



***San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women
Resolution Supporting Women in Small Business through Access to Childcare Resources***

BE IT KNOWN That the Commission on the Status of Women of the City & County of San Francisco hereby issues and authorize the execution, by the subscribing Commissioners, of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Commission and Department have a mandate to study, make recommendations to and advocate for the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and departments to implement programs that promote the economic development of women; and,

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has officially recognized that women's rights are human rights by being the first city in the United States to adopt the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women as a local ordinance in 1998; and,

WHEREAS, The global pandemic, ignited by COVID-19, has led to an economic crisis of an unprecedented magnitude; and,

WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco and the State of California are under a State of Emergency requiring a "Stay At Home" Order that has severely impaired small businesses; and,

WHEREAS, Women are more likely to be the primary caregivers for children and thusly depend on affordable childcare options in order to participate in the economy as workers and job creators; and,

WHEREAS, According to a U.S. Chamber Foundation survey, more than 1 in 5 working parents may not fully return to their pre-pandemic work situation because of the challenges of juggling childcare and their careers amid the increase in virtual schooling and decreased availability of childcare providers¹; and,

WHEREAS, The U.S. Chamber Foundation survey further found that 40 percent of employers are not confident their workforce will return to work, citing childcare as almost equivalent to health and safety among the top concerns of their workforce; and,

WHEREAS, The survey also found that half of parents who have not yet returned to work identified childcare as a reason they have not returned; and,

WHEREAS, Moms who are starting and building businesses necessitate childcare - particularly single moms who are predominantly Black and Latinx;² without the ability to reopen, mothers who own businesses cannot pay for childcare, and without childcare, mothers cannot reopen their businesses; and,

¹ <https://www.uschamber.com/series/above-the-fold/the-state-of-working-women-marking-milestone-even-the-pandemic-takes-new-toll>

² <https://www.forbes.com/sites/geristengel/2020/08/26/the-childcare-crisis-limits-women-entrepreneurs-potential/?sh=2f573c47e8ec>

WHEREAS, In 2019, prior to the public health emergency, the net majority of new women-owned businesses in the U.S. were started by Black and Latina women;³ and,

WHEREAS, with reliable childcare available to them, Black and Latinx women, who start the majority of new businesses, can significantly contribute to the City's economic recovery and ensure their families' economic security; and,

WHEREAS, Small business support from the federal government missed many diverse business owners who did not qualify or could not apply in time; and,

WHEREAS, Women often own businesses in industries that are likely to be among the last to reopen (e.g. food service, retail, and personal care) and are less likely to have reserves to rely on; and,

WHEREAS, Supporting women entrepreneurs and business owners, about half of whom are women of color nationally, to survive the health and economic crisis will help to increase Black and brown women's economic security; and,

WHEREAS, The Economic Recovery Task Force identified that a robust childcare system will be essential for recovery; and,

WHEREAS, The Economic Recovery Task Force recommended increased investment in Black, Indigenous, People of Color and Immigrant communities through expanded access to childcare and small business, commercial corridor, co-op, and entrepreneurial support;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Commission on the Status of Women urges the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors to subsidize access to childcare, including short-term and part-time options; and be it,

RESOLVED, That access to Community Learning Hubs should be expanded to small business owners; and be it,

RESOLVED, That funds for childcare should be set aside to supplement slots for children of small business owners, especially single parents.

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**San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women
February 24, 2021**

³ Ibid.