

June 6, 2014

Honorable Chairperson Mark Farrell  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Chair Farrell,

The Budget Justice Coalition is a collaboration of over 15 labor and community based organizations serving impoverished people working towards a City budget that prioritizes poor communities in San Francisco. As members of the Budget Justice Coalition, we believe that the City's budget should increase resources to address the unmet needs of the City's most vulnerable populations. The Budget Justice Collaborative is very appreciative of the Mayor's efforts to restore reductions, and enhance services. However, we still need the Board of Supervisors to take the opportunity to enhance the budget in order to meet critical needs.

While the economy is strong in San Francisco, there is nevertheless a deep crisis of housing and affordability that is having a profound impact on the ability of every-day San Franciscans to remain housed and to continue living in the city. The nine-month controller's report shows a \$250 million surplus, and we believe these city resources should be prioritized to offset the suffering so many face. As a first step, the Budget Justice Coalition wants to ensure that no reductions occur within health and human services, such as the proposed second year reduction of \$8,500,000 to behavioral health and \$662,275 to supportive housing. When the proposed cuts take full effect, they will result in a significant reduction to services that are vital to maintaining the well-being of and resources for vulnerable San Franciscans. However, restoring these cuts is not enough to stave off the disasters that San Franciscans will very well face without taking these specific steps:

- Halt all preventable displacements by funding right to counsel for all SF tenants, outreach, back rent and mediation program for city funded and public housing.
- Ensure rapid re-housing for homeless people by funding subsidies in both non-profit and private housing.
- Fund badly needed services for transitional aged youth, including education and employment, emergency housing assistance, residential treatment and intensive case management.
- Ensure funding is available to meet living wage raises for non-profit workers.
- Ensure people with disabilities are able to stay in their homes through the Community Living Fund.

- Ensure San Franciscans have food security.
- Augment the proposed 1.5% non-profit cost of doing business increase with an additional 1.5% in order to meet rising costs, fair raises, and prevent service reductions.

In light of the May 9th Controller's report showing a projected budget surplus, we believe that it is critical to fund these initiatives. These programs save lives, help end homelessness, and help prevent more expensive crisis and emergency services. The City should invest in strengthening its commitment to provide these services to the vulnerable people and other everyday San Franciscans who need them.

We have attached a list of community asks as they stand today. However, there are several outstanding budget issues that may arise based on pending federal funding, legislation and contract negotiations. We will keep you posted, and update this list as needed.

Sincerely,

San Francisco Budget Justice Collaborative members including:

AIDS Housing Alliance  
 AIDS Legal Referral Panel  
 Coalition on Homelessness (COH)  
 Coleman Advocates for Youth  
 Community Housing Partnership (CHP)  
 Community Awareness and Treatment Services (CATS)  
 Compass Family Services  
 Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing (DISH)  
 Episcopal Community Services  
 Eviction Defense Collaborative  
 Hamilton Family Center  
 Human Services Network (HSN)  
 Homeless Prenatal Program  
 Gray Panthers of San Francisco  
 HIV/AIDS Provider Network  
 Hospitality House  
 Larkin Street  
 LYRIC  
 Mission Neighborhood Resource Center  
 Office and Professional Employees Union Local 3

Providence Foundation  
Senior and Disability Action  
Service Employees International Union Local 1021 (SEIU 1021)  
TAY ED Network  
United Council of Human Services

c.c. Mayor Edwin Lee  
c.ci. President David Chiu  
c.cii. Members of the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee  
Supervisor John Avalos  
Supervisor Eric Mar  
Supervisor London Breed  
Supervisor Scott Weiner