SAN FRANCISCO
CITY BUDGET BONANZA:

San Francisco Youth Commission Student Advisory Council
Mid Year Retreat: January 11, 2014
PART 1: THE BIG PICTURE
The Constitution of the State of California requires all cities to adopt a balanced budget...

City Sources/Revenues

= Uses/Costs
The budget reflects the City’s Values.
San Francisco’s Budget

The City’s budget in the current 2013-2014 fiscal year is $7,908,801,656 or $7.9 billion!
The City’s Fund Structure

1. Governmental Funds – account for most of the City’s basic services

2. Proprietary Funds – account for services which the City charges customers and other departments

3. Fiduciary Funds – account for resources outside the City such as retirement and health benefits, investment funds, etc...

**The City is also forced to both budget and set aside money for youth services. More on this later!**
What goes in the budget?

**General Fund:**
The City’s main source of discretionary spending. The General Fund comprises 49.8% or $3.9 billion of the total budget.

**Non-General Fund – City’s Enterprise departments**
What people are paying! Muni! Water! Power! This fund makes up 50.2% of the budget or $4 billion of the total budget.
How does San Francisco spend its $7.9 billion budget?

San Francisco's Budget

- **Public Protection**: $838,400
- **Public Works, Transportation, and Commerce**: $318,800
- **Human Welfare & Neighborhood Development**: $776,900
- **Community Health**: $1,289,800
- **Culture & Recreation**: $1,906,800
- **General Administration**: $977,800
- **General City Responsibility**: $2,968,700
The General Fund is important because, along with the Children’s Fund, its what also funds the City’s youth services....
What is a deficit?

These are due to growth in City costs – wage, benefits; new capital projects (the new SF General Hospital), and implementation of Housing Trust Fund set aside.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Instructions General Fund Deficit</th>
<th>FY 2013-14 ($ millions)</th>
<th>FY 2014-15 ($ millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sources</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>80.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses</td>
<td>(144.4)</td>
<td>(344.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected General Fund Deficit</td>
<td>(129.1)</td>
<td>(263.2)</td>
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</tbody>
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The Children’s Fund

- a dedicated revenue source for funding services for children and youth. The money for the Children’s Fund comes from a portion of the City property tax ($0.03 of every $100 of assessed property taxes)

Ex:

If I owe $100,000 in property taxes

$100,000 / $100 = 1,000

1,000 X 0.03 = $30

I am contributing $30 to the Children’s Fund!
PART II: THE PLAYERS & THE TIMELINE
Who Decides the Budget?

- ...our old friends from *Hard City Knowledge*, that’s who!

CITY DEPARTMENTS

THE MAYOR

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Budget Process

Each budget begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th of the next year – this is called the “Fiscal Year”. Each year, the “budget season” begins in about January and lasts until the final budget is approved in July.
Budget Process

1. Budget preparation

2. Approval

3. Implementation
Before the “Budget Season”

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- Preliminary revenue projections for the upcoming budget years
- Budget prep and planning can begin
- In December, the Mayor’s Office and the Controller’s Office issue policy and technical budget instructions to all departments
The Budget Season Timeline

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

- Depts prepare their budgets, hold hearings, and get approval from their commissions.
- Community forums are held for the public to determine and express budget needs and priorities.
- Advocates meet with department staff to talk priorities.
- By February 21st, departments submit proposed budgets to the Controller’s office.
MARCH & APRIL

• Advocates meet with BOS (the Supervisors don’t have the Mayor’s budget yet, but they are preparing their own list of projects to fund.)
• The Controller (the Chief Accounting officer) submits departmental proposed budgets to the MO (Mayor’s office)
• The MO analyzes each budget proposal and hold a series of town hall meetings citywide to hear from the public
The Budget Season Timeline

May & June

- Citywide and neighborhood advocates and interest groups work to meet with the key players to urge support of their budget priorities
- The Mayor presents his balanced 2 year budget proposal for departments by June 1st of each year
- The BOS Budget and Finance committee conducts public hearings on the budget in June and makes changes to the budget before it goes to the full BOS.
- Members of the public, city and neighborhood advocates speak during public comment at these hearings urging support on specific budget priorities
The Board of Supervisors makes its changes to the Mayor’s proposed Budget and adopts the final Budget.

- The budget is then returned to the Mayor for his approval.
- When approved, the Mayor signs the budget!
PART III: HOW YOU(TH) CAN IMPACT THE BUDGET PROCESS
Allow Youth to Be Heard!

- Hold meetings, forums, hearings;
- Speak up and make recommendations;
- Use your access to influence decision makers and set up meetings (bring YOUTH with you!);
- Stay engaged and participate in citywide advocacy efforts;
Thank You! & Sources

- City & County of San Francisco, Office of the Mayor
- Mayor’s 13-14 & 14-15 Proposed Budget Book:
- Office of the Controller: [www.sfcontroller.org](http://www.sfcontroller.org)
- A Guide to San Francisco’s Budget Process:
- SF OpenBook, an interactive online look at SF’s budget: