



1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place, Rm. 345
San Francisco, CA 94102
415/554-6446 (phone)
415/554-6140 (fax)
www.sfgov.org/youth_commission

The San Francisco Youth Commission has historically served a key role in advising on the city's budget on behalf of young people across the city. In strong budget years, the Commission has successfully advocated for specific projects and programs that have resulted in direct services and benefits to young people. Alternatively however, in budget years with a more negative outlook, the Commission has been steadfast in urging the city to preserve its most essential services and operations while being prudent to consider the most pressing needs toward promoting San Francisco's long-term stability and financial health. In understanding the enormity of the city and state of California's current budget crisis, the San Francisco Youth Commission has outlined its major budget guidelines as well as some modest budget proposals for fiscal year 2008-2009:

1) Education

Rainy Day Reserve

Since Education is imperative to the development of any youth, the San Francisco Youth Commission would like to assert its position that all available funds from the city's Rainy Day Reserve be allocated toward addressing the growing budget gap faced by the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). We understand the possibility that the state's budget deficit will only increase the financial burden already faced by our students, teachers, and school sites and thus feel that it's the San Francisco's responsibility to do what's in its power to address this major issue. We are grateful of Mayor Newsom's pledge to use the Rainy Day Reserve and urge him to continue prioritizing San Francisco's public education system so that it is on par with the city's reputation as an intellectual center.

Public Education Enrichment Funds (Prop H)

In addition, we want to express our disappointment that Public Education Enrichment Funds (also known as Prop H) have been frozen due to the current crisis. Although we understand the precautionary nature of this decision, we also understand that these city funds as authorized by the voters were intended to be allocated toward direct educational services for students. Just this past fall, the Youth Commission had successfully advocated for budgets toward free MUNI for all middle and high school students as well as restorative justice peer court programs at each of the middle schools sites. These programs would have eased the financial burden on families while promoting public transportation. Additionally, restorative justice in schools can play key role in reducing the alarmingly high suspension rates occurring at middle schools. We intend to continue advocating for these services and hope that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors will support our efforts.

2) Sharing the Budget Burden across all City departments and agencies

The Youth Commission recognizes the enormity of the City's financial deficit and feels that the Mayor's office, Board of Supervisors, and all city departments should all play their part in reducing their budgets in order to share the financial burden.

COMMISSIONER IQRA ANJUM
Appointed by Mayor Newsom

COMMISSIONER LILIANA CABRERA
Appointed by Mayor Newsom
District 11

COMMISSIONER MARTHA CARVAJAL
Appointed by Supervisor Sandoval
District 11

COMMISSIONER LUCIANA CARVALHO
Appointed by Supervisor Ammiano
District 9

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM DO
Appointed by Supervisor Jew
District 4

COMMISSIONER BRANDON FRANKLIN
Appointed by Supervisor Mirkarimi
District 5

COMMISSIONER DEONNA FRIERSON
Appointed by Mayor Newsom

COMMISSIONER NATALIE GEE
Appointed by Supervisor Peskin
District 3

COMMISSIONER KENNY GONG
Appointed by Supervisor Dufty
District 8

COMMISSIONER MARQUEZ GRAY
Appointed by Mayor Newsom

COMMISSIONER CASSANDRA JAMES
Appointed by Supervisor Maxwell
District 10

COMMISSIONER TANAYA MACHEEL
Appointed by Supervisor Alioto-Pier
District 2

COMMISSIONER NICHOLAS QUESADA
Appointed by Mayor Newsom

COMMISSIONER KEMI SHAMONDA
Appointed by Supervisor Chris Daly
DISTRICT 6

COMMISSIONER DASHA TSIBULSKAYA
Appointed by Supervisor McGoldrick
District 1

COMMISSIONER BELLE YAN
Appointed by Mayor Newsom

STAFF:

PETER LAUTERBORN, Education Policy
Coordinator
KEVIN LIAO, Policy Coordinator
DIANA PANG, Program Coordinator

2) Sharing the Budget Burden across all City departments and agencies (cont.)

The Youth Commission understands that every staff position in the City and County of San Francisco has major responsibilities and duties for the city's operations. We also are strong advocates for accessible public spaces. However, it is our position that in a year of fiscal deficits that The City's financial priorities are reflective of the needs of the youth population in San Francisco.

Youth programs benefit thousands of youth and their communities, building resiliency, keeping them off the streets, and giving them opportunities for a better future.

This commission strongly believes that departments who serve young people and are being negatively affected by the budget shortfall should have their resources allocated to preserving existing services.

We feel that in a year of limited resources The City should strive to save programs, spend its funds responsibly, and be accountable for providing alternative and positive opportunities to the youth.

Police Department

While other city departments are facing a 13% cut in their budgets, it seems illogical that the SFPD be allowed a 15% increase in their budget. This Commission acknowledges that the SFPD plays an important role in the safety and well being of our city's residents, however, services provided by other departments, such as HSA, are also a crucial component in the [safety and well being] of our communities.

Recreation and Parks Department

We hope that the Mayor can support the Board of Supervisors resolution urging the Mayor to reinstate hiring of all vacant recreation director positions. In order for recreation centers to effectively serve the community and the young people, essential lead staffing must be employed at the sites. We understand that there already are some reductions occurring with the Recreation and Park department and that the Mayor has consistently prioritized these positions however, in this time of difficulty, we hope there is still some way to have these essential positions filled for each Recreation site in the city.

Youth Employment

The San Francisco Youth Commission will not make any specific budget recommendations regarding youth employment service providers for the 2008-2009 budget cycle. Rather, the Youth Commission seeks a paradigm shift in how San Francisco approaches youth employment to cover service gaps and eliminate inefficiencies.

Currently, youth employment efforts in San Francisco are weak. Services are uncoordinated and haphazard, leaving young people without systematic access to job training that could lead to long-term employment. Additionally, city-subsidized employment services must also be aligned with efforts from the San Francisco Unified School District.

Additionally, the San Francisco Youth Commission urges that the City's youth employment services be made available and accessible to all youth. While maintaining a strong commitment to serving our most at-risk youth, the City must establish that employment is a right of all youth as they grow into adulthood.

The San Francisco Youth Commission supports funds for the site development of a youth and young adult multi-service center in SOMA, detailed in another budget proposal. This center would be ideally suited to act as the incarnation of a realignment of youth employment services.

3) Major Budget Guidelines

Midyear cuts

We would like to gain more clarity about the logic and reasoning behind this year's mid-year freezes – some of which were addbacks -- and hope we will be able to address groups that count on those funds. Some of these budget freezes are in major areas that may effect young people such as the Human Services Agency, Dolores Park playground upgrades, as well as funding related to the Bernal Childcare Facility. We feel that there can be better communication between city branches to better prepare those communities that will be effected.

Preserving last year's addbacks

Since making cuts to the most recently funded programs may be a budget saving strategy as indicated from the midyear freezes, we want to make sure that the initiatives from last year addback process are preserved. Many community advocates for youth and families including this commission would like to see the programs they fought for last year actually be realized and continued.

Preserving the Children's Baseline

We applaud the Mayor for sustaining such a high level of funding for the Children's Baseline as it is well above the voter-mandated level. In a city that is increasingly unaffordable and challenging for working families to remain, young people depend on these services and support in order to keep San Francisco, a relatively attractive city to reside in.

CONTINUED STAFFING – SCHOOL-BASED WELLNESS CENTERS

Community Problem or Need

Four new SFUSD high school Wellness Centers opened in the last the 2007-2008 school year, thanks to the efforts of Proposition H Public Education Enrichment Fund, a City and School District partnership. While rental space, Wellness Center programming, and materials have been addressed, appropriate staffing of behavioral health professionals are again in jeopardy this year. We request that the commitment to fund staff be continued.

Local solution

Preserving last year's addbacks to maintain the hiring costs of four behavioral staff. Behavioral health providers are licensed or license-eligible social workers and/or marriage family therapists with experience working with adolescents in school settings.* They must have the skills and counseling training to address mental health, reproductive health, substance abuse from developmentally appropriate perspectives. Individual and group counseling, empowerment groups, case management, stress reduction, conflict mediation and reproductive health referrals will be services provided by such professionals.

*The FTE of the providers will vary based on student enrollment. Some schools will get 1.0 FTE, while other sites may get more than 1.0 FTE and some may get part-time providers, due to the diversity in school size (e.g. 300 students versus 2300 students)

How much will it cost each year?

\$320,000 from the Department of Public Health (DPH) is requested to provide the proper staffing of these four new Wellness Centers for the 2008-2009 school year. At \$80K per FTE, this includes salary and benefits of counselors, clinical supervision costs, etc.

Behavioral health professionals (4.0 FTE) <i>Infrastructure, supervision, training students, and professional development and program supplies included with 4.0 FTE allocation (as well as Prop H)</i>	\$320,000
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How many children, youth and/or families will be served?

Approximately 3,500-4,000 students will stop receiving behavioral health services should this be cut. Students from Newcomer High, June Jordan School for Equity, George Washington High School, and Wallenberg High received funds to build Wellness Centers in FY 07-08 and for staffing. If this is not allocated, they will lose valuable and critical services to address student welfare that was just won a year before.

What Department will the money come from? Will the money be RFP'd to community groups, will it be run by the city, or?

Department of Public Health shall continue to subcontract a community-based organization specializing in mental health and youth cultural competency in the hiring of four full time behavioral (4.0 FTE) health professionals.

WELLNESS CENTER STAFF FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM (ISLP)

Community Problem or Need

Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) is a federally mandated program, and one of a few federal and state programs which are intended to provide support services for youth in, or exiting, the foster care system. Foster care services are funded through various federal, state, local funding streams with the county contributing the smallest percentage, however, as federal and state funds diminish, counties will need the proportion of counties will need to increase in order to best serve these youth.

Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) services are available in all counties to assist foster care or out-of-home probation youth with preparation for independent living. Most counties only assist emancipating youth ages 16-21, however, in San Francisco services are available to 14-21 in an attempt to engage youth at a younger age and providing them with more time for emancipation preparation and permanence.

From October 2006 - September 2007, SF ILSP offered services to over 1400 (1418) youth. Over half of the eligible population (883) received services and of these nearly 300 (283) had special needs (including education, mental, and/or physical). Additionally 150 of the youth served were 18-20, who had emancipated or "aged out" of the foster care system and were no longer receiving as comprehensive services.*

Though youth in foster care receive Medi-Cal benefits while in care, their Medi-Cal benefits are discontinued after emancipation. Emancipated youth are eligible for Medi-Cal services through 21, and are instructed on how to reactive their Medi-Cal services, but there is a huge disconnect with youth accessing the service especially because frustrating experiences with Medi-Cal providers while in care. The San Francisco California Youth Connection (CYC) chapter successfully advocated for a caseworker at the Medi-Cal Health Connections Office for emancipated foster youth to allow for faster reactivation processes. However, there is no real system in place to make sure the youth do that - outside of the expectations of the emancipation process which are unclear to them.

** all SF ILSP data is from the most recent annual SF Annual Statistical Report Oct 2006-Sept 2007*

Local Solution

On-site health focused staff at SF ILSP will support both ILSP staff and the youth who access it, in navigating through the youths' health care needs. With each additional health focused staff, the level of care will increase for the vulnerable youth that access SF ILSP. Each health focused staff person will complement the existing work and relationships of SF ILSP staff and HAS social workers that are already on-site at ILSP providing specific expertise around housing, education, and employment.

How much will it cost each year?

Mental Health Coordinator/Substance Abuse Counselor	\$85,000
Health Educator	\$60,000
Health and Education Passports (HEP) Coordinator with drug abuse knowledge dedicated for review and management of HEP information for each year.	\$85,000
TOTAL	\$230,000

How many children, youth, and/or families will be served? What neighborhoods/districts will benefit?

The majority of foster youth placements are in 94124, 94134, 94112, 94115, 94102, 94110. Excelsior/Bayview/Hunters Point; Civic Center/Tenderloin; Mission.

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** all SF ILSP data is from the most recent annual SF Annual Statistical Report Oct 2006-Sept 2007*

What Department will the money come from?

Human Services Agency (H S A) It will most likely be RFP'd to community groups as ILSP services are currently contracted to JCYC.

RAINY DAY FUND – MONEY TO ALLEVIATE SFUSD DEFICIT

Community Problem or Need:

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed 10% cuts to budgets of school districts across the State. San Francisco is hit very hard by this proposal; over \$40 million will be cut from San Francisco Unified School District's (SFUSD) budget. Losing \$40 million dollars equates to raising class sizes in grades 4-12 to 61 students, or 500 personnel layoffs. There is evidence that there will be significant drops in per-pupil spending as well as teacher layoffs.

Local solution:

In 2003, the City and County of San Francisco voted to adopt Proposition G, "Rainy Day Fund." The Rainy Day Fund asks the city and county to put aside a proportion of its excess budget (if any) of every fiscal year to be used when the City and County has a budget deficit. The Rainy Day Fund also appropriates 25% of that fund to be used for SFUSD if two criteria are met: 1) significant drops in per-pupil spending and 2) teacher layoffs. Both criterions will be met in the 2008-2009. As such, SFUSD can ask for 25% of the current Fund, or \$30.6 million dollars to help lessen the blow of the \$40 million deficit SFUSD will face.

How much will it cost each year?

This will be a one-year ask of \$30.6 million dollar from the City and County of San Francisco's Rainy Day Fund.

Budget Alleviation	\$30,600,000
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How many children, youth and/or families will be served?

The 55,000 students of SFUSD will be served by saving them from severe cuts in their education.

What Department will the money come from? Will the money be RFP'd to community groups, will it be run by the city, or?

The money will come from the City and County's Rainy Day Fund / General Funds. SFUSD will utilize this money.

POINT OF SALES - MUNI Fast Passes (MS & HS Students)

Community Problem or Need:

In the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), students are not turning in meal applications, causing the district to miss out on thousands of dollars. These students and their families, especially those who are very aware that they do not qualify for free/reduced lunch, have no incentive to fill out these forms. For those who do turn in their applications and receive free/reduced lunch, many students feel ashamed of their socioeconomic status and do not get the free lunch that is provided for them. This is a significant problem in the middle and high schools: approximately 1,700 middle school and 6,300 high school students do not have a lunch application on file. Only 43% of middle school and 32% of high school students who qualify for free/reduced lunch eat school meals.

Local solution:

Applications are available in the individual school's office. To encourage people to apply, we hope to provide MUNI monthly Fast Passes for those who receive free/reduced lunch and ride MUNI as their main form of transportation to/from school. To pay for these passes, SNS would implement the Point of Sales (POS). Point of Sales is a computerized system of cards given to every student. Students would swipe them at the end of the cafeteria line; if they qualify for free/reduced lunch, they would be allowed to pass, if they do not, money would automatically be taken off of the card. This card will reduce the embarrassment associated with showing the lunch card as well as provide the Student Nutrition Services (SNS) data to minimize unnecessary costs.

When POS is implemented:

- 1) Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch, do not fill out the forms, but still receive the lunches will have a lesser impact on the SNS budget,
- 2) SNS will know how much food to order (because POS can track the "sale" of specific meals),
- 3) More qualifying students will receive the free/reduced lunch they qualify for,
- 4) SNS will reduce administrative fees of handling cash,
- 5) SFUSD will finally move up in technology, something it seriously lacks, and
- 6) SNS will most likely save up to one million dollars a year.
- 7) This saved money can be partially spent on providing MUNI fast passes to those who qualify for one.

How much will it cost each year?

The Nutritional Committee of the San Francisco Unified School District School Board requests that Student Nutrition Services be provided \$999,411, paid over four years (to 2011-2012), for a full implementation of Point of Sales. The breakdown of the costs is the following

Software	\$166,400
Hardware	\$466,131
Training/Contractor Support	\$240,280
Web Application	\$12,000
Wireless Access	\$46,400
Conduit	\$18,200
AT&T Consultant	\$50,000
TOTAL: Point of Sales Implementation Software, hardware, training, contractor support, web application, wireless access, conduit, consultant	\$999,411 over 4 years

How many youth will be served?

If every student who qualifies for free/reduced lunch applies for it, 15,722 middle and high school students would be served. These students will get monthly MUNI fast passes only if they ride MUNI to and from school on a regular basis. Low-income youth and families all over the City who attend public schools will benefit from this.

What Department will the money come from?

The money should come out of the Proposition H "Third Third" or SFUSD General Funds. The money allocated would be utilized by Student Nutrition Service

SKATEBOARD PARK PROPOSAL

Community Problem or Need:

Skateboarding continues to grow as a recreational activity for San Francisco's young people. The creation of an inviting and challenging skate park will offer an alternative venue, and work to balance the prohibitions against skateboarding in other areas. A skate park is needed for Golden Gate Park where the Music Concourse has become a popular skateboarding venue resulting in significant damage to the recently restored historic park fixtures. The old horseshoe pits, which have been unused and fallen into disrepair, are a suitable alternative skateboarding location.

Local solution.

We recommend \$ 100,000 of funding through the Recreation and Park Department to create a skate park along with a possible programming/instruction at Golden Gate Park in the area of Kezar Stadium, Waller St, and/or the area known as the Horseshoe Pits. Funding would be used for resurfacing and minimal construction of equipment used by skateboarders. Additional funding may be used for a programming/part time instructor to draw young people to the park and offer mini-lessons to youth.

How much will it cost each year?

Resurfacing of site	\$60,000
Installation of skateboard related materials	20,000
Skateboard instruction classes (Two instructors for 32 weeks every Saturday and Sunday 6 hours per day)	20,000
TOTAL	\$100,000

How many children, youth and/or families will be served? What neighborhoods/districts will benefit?

For all youth and families who enjoy the sport of skating and for those who wish to learn how to skate in a safe and fun environment.

What Department will the money come from? Will the money be RFP'd to community groups, will it be run by the city, or?

It will be run and maintained by the Recreation and Parks Department, with voluntary help of the skateboarding community.

GOLF TASK FORCE PROPOSAL

Community Problem or Need:

San Francisco's public golf course located at Lake Merced's Harding Park is unaffordable for the city's residents. According to the Recreation and Park Department, the number of rounds played in the golf course decreased by about 26,000, between 2000 and 2006. Because of the decreasing number of golfers/visitors, Harding Park forces an annual 1.5 million-dollar deficit onto the city budget.

Along with mounting financial loss, San Francisco also suffers from a shortage of land designated for recreational sports such as baseball and soccer and football.

Local solution:

San Francisco must continue the Community Golf Task Force to discuss possible alternative uses of the golf course and address the annual 1.5 million-dollar deficit, especially in the next fiscal year. For this task force to be effective, the city must provide the necessary funds needed to hire expert consultants and advisors to (1) analyze the deficit and to (2) propose changes that will help the golf course operate most efficiently.

How much will it cost each year?

\$35,000 - this budget amount is based on the General Fund allocation for the Golf and Recreation Study from last years Board of Supervisors' add backs. Though we are aware that the golf taskforce is convening soon, we want to insure that the funding and any additional need for the study will be sustained in order to address this major budget deficit and community issue.

What changes to the golf course of Harding Park have been suggested?

There is support in favor of preserving the park and maintaining its public availability to city residents as well as turning a portion of the golf land-plots into community sports fields.

Other interest groups advocate for privatization of the golf course in order to maintain higher and better quality facilities. This option would, however, limit the public's access to the park and increase the already-high entrance fees.

What Department will the money come from?

The Recreation and Parks Department

In what ways will the Golf Task Force impact youth?

The Gold Task Force will include position(s) for youth, enabling the task force to gain valuable perspective from youth on how the golf courses should be run. Also, should the task force advocate on behalf of the proposal which supports setting aside selected land plots in Harding Park for recreational sports such as baseball, soccer and football, families and their children will have greater access to the currently-limited number of outdoor public sports facilities in San Francisco.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING - SFPD

Community Problem or Need:

The divide between police and youth, especially in low-income neighborhoods, has grown wider. Youth often feel stereotyped and targeted by police and we feel this issue could be alleviated by police being trained in how to work more effectively with youth.

Local solution

An RFP process should be administered by the MOCJ and the Youth Commission to attract four community based organizations, which are highly knowledgeable about community specific youth and police issues. Furthermore, such CBOs should be highly competent in youth development and training. Ideally, these CBOs would receive funding to train and stipend teams of youth from the four most at-risk neighborhoods of San Francisco to address neighborhood concerns and train police district stations in developing effective, respectful, and community based relationships. Such a program would empower youth and create consistent dialogue and understanding between young people most impacted by crime and violence, police who most often have to respond to such circumstances, as well as MOCJ, the city agency responsible for addressing these issues.

How much will it cost each year?

We recommend a minimal funding ask of \$70,000 be allocated to Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) for neighborhood-specific youth cultural competency training and relationship building with the police. This is a new program that would need to be funded from General fund dollars.

Staff support from four CBOs (RFP process)	\$25,000
Staff support from four police district stations	20,000
Youth Stipends (4 groups of 10, 15 meetings at \$25/per)	15,000
Food and supplies	10,000
TOTAL	\$70,000

How many children, youth and/or families will be served? What neighborhoods/districts will benefit?

Around 30,000 at risk youth, who are from neighborhoods most effected by violence and most saturated with police presence – Districts 5, 6, 9, and 10.

What Department will the money come from? Will the money be RFP'd to community groups, will it be run by the city, or?

Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) would collaborate with the San Francisco Youth Commission to develop an RFP that would target community competent youth organizations or organized youth collaborative to work with district police departments.

GANG INJUNCTIONS COUNCIL

Community Problem or Need

The community has no input on the current implementation of San Francisco gang injunctions. There is no current services aiding people on the gang injunction list. Furthermore, the majority of people on the gang injunction list are former gang members who are from disenfranchised communities and disconnected from their families.

Local Solution

There are two possible solutions regarding the current San Francisco gang injunctions. The Youth Commission (YC) and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice will develop a partnership between government officials and community members by creating a neutral gang injunctions committee (name may change). The city attorney will be accountable to this committee by holding a public hearing before this committee before implementing gang injunctions. As for the current situation of gang injunctions this committee will oversee the names on the list and possible opt out options/ opportunities for individuals.

How much will it cost each year?

We recommend a minimal funding ask of \$10,000 be allocated to MOCJ for a gang injunction council that will oversee the process and be accountable to the communities rather than mere criminalization from the city attorney's end. This is a new program that would need to be funded from general fund dollars.

Community (council) Stipends	\$6,000
Food and supplies	\$4000
TOTAL	\$10,000

How many children, youth and/or families will be served? What neighborhoods/districts will benefit?

Around 150 high-risk youth that are from neighborhoods most affected by violence - Districts 5, 6, 9, and 10.

What department will the money come from?

Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

Community Problem or Need

Youth employment services remain difficult to navigate. In addition, there is great need to revamp the entire youth employment system to cover service gaps and eliminate inefficiencies. There is no single center for youth to learn about opportunities, or is there a city-wide coordinated effort to support all of our youth's employment needs.

Local solution

A one-stop youth service center located in the SOMA for safety considerations.

How much will it cost each year? Is it an expansion of current services or a new service?

\$500,000. It will serve as an one-time investment for youth-led planning and site selection and renovation. This proposal represents a new service, though later this would lead to a realignment of current services.

How many children, youth, and/or families will be served? What neighborhoods/districts will benefit?

A one-stop youth center would serve all youth in San Francisco between the ages of 14 to 24.

What Department will the money come from? Will the money be RFP'd to community groups, will it be run by the city, etc?

The funds should come from the General Fund and should be allocated to the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ), along with the Transitional Aged Youth Initiative.