



City and County of San Francisco

Department on the Status of Women

Mayor Edwin M. Lee

Executive Director Emily M. Murase, PhD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

San Francisco Dedicates Additional \$250,000 to Fight Domestic Violence

Money to Focus on Human Trafficking, Limited English Proficient, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Individuals, and Girls

San Francisco, CA – On top of the Mayor Edwin Lee's 2-year commitment to protect current levels of funding for victims of domestic violence, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved an additional one-time \$250,000 for underserved groups, bringing the total investment to an historic level of \$3 million.

The new monies, in addition to a cost-of doing-business increase from the Mayor, amount to a 10% increase for all 24 agencies funded by the Violence Against Women Prevention & Intervention Grants Program to provide crisis lines, emergency shelter, transitional housing, intervention services, and prevention education. According to the funding guidelines released today by the Department on the Status of Women, the new funds should be directed to projects and staffing that expand anti-human trafficking efforts, outreach and services to limited English proficient, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender-identified individuals, and girls. The funds can also be used for facilities upgrades, emergency supplies, and staff development.

Dr. Emily Murase, Executive Director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women, stated: "This significant investment allows our Partner Agencies to continue their prevention and intervention work, saving women's lives. We are working closely with these community partners to keep domestic violence homicides at the historically low levels of 1 or 2 per year, down 80% from a decade ago."

Supervisor John Avalos considers the additional investment a big win against domestic violence in San Francisco: "Working with local advocates, my office fought hard for this funding to ensure that there are additional resources to address gaps in services." He stated, "I'm grateful that my colleagues supported the effort and that we now have more resources to end domestic violence in San Francisco."

Last week, the Department released An Update on Girls in San Francisco: A Decade of Success and Challenges, a status report that highlighted the critical need to better serve school-aged lesbians who suffer from depression and attempted suicide at alarming rates. Jodi Schwartz, Executive Director of Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, serves these young women and can do so more effectively with the infusion of new dollars: "This funding will intensify LYRIC's ability to support the learning and leadership development of queer/trans young women, some of the most powerful – yet most marginalized—members of our community. Empowerment is the antidote to violence."

A comprehensive directory of services for women victims of violence and their families as well as the Girls Report are available at www.sfgov.org/dosw.

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