

Thanks!

Warmly,

Mary Kate Bacalao

she • her • hers

English

Director of External Affairs and Policy

Compass Family Services

37 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 | 415-644-0504 x1116



COMPASS FAMILY SERVICES

Housing. Support. Hope.



---

**From:** "Major, Erica (BOS)" <erica.major@sfgov.org>

**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 3:41 PM

**To:** Mary Kate Bacalao <mkbacalao@compass-sf.org>

**Subject:** RE: April 11th Hearing on Housing Equity for Pregnant BIPOC People/Families

Thanks Mary, do you know what file this is for? I can't seem to find a Housing Equity item pending before Land Use.

**ERICA MAJOR**

**Assistant Clerk**

Board of Supervisors

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244 San Francisco, CA 94102

Phone: (415) 554-4441 | Fax: (415) 554-5163

[Erica.Major@sfgov.org](mailto:Erica.Major@sfgov.org) | [www.sfbos.org](http://www.sfbos.org)

**(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS)** To schedule a "virtual" meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

*Due to the current COVID-19 health emergency and the Shelter in Place Order, the Office of the Clerk of the Board is working remotely while providing complete access to the legislative process and our services.*

Click [HERE](#) to complete a Board of Supervisors Customer Service Satisfaction form.

The [Legislative Research Center](#) provides 24-hour access to Board of Supervisors legislation, and archived matters since August 1998.

~~~~~

**Disclosures:** Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information

*provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

---

**From:** Mary Kate Bacalao <mkbacalao@compass-sf.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 10:29 AM

**To:** Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <myrna.melgar@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>

**Cc:** Major, Erica (BOS) <erica.major@sfgov.org>; Williams, Shanell (UCSF) <Shanell.Williams@ucsf.edu>; Chicuata, Brittni (HRC) <brittni.chicuata@sfgov.org>; Erica Kisch <ekisch@compass-sf.org>

**Subject:** April 11th Hearing on Housing Equity for Pregnant BIPOC People/Families

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors on the Land Use and Transportation Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of Compass Family Services and our family-serving partners in the homeless response system to support a legislative package that would advance housing equity for pregnant BIPOC people and families. I cannot attend the Committee's hearing scheduled for April 11, but housing equity for unhoused families is a critically important issue that deserves public comment and attention.

There are many barriers to housing and shelter equity in our homeless response system. The first and foremost is housing and shelter supply. Family housing options are extremely limited: most affordable units are targeted to families at 50% of AMI or higher, leaving the homeless response system as the fallback, especially for families at 30% of AMI and lower. In the homeless response system, most permanent supportive housing (PSH) is allocated to older adults with disabilities. PSH for families is extremely limited and once it is occupied, it rarely turns over. The most available housing option for families is rapid rehousing (RRH), a 24-month subsidy that requires families to increase their incomes, sometimes dramatically, as the subsidy tapers. This intervention can work well for lower-need families, but because RRH is the most available option in our portfolio, our coordinated entry system ends up referring the highest-need families to RRH, after which they sometimes return to homelessness.

What's more, the number of RRH subsidies is so limited compared to the need that HSH recently doubled the threshold score required to get an RRH subsidy (they doubled the score from 40 to 80). This is concerning given that the City Budget includes more than \$28 million for flexible housing subsidies for families over this budget cycle (including \$14 million for this current fiscal year that has not yet been released). This \$28 million is in addition to the money allocated for PSH building acquisitions for families, though there has been progress made on that front with the purchase of 1321 Mission and the proposed purchase of 333 12<sup>th</sup> Street, announced today. We need to release these funds, expand housing options for unsheltered families, and make sure our coordinated entry system

(including the ONE system) has the functionality to help providers collaborate to match families with the right housing intervention for their levels of need. We also need to prioritize BIPOC families and pregnant people, who disproportionately experience poverty and homelessness, and who represent more than 80% of families in our homeless response system.

Family shelter supply is also extremely limited. In August 2021, HSH added 15 emergency rooms at the Oasis Inn—a private-room shelter program operated by Providence Foundation with the help of Supervisor Preston following the closure of First Friendship Family Shelter in July 2020—but those rooms are typically oversubscribed with unsheltered families, and the medical hotel rooms that used to be available to providers for medically fragile families are no longer available. The broader population of unsheltered families are living in their cars and other precarious situations while they wait on the individual-room shelter waitlist, which has ranged from 60 to 80 families long at any given time in the early months of 2022. Outreach and access point workers do not always reach the most disconnected families, and some are accessing help informally, even parking near the Buena Vista Horace Mann Stay Over Program, a congregate shelter in a school gymnasium that is open to unhoused families enrolled with the school district (it is not open to families with younger children who are not yet enrolled).

The lack of family shelter supply has resulted in process for the sake of process that creates unnecessary hoops to jump through for pregnant people and families experiencing homelessness, such as a verification process that HSH managers claimed was required by HUD. (Providers researched that [HUD does not in fact require this process.](#)) HSH managers have since communicated that such processes are necessary to manage the extremely limited supply of shelter. This overbroad reading of HUD regulations—designed to manage scarcity—is fundamentally inequitable. We need to expand shelter and make sure that families in crisis have direct access to shelter, especially BIPOC families who are disproportionately experiencing homelessness.

It's worth noting that the City Budget includes \$1.2 million in hotel vouchers for pregnant people and families over this budget cycle (including \$600,000 for this current fiscal year that has not yet been released or added back to shelter/ access point contracts).

There's much more to say about equity in housing and shelter access for unhoused families, and I would be happy to respond to any other questions you may have. Compass and our partners fully support the Committee's efforts to advance housing equity, which should include expanding investments in housing and shelter and improving procurement and contracting processes to get budgeted funding out the door to support unhoused families.

Thank you for your leadership.

Warmly,

**Mary Kate Bacalao**

she • her • hers

English

Director of External Affairs and Policy

Compass Family Services

37 Grove Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 | 415-644-0504 x1116



**COMPASS FAMILY SERVICES**

Housing. Support. Hope.

