

1 [Policies and Priorities for the Children’s Fund]

2 **Resolution on the Youth Commission’s Recommended Policies and Priorities for the Children’s**
3 **Fund.**

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5 WHEREAS, As stated in Section 4.124 of the San Francisco City Charter, the Youth
6 Commission is charged with identifying the unmet needs and concerns of San Francisco youth and
7 advising the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on youth-related issues to bridge the gap between
8 youth and government; and

9 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission has a history of policy advocacy that reflects the pressing
10 needs of the youth community, and therefore provides a valuable perspective to the city’s
11 reauthorization process of the Children’s Fund; and

12 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission affirms the value of youth voice and youth participation in
13 the crafting of youth related policies including the Children’s Fund to ensure a meaningful decision-
14 making process; and

15 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission has engaged in ongoing community conversations and
16 discussions about the Children’s Fund, and played the critical role of planning a Youth Town Hall led
17 by youth and for youth, on behalf of the Our Children, Our City Stakeholder Process;¹ and

18 WHEREAS, The Children’s Fund, a dedicated stream of funding for youth services in San
19 Francisco, was first approved by San Francisco voters in 1991, reinstated by the electorate in 2001,
20 and is up for reauthorization by 2015; and

21 WHEREAS, The Children’s Fund has been the primary source of funding for programs and
22 direct services for the more than 56,000 youth in San Francisco who are 18 years and younger;² and

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24 ¹ *Our Children, Our City Stakeholder Engagement Wiki*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2014. <<http://ourchildren-ourcity.wikispaces.com/>>.

25 ² San Francisco’s Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families. *Snapshot of DC YF’s Investments, Population Served and Participation Survey Results* San Francisco: n.p., n.d. PDF. <http://www.dcyf.org/modules/show_document.aspx?document_id=710>

1 WHEREAS, Currently the Children’s Fund does not include services that benefit disconnected
2 transitional aged youth that are between the ages of 18 and 24; and

3 WHEREAS, Disconnected Transitional Age Youth (TAY) is defined as youth between the ages
4 of 16 and 24 who need additional support and opportunities to make a successful transition to
5 adulthood³; and

6 WHEREAS, According to TAYSF, a collaborative network of city departments, service
7 providers and youth working to improve outcomes for transitional age youth in SF, there are up to
8 9,000 disconnected TAY in San Francisco who are out of school and out of work and in need of
9 coordinated services;⁴ and

10 WHEREAS, Disconnected TAY may also be experiencing or be at risk of: living in poverty or
11 being low income; being homeless or marginally housed; being unemployed or underemployed without
12 substantial financial support; being academically off-track or dropping out of school; having been in
13 contact with public systems including foster care, the justice system, and/or special education; are
14 disabled or struggling with other health and wellness issues such as substance abuse, trauma, and
15 mental health issues; are victims of violence; are young parents; are undocumented; are recent
16 immigrants and/or English Language Learners; or are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,
17 and Questioning (LGBTQQ) youth who have experienced family rejection; and

18 WHEREAS, In San Francisco there are 1,160 TAY who are on Adult or Juvenile Probation; 800
19 who are current or former foster care youth; 5,700 who are homeless or marginally housed; 5,000 are
20 with disabilities; 7,700 who are 18-24 and have not obtained a High School Diploma or GED; 1,400
21 who receive cash welfare; 4,000 who receive food stamps; 6,000 without health insurance;⁵ and
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23 ³ *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco’s Most Vulnerable Young*
24 *Adults* (2007), Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force, City & County of San Francisco (p 3). Also view ed on web: <
<http://www.taysf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/TYTF-executive-summary.pdf>>.

25 ⁵ Cited from multiple sources and reports on:

1 WHEREAS, Young people in the TAY population have aged out of government programs that
2 serve youth who experience the barriers above, as current City programs receiving money from the
3 Children’s Fund do not serve youth over 18; and

4 WHEREAS, The formal exclusion of TAY from existing youth-serving programs leads to a loss
5 of data integrity and does not allow us to fully assess the demand and efficacy of existing community
6 programs; and

7 WHEREAS, The Department of Children, Youth, and their Families’ (DCYF) 2011 Community
8 Needs Assessment reported that at community meetings across San Francisco, service providers
9 identified disconnected-TAY services as priorities for older youth;⁶ and

10 WHEREAS, Although city departments currently provide and fund services for people 18 and
11 over, the findings from DCYF’s Community Needs Assessment, the Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task
12 Force’s 2007 report “A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco’s Most Vulnerable
13 Young Adults”⁷, and feedback during the Our Children Our City Community Input Sessions⁸ clearly
14 demonstrates that the City’s current investments are not meeting the needs of this population and that
15 there is an urgency to continue investing and prioritizing the TAY population; and

16 WHEREAS, On April 2012, Mayor Ed Lee sent a “Policy Directive: prioritizing disconnected
17 TAY services across the city,” establishing disconnected transitional age youth as a priority population
18 citywide; and

19 WHEREAS, Undocumented youth also face unique barriers in accessing opportunities such as
20 employment, scholarships, state and federal services in addition to the pressure of knowing their lives

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22 ⁶ San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families. *2011 Community Needs Assessment*. Rep. N.p.: n.p.,
n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2014. <http://www.dcyf.org/modules/show_document.aspx?documentid=11>.

23 ⁷ *Disconnected Youth in San Francisco: A Roadmap to Improve the Life Chances of San Francisco’s Most Vulnerable Young
Adults* (2007), Mayor’s Transitional Youth Task Force, City & County of San Francisco (p 3). Also viewed on web: <
24 <http://www.taysf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/TYTF-executive-summary.pdf>>.

25 ⁸ *Our Children, Our City Stakeholder Engagement Wiki*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Mar. 2014. <http://ourchildren-ourcity.wikispaces.com/>, <<http://ourchildren-ourcity.wikispaces.com/file/view/OCOC%20CIS%20Findings%20Report%20Final%20Version.pdf/478445836/OCOC%20CIS%20Findings%20Report%20Final%20Version.pdf>>, and <<http://ourchildren-ourcity.wikispaces.com/Reports+from+the+OCOC+Stakeholder+Engagement>>.

1 could be disrupted at any time, and as a Sanctuary city⁹ we can do more to support this community;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Youth-led, youth-run projects and initiatives funded by youth philanthropy
4 programs have empowered young people by turning their ideas into reality, developing their soft-skills,
5 developing their civic leadership, and educating them about grant writing; and

6 WHEREAS, Investing and placing all youth in the center of our priorities will serve to enrich the
7 landscape of our city; and

8 WHEREAS, The cultivation of youth leadership leads to a prosperous future and should involve
9 empowering youth to partake in public engagement and evaluation of Children’s Fund services; and

10 WHEREAS, Young people directly receive the services of the Children’s Fund and should be at
11 the forefront of any decision-making process regarding the Fund; now, therefore, be it,

12 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission does hereby urge the Board of
13 Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to consider the following policy recommendations
14 for the Children’s Fund:

- 15 • Allowing the use of the fund for transitional age youth to be served by existing youth-
16 serving community programs and for serving the specific needs of disconnected TAY;
- 17 • Reserving 25% of seats on any body that is in charge of Children’s Fund oversight for
18 youth, with half of the total youth seats represented by youth under 18 years old and the
19 other half represented by disconnected transitional aged youth. These seats would be
20 appointed and supported by the San Francisco Youth Commission;
- 21 • Proactively supporting and facilitating better coordination between the City, the San
22 Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), and community based organizations serving
23 youth by increasing the sharing of cultural competency best practices, making available
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1 complementary spaces for youth programs to convene youth town halls and meetings,
2 and considering other potential points of collaboration;

3 • Resourcing youth leadership groups to design and facilitate annual youth town halls to
4 identify their unmet needs, and to evaluate the programs and services they receive as
5 part of the Community Needs Assessment and evaluation plan;

6 • Increasing the fund allowing services to provide for and support the unmet needs of
7 youth, including disconnected transitional age youth population; and be it finally

8 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission has identified the following unmet
9 services that should be prioritized and expanded in the Children’s Fund:

10 • Increase dedicated services, support, and employment opportunities for undocumented
11 youth;

12 • Extend mentoring programs currently provided to juvenile detainees and probationers to
13 transitional aged youth in the adult probation system;

14 • Increase support for 17 and 18 year olds transitioning between juvenile and adult
15 systems, including support interviewing for eligibility for release and entry into diversion
16 programs and community programs used as sentencing alternatives

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21 Nicholas Persky
22 2013-2014 Youth Commission Chair
23 Adopted by Youth Commission April 7th, 2014
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