

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

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

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5 WHEREAS, As stated in Charter 4.124 the Youth Commission is charged with
6 identifying the unmet needs and concerns of San Francisco youth and advising the Board of
7 Supervisors and the Mayor on youth-related issues to bridge the gap between youth and
8 government¹, and therefore provides a valuable perspective to the city’s re-authorization
9 process of the Children’s Fund; and

10 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission has engaged in the Stakeholder’s Coalition’s
11 community meetings, and played the critical role of planning the Youth Town Hall on behalf of
12 the Our Children, Our City Stakeholder Process;² and

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

16 WHEREAS, The Children’s Fund has been the primary source of funding for programs
17 and direct services for the more than 56,000 youth in San Francisco who are 18 years and
18 younger;³ and

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

21 WHEREAS, Disconnected Transitional Age Youth (TAY) is defined as youth between
22 the ages of 16 and 24 who need additional support and opportunities to make a successful
23 transition to adulthood; and

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1 WHEREAS, There are up to 9,000⁴ disconnected transitional age youth in San
2 Francisco who are out of school and out of work and in need of coordinated services; and

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

12 WHEREAS, In San Francisco, there are 1,160 TAY who are on Adult or Juvenile
13 Probation; 800 who are current or former foster care youth; 5,700 who are homeless or
14 marginally housed; 5,000 are with disabilities; 7,700 who are 18-24 and have not obtained a
15 High School Diploma or GED; 1,400 who receive cash welfare; 4,000 who receive food
16 stamp; 6,000 without health insurance;⁵ and

17 WHEREAS, Young people in the TAY population have aged out of government
18 programs that serve youth who experience the barriers above, as current Children’s Fund-
19 funded City programs do not serve youth over 18, and federal programs do not serve youth
20 over 21; and

21 WHEREAS, DCYF’s 2011 Community Needs Assessment reported that at community
22 meetings across San Francisco, youth, parents, community members, and service providers
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1 identified out-of-school time programs, youth employment programs, mental health programs,
2 violence prevention, and disconnected TAY services as priorities for older youth;⁶ and

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

6 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a sanctuary city which values offering protection and
7 support to undocumented youth; and

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

11 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission does hereby urge the Board
12 of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco to consider the following policies for
13 the Children's Fund:

- 14 • Allowing the use of funding for transitional age youth to be served by existing
15 youth-serving community programs
- 16 • Allowing the use of funds for serving the specific needs of disconnected
17 transitional age youth
- 18 • Prioritizing the needs of undocumented youth
- 19 • Including youth seats in any body that is in charge of oversight of the
20 Children's Fund, including the DCYF Citizens Advisory Committee
- 21 • Allowing the Youth Commission to appoint youth to oversight body youth
22 seats
- 23 • Increasing the fund to allow for services to be provided to support the unmet
24 needs of all youth, including disconnected transitional age youth population

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