

Need for Supplementary TAY Funding in San Francisco
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May 2014

Context: Current and Proposed TAY Funding in San Francisco

As part of the reauthorization of the Children's Fund, the Children's Fund Community Coalition recommends that the **Children's Amendment** grow to include disconnected Transitional Age Youth (TAY), ages 18 – 24.

There has been discussion in City Government that the City currently invests \$80M annually for TAY services city-wide, suggesting that approval of the Children's Amendment is unnecessary given the current level of investment in TAY.

The **TAY ED Network** proposes an additional \$5M in supplementary funding for critical services that meet the immediate needs of disconnected TAY in the next two fiscal years.

Key Questions: Why is the TAY ED Network budget request necessary at this time?

Why is supplementary funding for disconnected TAY necessary, given the proposed expansion of the Children's Fund?

- **The Children's Amendment will resolve long-term needs rather than fill immediate gaps in TAY services.**
 - If approved, the Children's Amendment would expand funding for disconnected TAY up to age 24 in FYE2017.
 - The TAY ED proposal would fill the most critical, immediate gaps in services for disconnected TAY for the coming two fiscal years, until the Children's Fund is renewed.

- **The expansion of the Children's Amendment is not specific to TAY:**
 - The .02 cent increase on every \$100 assessed will be spread across the entire 0 – 24-year age group.
 - Informed by an extensive Needs Assessment process, the increase would support evaluation and capacity building, unmet needs in childcare, youth employment, and other services, as well as services for TAY.

Why is the inclusion of 18 – 24 year-olds necessary in the Children’s Fund, given the City’s current \$80M annual investment in TAY?

- **The \$80M figure is inflated.**
 - “TAY Funding” by the City’s definition includes contracts serving youth as young as 16, which is irrelevant to assessing whether or not 18 – 24 year-olds should be added to the Children’s Fund.
 - A careful review of data behind the \$80M figure shows that the actual investment in 18 – 24 year-olds is considerably less:
 - \$32,770,135 in non-City funds, including WIA, MHSA, and mandated services for youth in the foster care system.
 - \$6,462,959 in contracts that serve only youth under 18.
 - Removing these two categories alone cuts the figure by 50%, and what remains (\$40,937,859) still does not represent targeted City resources for 18 – 24 year-olds.

- **In fact, the City’s General Fund investment in disconnected TAY between the ages of 18 – 24 is a fraction of the \$80M that has been recently discussed.**
 - Because funding sources and age ranges are blended, it is impossible to determine the City’s actual investment in 18 – 24 year-olds from the report.
 - Only \$7,246,427 can be clearly identified as funding explicitly for 18 –24 year olds, and this figure includes blended funding sources that don’t represent City resources.
 - **Only \$3,090,301 is confirmable as the City’s targeted investment in 18 – 24 year-olds.**

Total alleged City investment in TAY	\$79,350,859
1) Non-City resources that can be easily identified (WIA, MHSA, HUD, and mandated services for foster youth)	\$32,770,135
2) Contracts explicitly serving <18	\$6,462,959
Subtotal less 1 and 2: Funding that might include City resources for 18 – 24 year olds	\$40,937,859
3) Contracts wherein an age-range is not specified	\$28,845,424
4) Contracts that are not TAY-specific (i.e. serve a broader age-range)	\$4,846,008
Subtotal less 3 and 4: Funding specific to 18 – 24 year olds	\$7,246,427
5) Blended contracts that represent City and non-City resources	\$2,710,566
6) Contracts where a funding source is not specified	\$1,645,560
Subtotal less 5 and 6: City’s confirmable investment in 18 – 24 year-olds	\$3,090,301

- **At only .1% of the City’s \$7.9 billion budget, even \$80M is still an insufficient investment in young people:**
 - Significant, immediate gaps in TAY services remain, despite the City’s investment in TAY.

- The TAY ED Network has identified those gaps and prepared a \$5M proposal that will meet the growing, unmet need among disconnected TAY immediately.

Conclusion

The City of San Francisco made a bold commitment to TAY in 2006, when Mayor Newsome launched the Mayor's Transitional Age Youth Task Force. The TAY ED Network—in partnership with TAY SF—is tasked with seeing that the recommendations in the Task Force's 2007 publication, *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Road Map to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco's Most Vulnerable Young Adults*, are implemented. The TAY ED Network's proposal and the expansion of the Children's Fund are aligned with the 2007 recommendations, as well as more recent assessments, including *Planning Future Investment in San Francisco Children, Youth and Families* (Learning for Action, December 2013) and *Policy Priorities for Transition Age Youth* (TAY SF, February 2014).

In 2012, Mayor Lee reinforced the City's commitment, stating that disconnected TAY would be a priority population city-wide under his administration. While the City's investment in TAY is admirable, it is not enough to meet current or emerging gaps in services. A two-year supplementary budget request in combination with expansion of the Children's Fund is the next best step to resource the San Francisco's commitment to TAY.