

TACKLING FAMILY FLIGHT

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE
MAYOR'S POLICY COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
2005 - 2008



“If we make San Francisco accessible to all families, then they will want to stay and raise children here. San Francisco is, after all, more than a beautiful city with world-class institutions—it is a civic family that teaches by example: tolerance, generosity and exuberance for life. That is why I am so committed to meeting the challenge of making San Francisco a great place to raise children.”

-Mayor Gavin Newsom

POLICY COUNCIL STRUCTURE

MISSION

Formed in 2005, the mandate of the Policy Council is to strengthen the foundation of supports for San Francisco's children, youth and families by establishing a core set of citywide policy priorities and monitoring their use. Cross-sector collaboration and a clearly articulated agenda are crucial to sustain San Francisco's diverse communities of children and families, and tackle family flight.

MEMBERS

The Council is a public/private partnership convened by the Mayor and is co-chaired by Margaret Brodtkin, Director of the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, and Catherine Dodd, Deputy Chief of Staff for Mayor Gavin Newsom. Members represent a cross section of leaders from the city's families, businesses, community organizations, educational institutions, and the public sector. Local foundations participate in and generously support the effort.

PROCESS

Council commissioned research identified three primary drivers of family flight: **housing, cost of living and schools**. During its first 18 months, the Council worked to develop policy recommendations in each of these areas. Now, the status of these recommendations is visited in quarterly meetings. The Council has evolved to serve as a forum for lending a family perspective to citywide planning efforts thus far addressing transportation and safety/violence prevention. In addition the Council recently adopted a new set of recommendations for early childhood, a developmental stage when many families leave the City.

WHY ADDRESS FAMILY FLIGHT?

Only 14.5% of San Francisco's population is under 18, down from 24.5% in 1960. This declining number of families with children threatens values San Franciscans hold dear: our diversity, our history, our economic vitality, and the unique character of our neighborhoods.

ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE POLICY COUNCIL

	Housing	Cost of Living	Schools
Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29.8% of San Francisco households pay more than 50% of their income on housing. • An hourly wage of \$29.60 is needed to afford a two bedroom apartment. • Less than 20% of families can afford a median priced home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An estimated 6,600 (11%) of San Francisco families with children earned incomes below poverty in 2006. • One in four families with a full time wage earner cannot make ends meet. • Working families fall through the huge gap between benefits eligibility and self-sufficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFUSD has lost approximately 1,000 students per year since 2000. • 20% of respondents identified schools as the primary strategy for making San Francisco a better place for families. (City Survey, 2005)
Council Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a plan for closing the family housing gap with specific measurable targets. • Develop a definition of family friendly housing for use by the public and private sector. • Protect and preserve housing for vulnerable families. • Ensure neighborhood plans provide a minimum of 20% of housing for families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively utilize technology to increase the number of families accessing public benefits. • Formalize partnerships between the public and nonprofit sector to support family economic success innovations. • Explore creation of a baby bond or savings account program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craft a strategic partnership formalizing collaboration between the City and SFUSD. • Launch a public information campaign to build understanding of and support for San Francisco's public schools. • Explore creation of a teacher benefits program. • Promote schools and neighborhood hubs and institutions.
Promising Progress & Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ San Francisco adopted a goal doubling its family housing production- <u>3,100 units of new affordable family housing in the pipeline by 2011.</u> ✓ The City launched HOPE SF, an ambitious public housing preservation and renovation effort. ✓ Neighborhood plans in progress have between 25% and 40% two-bedroom or larger units (excluding senior and supportive housing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A multi-lingual, public benefits website is scheduled to launch January 2009. ✓ A Family Economic Success Workgroup of the public and private organizations has launched a learning circle for community organizations. ✓ A financial literacy pilot for family resource centers is in development. ✓ A baby savings account program is in incubation. ✓ Aggressive outreach for Food Stamps is underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Partnership for Achievement was signed by the Mayor and Superintendent in April 2007. ✓ DCYF and SFUSD co-chair a partnership committee comprised of city departments, CBOs, and school personnel to develop "community schools" and facilitate stronger community/school partnerships. ✓ Designed by a coalition of 13 organizations, a campaign promoting public schools will launch in Fall 2008. ✓ The City funded a feasibility study for housing benefits for teachers. ✓ SFUSD and the City launched a pilot, opening 10 school yards to neighborhoods during weekend hours.

ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE POLICY COUNCIL

	Early Care & Education	Transportation
Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An infant’s brain grows at an impressive and significant rate from birth to age three. • Investments in early childhood programs yield high social and economic returns. • Full-time child care expenses are more than undergraduate tuition for SFSU. 	<p>March 2007 youth and family transit forums identified the following areas for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost – for individual and families • Safety and Security – especially for parents with children and unaccompanied youth • Service – reliability and overcrowding
Council Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve local investment in child care subsidies (\$10 million). • Have local government lead by example - institutionalize cost-effective, family-friendly personnel policies and practices. • Launch a public-private PreK – 3 pilot program under SFUSD’s leadership. • Promote First 5 San Francisco’s policy to implement city-wide universal screening. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore increased buses on routes most traveled by youth going from home to school and back. • Explore fares based on income of families / family pass / expanded age youth pass options. • Investigate priority seating for strollers – access – board with strollers unfolded. • Better / more operator training to better serve children and youth. • Improve security on Muni and around Muni stops
Promising Progress & Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ San Francisco preserved its investment in child care for 2008-09 while the State of California is anticipated to cut funding by 10% despite long waiting lists. ✓ SFUSD will start a Pre-K to 3 pilot program in partnership with the Haas, Jr. Fund, DCYF and First 5. ✓ The City is exploring the feasibility of developing a child care center for employees at SF General Hospital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Children, youth and family focused recommendations are being incorporated into the overall Transit Effectiveness Project and improvement plan.

ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE POLICY COUNCIL

	Youth Workforce Development	Safety/Violence Prevention
Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Francisco’s youth employment system is rich, but the vast majority of workplace experiences are in nonprofit and public sector worksites. • In 2006, over 2,600 young people participated in city-funded programs but only 300 youth obtained internships or employment opportunities in the private sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children who witness violence are more likely to be involved in violence and/or crime. • Estimates suggest between 5,000 and 11,000 children and youth are exposed to domestic violence each year. • Behavioral health services to break the pattern of violence are lacking.
Council Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an intermediary organization which can link youth to private sector jobs. • Improve coordination between city-funded employment systems and SFUSD. • Reinvigorate the federally mandated Youth Council to create citywide policies for youth employment and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt a whole family approach to prevention and intervention. • Infuse violence prevention approaches and practices through current work of city departments and community agencies. • Identify and consistently monitor measures of safety. • Prioritize and focus efforts for impact. • Empower communities and people to innovate approaches .
Promising Progress & Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Established Jobs for Youth through United Way, which links hundreds of youth each year to jobs in the private sector and works in collaboration with SFUSD. ✓ Created Environmental Service Learning Collaborative with SFUSD to bridge academic content with understanding of the environment, empower students to make social change. ✓ Youth Council has been re-constituted. ✓ A new employment program is being coordinated between the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development and DCYF for Transitional Age Youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Children, youth and family focused recommendations were incorporated into the Citywide Violence Prevention Plan released July 2008. ✓ DCYF, Adult Probation and the Mayor’s Office are collaborating on violence prevention and response strategies such as “call-ins” and Summer of Unity events. ✓ DCYF has developed quality standards for violence prevention and response programs. ✓ City institutionalized and funded Safe Start, a previously federally-funded, public/private partnership aimed at helping young children exposed to violence.

RE(SOURCES) AND TO LEARN MORE:

Getting Behind the Headlines: Families Leaving San Francisco, Public Research Institute, San Francisco State University, September 2005. <http://www.dcyf.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=1512>

HOUSING

Housing For Families with Children in San Francisco, the Mayor's Policy Council on Children, Youth & Their Families, January 2006. <http://www.dcyf.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=1924>

2005-2010 Consolidated Plan, San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing, April 2006.
<http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/moh/Reports/2005-2010ConsolidatedPlanv16.pdf>

COST OF LIVING

2008 Family Economic Data Snapshot, prepared by the Department of Children, Youth & Their Families
<http://www.dcyf.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=2922>

Family Economic Success Policy Platform, San Francisco Family Support Network, 2007.
<http://www.dcyf.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=2930>

EDUCATION

Student Enrollment, Recruitment and Retention: Community Conversations about San Francisco Public Schools, March 2007. <http://portal.sfusd.edu/data/strategicplan/SERR%20March%202007.pdf>

BEYOND THE TALK: TAKING ACTION to EDUCATE EVERY CHILD NOW, SFUSD 2008-2012 Strategic Plan Version 1 published June, 2008. <http://portal.sfusd.edu/data/strategicplan/Strategic%20Plan%20REV9.pdf>

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

San Francisco County by the Numbers, The 2007 California Child Care Portfolio, California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. <http://www.rrnetwork.org/publications/2007/sanfrancisco.pdf>

The Economic Impact of the Child Care Industry in San Francisco, Executive Summary, Department of Children, Youth & Their Families, January 2006. http://www.dcyf.org/Downloads/CPAC/ExecSummary_2007.pdf

TRANSPORTATION

San Francisco Transit Effectiveness Project. <http://www.sfmta.com/cms/mtep/tepovert.htm>

YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

"Preparing Youth for Employment: Principles and Characteristics of Five Leading United States Youth Development Programs" Dr. Glenda L. Partee, 2003.

<http://www.aypf.org/publications/PreparingYouthforEmployment.pdf>

The Intermediary Guidebook: Making and Managing Community Connections for Youth, prepared for the School-to-Work Intermediary Project by Jobs for the Future and New Ways to Work, October 2000, updated May 2001.

<http://www.intermediarynetwork.org/pdffiles/IntermGuide%202001.pdf>

SAFETY/VIOLENCE PREVENTION

City & County of San Francisco Violence Prevention Plan 2008-2013, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, 2008.

http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/mocj/reports_publications/Violence_Prevention_Plan.pdf