Climate Literacy Feedback Form gathering 415 responses from SFUSD students and faculty reveals that the curriculum does not fully meet NOAA standards. When asked "on a scale of 1-5, how empowered did you feel to take climate action after learning about climate change?" 42.2% of respondents answered with 3/5, suggesting that students are currently only moderately empowered by existing climate change instruction. Only 9.2% responded with 5/5. Additionally, only 17.6% of students would recommend SFUSD's current climate change curriculum with a 5/5 rating, suggesting that improvements in the curriculum are needed. Current data reflects that SFUSD students want the curriculum to highlight local impacts of climate change and connect to subjects beyond science. Students also want to explore climate change beyond the classroom such as through interactive field trips and internships. A student from Burton High School wrote: "[For students to be more involved with climate change], they would need time to go on field trips to make an impact." Similarly, a student from Mission High School suggested: "more community involvement learning days like more field trips." Students from Wallenberg's ESEP (Environmental Science, Engineering, and Policy) Pathway would like "more projects regarding climate change and presenters to work with in solving climate change."

Strengthening climate education requires sufficient staffing and climate literacy training. SFUSD has offered several professional development initiatives to give teachers training about environmental education, including the Environmental Solutionary Teacher Fellowship through the San Mateo County Office of Education, engaging 50 educators to design and implement climate action projects in their schools.¹⁶ Other teacher professional development opportunities include the Climate Justice & YOU series in Spring 2022, connecting SFUSD staff and community organizations and a year-long professional development program for elementary

¹⁵ Key Definitions and Literature Cited," NOAA Climate.gov, n.d

¹⁶ "Environmental Solutionary Teacher Fellowship - San Mateo County Office of Education," San Mateo County Office of Education, n.d.

school teachers, Scientific Literacy through Climate Justice.¹⁷ Both teacher training fellowships must continue to receive support from the school district and expand the number of teachers who can access them.

SFUSD currently has a 7-week Climate Action Fellowship, funded by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, that gives high school participants support to launch climate action projects and professional development opportunities, while earning high school credit. To build on existing climate education efforts in SFUSD, teachers have expressed interest in creating more opportunities to share resources across schools to ensure that the available curriculum is implemented and to spread successful programs at one school with others across the district. Education initiatives including the SFUSD Climate Action Fellowship directly give public education students greater access to hands-on climate education, leadership opportunities, and pathways into green careers.

Climate Internships and Fellowships

Every job can be a green job. In San Francisco, programs like Project Pull, employ youth with internships in City and County departments, where they gain hands-on experience in fields such as environmental planning, engineering, public health, and communications.¹⁸ The Rising T.I.D.E.S. program, run by the Port of San Francisco, connects young people to work in areas like maritime operations, infrastructure, and environmental compliance. They learn about how port activities intersect with climate resilience, clean energy, and sustainable development.¹⁹

In partnership with Enterprise for Youth and San Francisco Youth Works, SFE has created summer internships for high schoolers. This program has increased youth awareness of climate justice across careers and youth leadership of climate action projects. Kate Ozaeta, a senior at Saint Ignatius High School and 2025 SFE Summer intern, reflects: “through my internship with SFE, I had the unique opportunity to launch an initiative around my school’s waste-sorting with the support of a mentor. SFE provided me with so many resources and opportunities to expand my initiative and even present at a Commission on the Environment meeting in City Hall. Months later, this internship connected me with so many people that have played a role in my climate journey. Working both online and in-person, I learned about the work of a city department, further developed my communication skills, and recognized the importance of mentorship.”

Prioritizing workforce programs like Enterprise for Youth Enterprise, San Francisco Youth Works, and Project Pull, which provide green career exploration, is critical for expanding access to climate literacy. These programs not only expose young people to potential career paths but also equip them with hands-on experience, mentorship, and professional skills.

Recommendations:

Short-Term:

¹⁷ “SFUSD Teaches Environmental Literacy and Climate Justice to All K-12 Students | SFUSD.”

¹⁸ City and County of San Francisco. “Project Pull.” Project Pull. n.d. <https://www.sf.gov/information--project-pull>.

¹⁹ City and County of San Francisco. “Project Pull.” Project Pull. Accessed February 20, 2026. <https://www.sf.gov/information--project-pull>.

1. **Allocate \$3.4 million to SFE from the General Fund** to prevent the loss of 8 additional staff members. This funding will ensure that clean transportation and electrification, equitable building decarbonization, Climate Action Plan accountability, and healthy ecosystems efforts remain prioritized.

2. **Protect funding for SFE's education program.**

3. **Find creative ways to generate funding for SFE** to ensure that the City has a financial plan to meet its Climate Action Plan goals, for example City bonds for building decarbonization, housing, and transportation and more public-private partnerships.

Long-Term:

1. **Expand funding for the San Francisco Environment Department's education program** to enable their curriculum to include topics such as biodiversity loss and environmental justice in addition to current materials about Zero Waste and Clean Water that are limited in content because of their funding sources.

2. **Urge SFUSD and SFE to dedicate a district-wide climate action day** to enable all students to attend the Climate Action Youth Summit.

3. **Secure stable funding for climate internships and fellowships** to increase access to green jobs for students beyond the classroom.

4. **Secure permanent SFPUC funding for the SFUSD 7-week Climate Action Fellowship**

URGING SAN FRANCISCO TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION IN RESTORING BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the City and County of San Francisco to fully remediate Bayview Hunters Point and fund comprehensive environmental studies to protect the long-term health impacts of local residents.

In California, BIPOC communities are five times more likely to live within half a mile of a polluted site.¹ Nowhere is this injustice clearer than in Bayview-Hunters Point.

Today, Bayview Hunters Point is a majority low-income and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community where Black residents comprise $\frac{2}{3}$ of the area's population (20,000 Black residents). This demographic did not occur by accident. Before World War II, the area was largely undeveloped. During and after the war, industrial expansion transformed it into a military and shipyard operations hub. Simultaneously, Black families migrating for wartime jobs were systematically excluded from safer neighborhoods due to redlining and housing discrimination. With no access to less polluted areas, many were forced into substandard industrial Bayview housing. Generations of families have remained in this neighborhood and have been subjected to an extremely toxic environment.

In 1867, the U.S. Navy acquired the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.² By 1946, it became the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL), where ships exposed to nuclear testing were decontaminated using dry-dock blasting methods, methods used to clean and prepare ship hulls³. The radioactive waste, heavy metals, petroleum fuels, and other toxic materials carried by the ships were dumped into the surrounding soil and water.⁴ The NRDL operated until 1967 and the shipyard closed shortly after. Its closure accompanied the eradication of more than 3,000 local jobs, many of which were held by African American workers. In the decades that followed, former workers and residents have claimed to experience alarming rates of illness linked to contamination.

In 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated Hunters Point Shipyard a Superfund Site, American polluted locations that require long-term cleanup due to hazardous material contamination.⁵ Additionally the EPA declared the shipyard one of the ten most polluted federal properties in the nation.⁶

¹ [New map shows 400 toxic sites that could flood in California - Los Angeles Times](#)

² [Full article: Radiological risk assessment of the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard \(HPNS\)](#)

³ [Hunter's Point Naval Shipyard.](#)

<https://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/decommissioning/complex/hunters-point-naval-shipyard.html>

⁴ HUNTERS POINT NAVAL SHIPYARD SAN FRANCISCO, CA Cleanup Activities. Retrieved January 26, 2023, from <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup>

⁵ [Hunters Point Naval Shipyard - Learn More | SF.gov](#)

⁶ [Bayview Hunters Point — Anti-Eviction Mapping Project](#)

The Navy⁷ was commissioned to clean up the site and they proposed a \$100 million remediation plan, despite estimates placing the true cost closer to \$300 million.

As part of their cleanup plan, the Navy divided the land into parcels for phased remediation. The Navy also contracted Tetra Tech, an engineering and environmental consulting firm, to test soil at the shipyard and remove any that is contaminated. In 2014, an internal Tetra Tech report caught employees trying to pass off dirt from a less polluted area of the base for testing.⁸ After further investigation, the Navy concluded that this fraud occurred from 2008 to 2012, casting doubt and contesting the cleanup's efficacy.⁹

By then, luxury condominiums were already built on Parcel A despite persisting contamination concerns. The land was developed before the community received full transparency or comprehensive health studies. Meanwhile, radioactive materials continue to be discovered today. In 2018, a radioactive dial was found near newly built condos and additional contamination in areas slated for further development.¹⁰ In November of 2024, the San Francisco Department of Public Health found that the Navy measured levels of airborne plutonium twice the recommended levels on Parcel C of the shipyard.¹¹ However, the Navy did not inform the City of their findings for another eleven months. Repeatedly, the Navy and Tetra Tech have demonstrated a pattern of conduct that calls into serious question their capacity to execute a scientifically rigorous, ethically sound, and transparently administered remediation process.

Additionally, in their most recent five-year report, the Navy has shared that certain chemicals on the shipyard will never be able to be fully remediated.¹² No studies currently exist on the synergistic effects of multiple chemicals on long-term health. Residents must be alerted and aware of the potential risks that may accompany these remaining chemicals.

Twenty-seven percent of residents live within a quarter-mile of the Shipyard, leaving a significant portion of Bayview residents vulnerable. Decades of toxic contamination have contributed to significant community health consequences. According to a 2010 government report, Bayview-Hunters Point had the highest contamination risk of any San Francisco neighborhood.¹³ The asthma-related emergency room visit rate was 93 per 10,000 residents.¹⁴ In 2021-2022, the percentage of children and teens with asthma was 1.4 times higher in the

⁷ "Hunters Point Naval Shipyard Site." EPA. Environmental Protection Agency, October 20, 2017. <https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/SiteProfiles/index.cfm?fuseaction=second.cleanup&id=0902722>.

⁸ [Contractor Submitted False Radiation Data at Hunters Point – NBC Bay Area](#)

⁹ <https://www.justice.gov/archives/opa/pr/united-states-joins-lawsuits-against-tetra-tech-ec-inc-alleging-false-claims-connection>

¹⁰ [Radioactive objects turn up at SF's Hunters Point Shipyard, again](#)

¹¹ [U.S. Navy found elevated plutonium in Bayview. S.F. says it was kept in the dark.](#)

¹² https://media.defense.gov/2024/Aug/01/2003516226/-1/-1/0/HPNS_4930_5YR_FINAL.PDF

¹³ [Bayview Hunters Point — Anti-Eviction Mapping Project](#)

¹⁴ Healthy Communities Institute. (2018). San Francisco Health Improvement Partnership. Retrieved from SFHIP: www.sfhyp.org

Bayview than compared to the rate found across San Francisco.¹⁵ This is more than double the countywide rate of 44 per 10,000. Most concerning, from 2013-2024, the Bayview had the highest total number of infant deaths and the highest rate of preterm births in San Francisco.

Despite these alarming statistics, the City has failed to conduct a comprehensive, causation-based health study linking contamination to long-term medical outcomes. Community groups have repeatedly called for a broader, official investigation to determine whether the area is truly safe. The City has not taken sufficient initiative to do so.

Climate change compounds this crisis. On June 1, 2021, the 2021–2022 Civil Grand Jury released a report warning that rising groundwater, driven by sea level rise, could mobilize buried toxins and undermine cleanup efforts. As Jury foreperson Michael Hofman stated, Hunters Point represents the largest development in San Francisco since the 1906 earthquake, yet neither the Navy nor the City is adequately preparing for the consequences of rising groundwater pushing contamination toward the surface.¹⁶

In October 2022, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 437-22 in response to the Grand Jury report. However, the Board only agreed to address a limited set of findings and recommendations (R2, R3, F4, F5, and F6). Critical recommendations, including those calling for comprehensive groundwater studies and deeper investigation into environmental harms (R1, R4, R5, F1, F2, F3), were excluded. Recommendation R7, which would have required formal reporting and coordination with federal signatories, was explicitly denied without clear justification. Instead, the Board proposed a short-term task force. However, this is an inadequate substitute for beneficial change.

Meanwhile, large-scale development plans continue. Developers including Lennar and FivePoint plan to build more than 10,000 upscale homes on the Shipyard. Build LLC proposes an additional 1,400 homes at another contaminated site, India Basin.

Bayview is also committing to internal efforts to mobilize the community from within. Through the Bayview Hunters Point Environmental Justice Task Force, which brings together residents, organizers, and local leaders to problem-solve ongoing pollutant complaints, and the Bayview Hunters Point Youth Environmental and Climate Justice Leadership Academy, which empowers young people to learn about and respond to the environmental challenges directly impacting their neighborhood, the community is actively working to make its voice heard and strengthen local engagement.

Community advocacy has already led to tangible progress, including the opening of the Southeast Family Health Clinic in 2022 and the Environmental Health Clinic in November 2025,

¹⁵ UCLA, California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) Neighborhood Edition, Ever diagnosed with Asthma (1-17), 2021-22

¹⁶ [Hunters Point. SLR Report. FINAL CORRECTED \(6.13.22\)](#)

both of which expand access to care and are fully covered by San Francisco Health Plan insurance. In addition, local CBOs such as Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice and All Things Bayview continue to play a critical role in organizing residents, raising awareness, and holding institutions accountable.

For generations, Bayview residents have lived with the consequences of decisions made without their protection or consent. It is time for the City to give the Bayview Hunters Point residents the justice they deserve. Full transparency and remediation are long overdue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

1. **Fully adopt and implement the entirety of the 2021–2022 Civil Grand Jury Report** (including Recommendations R1, R4, R5, R7 and Findings F1, F2, and F3): Adopting the entirety of the 2021-22 Report ensures comprehensive oversight, climate-resilient remediation, and long-term accountability for environmental conditions at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.
2. **Fully fund and commission an independent, comprehensive environmental study of soil, groundwater, and air quality across all affected parcels and surrounding residential areas, including an assessment of long-term health impacts:** Transparent, publicly accessible information about contamination levels and associated risks are imperative towards the safety of Bayview residents.
3. **Expand and fully fund environmental health services in partnership with community clinics, including the Southeast Family Health Center, to provide accessible screening, treatment, and long-term monitoring for residents impacted by toxic exposure:** This includes, but is not limited to, asthma, cancer and other environmentally linked conditions.

YOUTH COMMISSION CHARTER REFORM

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to keep the San Francisco Youth Commission protected by the City Charter.

Background

On November 7th, 1995, San Franciscan voters approved Proposition F by over 60%, thereby establishing the San Francisco Youth Commission as a permanent body for youth policy advocacy within the City's Charter in Sections 4.122-4.125. Since then, the Youth Commission has contributed immensely to the well-being of youth across San Francisco. The Youth Commission has fought for and successfully helped implement the Free Muni For Youth Program, which became indefinite in 2022. Additionally, the Youth Commission successfully helped expand Healthy Kids insurance, the universal health care insurance for youth in San Francisco, to 18 to 24-year-olds in 2004. Finally, the Youth Commission led the advocacy in support of Vote16, the effort to lower the local voting age from 18 to 16, allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in local elections, on the 2016 and 2020 ballots. Although both measures narrowly lost, they greatly increased voter pre-registration and civic engagement efforts with youth across San Francisco.

On November 5th, 2024, San Franciscan voters approved Proposition E: Creating a Task Force to Recommend Changing, Eliminating, or Combining City Commissions, with 52% of the vote. The Proposition then created the Commission Streamlining Task Force, whose purpose is to make recommendations about ways to “modify, eliminate, or combine the City's board and commissions to improve the administration of city government”.

On January 28th, 2026, the Commission Streamlining Task Force published their Final Report, which includes recommendations on appointive boards and commissions to improve the “efficiency and effectiveness of San Francisco government”. In their recommendations for the San Francisco Youth Commission, they decided to keep the Commission and eliminate the Charter prohibition on stipends for Youth Commissioners, but implement a 3-year term limit on Commissioners and move out of the City's Charter into the Administrative Code, which is under the Board of Supervisors' jurisdiction. This recommendation to move the Youth Commission from the Charter to the Administrative Code was passed during their October 15th, 2025, meeting, with a 4-1 vote (Chair Harrington in opposition).

According to Section 4.102 of the City's Charter, Charter bodies oversee City departments and exercise the following powers:

1. **Policymaking:** approving goals, objectives, plans, programs, and setting policy for the department

2. **Budget authority:** approving departmental budgets, rates, and fees
3. **Hiring:** recommending at least three qualified candidates for department head to the Mayor
4. **Firing:** removing a department head
5. **Power of Inquiry:** holding hearings, taking testimony, and conducting investigations into any aspect

The San Francisco Youth Commission is categorized as an Advisory Body, which means that it provides feedback and recommendations to City Departments and elected officials, but lacks decision-making authority over the City Department it advises. According to the Commission Streamlining Task Force, because the Youth Commission “does not oversee a City Department”, it lacks the powers outlined for a Chartered body in Section 4.102, and it therefore cannot be considered a Chartered body. Additionally, the Task Force voted to move the Youth Commission into the Administrative Code to make it easier to amend the body, as it would only require a vote from the Board of Supervisors rather than a Charter Amendment. Lastly, to ensure consistency with other advisory bodies, the Youth Commission has also been moved into the Administrative Code.

The Commission Streamlining Task Force’s recommendations will first be voted on by the Board of Supervisors to be placed on the ballot as a Charter Amendment. If passed, San Franciscans will then vote on these recommendations in the 2026 November elections.

Recommendation

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to:

1. **Keep the San Francisco Youth Commission in the City Charter.**

Amend the recommendations of the Commission Streamlining Task Force to keep the Youth Commission in the San Francisco City Charter. A chartered Youth Commission allows Commissioners to be more independent and truly advocate for the needs of youth, without the fear of being removed from the Administrative Code. Additionally, the Youth Commission was voted into the Charter by the people of San Francisco, making it the constituents' will to have a chartered advisory commission to be part of the City Charter.

YOUTH COMMISSION STAFF HIRING

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to support the Clerk's Office's Budget Proposal to maintain and hire three staffers at the San Francisco Youth Commission

Background

For much of the San Francisco Youth Commission's history, there have been three staffers who handle a diverse array of tasks under their positions, which are the Community Partnerships Specialist, the Youth Development Specialist, and the Director of the San Francisco Youth Commission. In the 2021-2022 term of the San Francisco Youth Commission, there was an extreme staffing shortage where the number of staff dropped from three to two, and eventually one in the span of six months. The staffing shortage not only placed immense stress on the remaining staff, but also prohibited both staff and Commissioners from functioning at their full potential. For instance, due to the staffing shortage, there was a lack of capacity to hold official Committee meetings, forcing Commissioners to instead hold unofficial Task Force meetings that did not have the ability to produce resolutions, motions, or statements. This can be seen in the absence of Committee meetings for the 2021-2022 term, along with an extreme decrease in the number of resolutions passed compared to the following years.

While the San Francisco Clerk's Office did step in during this period of staffing shortages, they did not have the capacity to provide the emotional or developmental support for Commissioners that not only strengthens their abilities to act as Commissioners but also supports their professional development as future civic leaders.

On January 9th, 2026, Alondra Esquivel Garcia resigned from the position of Youth Commission Director. After her resignation, Joy Zhan was named Acting Director, which vacated the role of Youth Development Specialist and delegated that position's responsibilities to both Joy and Community Partnership Specialist Joshua Rudy Ochoa. One of the essential requirements for a stable and effective Youth Commission is a fully staffed team of three who are able to navigate the administrative functions of the Commission. With the Mayor's hiring freeze and with a large City deficit looming, we cannot risk the potential of eliminating the role of Youth Development Specialist, without either significantly increasing the workload of the other two staff positions, or significantly reducing the capacity of the Youth Commission's ability to represent the needs of San Francisco youth. Mirroring the staffing situation in the 2021-2022 term of the Commission, this has required both existing staff members to work outside of their job descriptions and classifications to fill the gap where a third staffer would be.

Recommendations

The San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to:

1. Support the Clerk's Office's budget proposal to maintain a fully staffed team of three at the San Francisco Youth Commission

Ensure that the Youth Commission continues to have a Director, Youth Development Specialist, and Community Partnership Specialist to ensure the success of the Youth Commission's work and capacity.

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to continue supporting gun violence prevention measures for youth in San Francisco.

Background

In San Francisco, owners of handguns must obey the following law in accordance with SEC.4512 of the San Francisco Police Code: “Handgun owners can keep their weapons at home but must keep them locked in safes or disabled by trigger locks when not using them”.¹ Despite this measure, it has been proven to not be enough as break-ins have allowed individuals to steal these so-called “locked and safe guns” and take them to use or sell on the street. Additionally, youth who reside in residences with firearms are more likely to be able to access these weapons. 1 in 3 homes with children have guns, many of which are left unlocked or loaded.² From 2018 until 2023, shootings in San Francisco increased by 74%, with 158 people killed with firearms,³ and while that number did decrease to 77 in 2025 (from 101 in 2024), that is still an unnecessarily high number of people injured by weapons.

School Incidents + Weapon Related Incidents Involving Youth

Following significant advocacy from local gun violence prevention groups, the San Francisco Unified School District released a letter via the District email newsletter titled “Letter about Gun Safety to Families” in August of 2023, including information to increase awareness of gun safety and stopping school shootings. This included information for safe storage of firearms to keep them out of the hands of children by storing guns securely by locking the weapon in a gun safe unloaded and having the ammunition locked separately; asking about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes of neighbors, families, and play dates; and recognizing the risk factors and warning signs of depression and suicide.⁴ While this was an important step in raising awareness, it did not address the requests of local gun violence prevention groups who urged the District to follow the best practices of the Be SMART Program, including sending home physical letters informing parents/guardians of their legal obligation to protect kids.⁵ The Youth Commission has previously urged all San Francisco schools to send home safe firearm storage information (RESOLUTION NO. 2022-AL-06).

Recently, many schools, both public and independent, in the San Francisco Area have experienced many threats and real occurrences of a person going to school and using weapons on the students and school personnel. Between March 2022 and April 2023, of 100 student conflicts

¹ San Francisco Police Code, SEC. 4512.

² Judy Schaechter. (2023, September). Guns in the Home: How to keep kids safe. HealthyChildren.org (American Academy of Pediatrics)

³ Sydney Johnson. (2023, June 13). San Francisco considers banning guns in more public places after recent shootings. KQED.

⁴ Letter about Gun Safety to families | SFUHS. (2023, August 16).

⁵ Be SMART | Secure gun storage. (2023, March 8). Be SMART.

on and off the San Francisco school campus, 31 involved guns.⁶ For youth, weapons have been proven to be easy to access. The United States has more civilian-owned guns per capita than any country in the world, with 120.5 guns per 100 residents.⁷ Many youths in possession of a weapon list protection as their primary reason, leading to questions over why youths feel unsafe in their current environments and would need a weapon to issue that kind of protection. Factors including social media and mental health have been used to justify the lack of safety students feel in their environments.

On December 8th, 2023, two students at George Washington High School and one student at Galileo Academy of Science and Technology were found to have brought guns onto the campus.⁸ These cases were only the ones that had been caught. Community organizers point out there are weapons on school campuses brought by students every day. The incident caused students and families to question safety protocols and students wondering if weapon violence in schools were being taken seriously. In January 2024, SFUSD students conducted a walkout of their classrooms in protest of deficient security measures to prevent violence on school campuses.

On August 21st, 2024, within a week of the first day back to school, a student from Galileo Academy of Science and Technology was shot in the middle of the day at Ghirardelli Square. The whole school was placed on lockdown, but the students were completely unaware of the situation that was happening. On October 10th, a 17-year-old San Francisco resident was arrested for this incident. The officers on the scene found the suspect in possession of a loaded gun.

On November 8th, 2025, at around 9pm at Ocean Beach, a physical fight ensued and gunshots suddenly rang out, leaving four youth injured. Additionally, a stray bullet struck a 35 year old man identified as Nathan who had stepped out onto his balcony to see what the commotion was. He later lost a kidney and part of his bowel. Neighbors have expressed frustration over a delayed response to the shooting as well albeit was rare, still was not responded to in adequate time.

Around noon on the school day of December 2, 2025, a student at Philip and Sala Burton Academic High School was shot in the leg. A suspect, who was later identified as a minor, was apprehended after escaping the scene, and the victim was transported to a nearby hospital in stable condition. Although there was no extended threat to the public, students and families continue to experience fear, trauma, and uncertainty about safety at school, highlighting the lasting emotional impact of gun violence on young people and school communities. Even when

⁶ Ida Mojada. (2023, May 8). Youth violence rocks San Francisco. Where does the city go from here? The San Francisco Standard.

⁷ Brad Bushman. & Dan Romer. (2023, January 12). How does a child become a shooter? Research suggests easy access to guns and exposure to screen violence increase the risk. The Conversation.

⁸ Megan Fan Munce. (2023, December 8). S.F. police: Three students brought guns to two high schools Friday. San Francisco Chronicle.

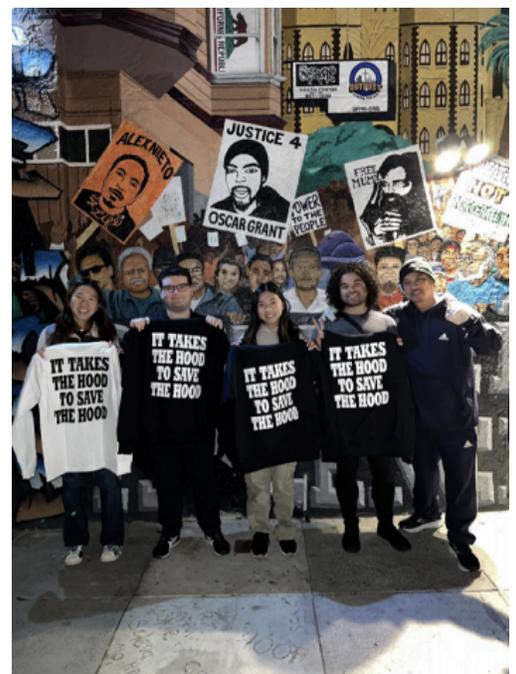
injuries are not life-threatening, the existence of weapons on campuses poses a danger to students physically and emotionally.

On January 30th, 2025, three youths were shot at Golden Gate and Laguna Street after attending a protest at Dolores Park. One youth, a 15 year old sophomore girl from Gateway High School, named Jayda Mabrey, died the following day from her injuries. Her younger sister witnessed Jayda get shot. The other two youths survived the attack. As of February 2nd, no arrest has been made and a motive has not been disclosed.

Weapon Prevention Programs

United Playaz is a San Francisco-based violence prevention and youth development organization located in the heart of the South of Market (SoMa). Founded in 1994 by Rudy Corpuz Jr., United Playaz offers a range of services, including, but not limited to, in-school aid, afterschool programs, case management, and workforce training. The organization offers a 7 out of 10 success rate among guiding at-risk youth. A former SoMa gang member himself at the age of 12, Rudy recalls the significance of being able to access weapons, saying, “When we would break into homes, we looked for three things: money, jewelry, and guns.” He then explained that the guns would be used to commit additional crimes.

In 2014, United Playaz instituted an annual Gun Buyback Program with the goal of reducing the number of weapons on the streets. In exchange for payment, people can turn in a handgun for \$100 and an assault rifle for \$200, no questions asked. The guns are then melted down, and the parts are used for jewelry and other products that help finance later gun buy-backs. Since its implementation, the program has yielded over 2500 weapons. Most recently, the program had its Gun Buyback event in December of 2024, and it yielded very positive results.



Youth Commission Involvement

The Youth Commission previously produced a Reducing Weapons Access Budget and Priorities report in FY 24/25 and FY 25/26. They continue to advocate for reduced weapons access through resolutions, like Resolution NO. 2022-AL-06, and interacting with community-based organizations (CBOs).⁹ The Youth Commission recognized United Playaz for their work in preventing youth gun violence with a Resolution of Commendation in early 2024 after touring their facilities and speaking with Rudy Corpuz Jr.

⁹ <https://www.sfgov.org/youthcommission/meeting/full-commission-january-18-2022-supporting-documents>

Recommendations

The Youth Commission urges the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to:

1. Continue to partner with Gun Buy-Backs and Weapon Trade-In event organizers – to stop gun violence by providing a place for people to turn in weapons for payment, with no questions asked, and continue to get guns off the streets and out of our communities.

2. Ensure that youth are able to easily access mental health resources and help – by investing and pushing SFUSD to strengthen access to existing resources such as mindfulness, community schools, restorative practices, peer resource programs, and therapy. This should include increasing counseling staff, reducing wait times for students seeking support, improving awareness of services, and protecting funding for school-based Wellness Centers, which are often students' first and most accessible point of contact for support. Additionally, providing support for SFUSD wellness centers who are at risk due to budget cuts, as they are often the first point of contact that most youth have with access to mental health resources.

3. Creating and Continuing partnerships with Violence Prevention Initiatives – by creating a professional relationship with both Violence Prevention Programs like the Street Violence Prevention Intervention Program (SVIP); trained Street Violence Interrupters can mediate conflicts, can support victims of violence and refer youth to various resources like case management. Through a collaboration with SVIP and the San Francisco Police Department, a violence prevention initiative called San Francisco Violence Reduction Initiative (SF-VRI), there has been a 19% decrease in citywide gun violence. This program helps at-risk transitional age youth (18-24), by providing them with specialized support from city and community services and life coaches. Continuing and securing funding for this program allows those who are most at risk to seek support and create safer communities for youth. Community-based organizations like United Playaz, Bayview Hunters Point Foundation, and the Samoan Community Development Center also offer services in regard to Violence Prevention in SFUSD high schools.