

From: [Xander Briere](#)
To: Board@sfgov.org; mohcd.info@sfgov.org; [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Harm Reduction Cuts & Support for Naughty Nurse Mobile
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 1:43:28 PM

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Good Morning!

I'm reaching out to share the public comment I've prepared for the upcoming hearing. This comment reflects not just my professional expertise, but my lived reality and deep love for the community I serve every day.

As a Program Specialist 2 at the San Francisco Community Health Center, I've spent years rebuilding sex worker services from the ground up after the devastating closure of St. James Infirmary in 2023. We lost far more than just a building - we lost history, institutional memory, and critical lifelines that were never replaced. The SWA (Sex Worker Advocacy) support group I co-facilitate was born from that vacuum. It's a space where survival workers - especially Black, Brown, queer, and trans folks - can finally feel seen, respected, and resourced.

Today, I'm advocating for Lyon Martin's **Naughty Nurse Mobile**, a late-night, harm reduction-based outreach program built for trans and queer sex workers. And I need you to understand: cutting this program will have real and deadly consequences.

Why This Program Matters:

- It provides **healthcare access, STI/HIV testing, gender-affirming care, and survival gear** during hours when no other services are available.
- It meets folks **where they are**—in the streets, in encampments, in bars and alleyways—without shame, stigma, or red tape.
- It is led by people who know the community firsthand and is one of the **only programs specifically built for trans and queer sex workers**, especially those of color.

What Happens When We Lose Services Like This:

- More community members will go without care, get sick, and die preventable deaths.
- We'll see more overdoses, more exposure-related deaths, and more people pushed further from safety and support.
- We'll keep holding community memorials for people the city failed - memorials we often fund and host ourselves because no one else shows up.
- The trauma deepens. The trust erodes. And the cycle of harm continues.

What We Need:

- A commitment to **long-term investment in harm reduction**, not temporary pilot programs that get pulled as soon as they prove successful.
- The restoration of funding for **Naughty Nurse Mobile**, so this crucial work can continue without interruption.
- Leadership that shows up—not just in decision-making rooms, but in the streets, in the memorials, in our support groups.

My Ask: I'll be delivering this as a 60-second public comment. But I urge you as colleagues, as leaders, and as human beings to consider: how many times can we be asked to start from scratch before there's nothing left to rebuild?

We don't need more studies. We need resources. We need the city to stop asking the most marginalized people to carry the weight of its failures. We need harm reduction - real, funded, community-based harm reduction - to survive.

Thank you for reading. Please let me know if there are aligned efforts I can join in this fight, and feel free to amplify this message however you see fit.

In solidarity,

Xander Briere

Program Specialist 2

San Francisco Community Health Center

Pronouns: they/he/fae

xander@sfcommunityhealth.org | (415) 417-4270 (text preferred)

From: [Lily Wong](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#); [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Chen, Chyanne \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Joel Engardio](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [David Woo](#); [Jones, Ej \(MYR\)](#); [Zou, Han \(MYR\)](#); [Kittler, Sophia \(MYR\)](#); [Raquel R. Redondiez](#); [Ben Wong](#); [carlo](#); [Susana Rojas](#); [Sharaya Souza](#); [April Spears](#); [Robert Goldfarb \(Bob.Goldfarb@sflcd.org\)](#); [Tina Aguirre](#); [Emily Murase](#); [Gaynorann Siataga](#)
Subject: Support for Maintaining Community Building Funding
Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 2:32:11 PM
Attachments: [51st Anniversary Spring Gala Email Signature 2025 \(2\).png](#)
[SCCDxWM City Budget Advocacy Letter.docx \(1\).pdf](#)

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Honorable Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee and Mayor Lurie:

Please find a joint letter from Wah Mei and the Sunset Chinese Cultural District attached, in reference to today's hearing on MOHCD funding cuts.

In summary:

The City relies on us to be the safety net for historically marginalized communities. This is not the time to eliminate critical community infrastructure.

Lily



Lily Wong 黃麗瑜
Director of Community Engagement 社區聯繫總監
Sunset Chinese Cultural District Director 日落區中華文化區總監

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From: [Carlo Gomez Arteaga](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Lurie, Daniel \(MYR\)](#)
Cc: [Garcia, Moises \(MYR\)](#); [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE: Support for Maintaining Community Funding for the Mayor's Office of Housing & Community Development
Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 3:52:26 PM
Attachments: [2025.04.23 TTD Ltr Support for MOHCD Funding .docx.pdf](#)

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Dear BOS & Mayor Lurie,

See attached letter urging for no more cuts to MOHCD.

c

Carlo Gomez Arteaga (he/him/his)

Co-Executive Director

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April 23, 2025

Budget and Appropriations Committee

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

RE: Support for Maintaining Community Funding for the Mayor's Office of Housing & Community Development

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors and the Budget and Appropriations Committee,

We am writing on behalf of the Transgender District (The District) regarding the proposed cuts to Community Collaboration and Convening, Community Building, Domestic Violence and Gender-Based Violence Services, Financial Capability, and General Legal Services that support the City's most vulnerable, low-income neighborhoods, immigrant, transgender and gender nonconforming (TGNC) communities and cultural districts.

The District is the world's first legally recognized transgender district, dedicated to empowering and creating opportunities for TGNC individuals in the Tenderloin and broader San Francisco Bay Area. Our work prioritizes investment in the Black and Latinx community, providing services that foster economic empowerment, cultural arts enrichment, and healing for our community. For over a century, the Tenderloin neighborhood has been home to a vibrant diverse community, rich in history, community spaces, and gathering sites with cultural significance for the transgender and queer community. Our mission is to create an urban environment that fosters the rich history, culture, legacy, and empowerment of transgender people and its deep roots in the southeastern Tenderloin neighborhood.

During the first quarter of his term, President Trump signed a wave of executive orders attacking and attempting to mandate discrimination against so many vulnerable communities including transgender and nonbinary people across the country. We understand the City is in budget constraints. Our organization has lived through many such crises and our Cultural Districts have played a crucial part in the stabilization and growth of our communities. The City relies on organizations like ours to weather every major social and economic impact. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the Cultural Districts provided key access to vaccinations, food banks, and provided resources to communities across the city.

Recent city budget cuts have put our ability to function as an organization in jeopardy with awarded grants rescinded or RFP cuts like the Community Building RFP from MOHCD. Given that Cultural Districts funding from the hotel tax is inadequate to support our full extent of our work. Cultural districts have been encouraged to apply for the other city grants to meet the needs of the community and to support each of the Cultural District the local strategies developed in our Cultural History, Housing, and Economic Sustainability Strategies (CHHESS) Reports. The funding will be eliminated from MOHCD's budget and will cause the immediate impact of networks of community building that affect all of our work and will have devastating effects to the backbone of our city, our culture, workforce, families and diversity of communities who are connected to this great city.

The City relies on us to be the safety net for historically marginalized communities. This is the time for San Francisco to define itself and rise to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in our city who are critical in its economic recovery. We implore that the City take bold steps to invest in our work as we continue to be the beacon for so many.

Sincerely,



Breonna McCree & Carlo Gómez Arteaga
The Transgender District Co-Executive Directors

cc: Mayor Daniel Lurie
Moises Garcia, Mayor's Community Liaison
SF Cultural Districts

From: [Bali Nelson](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: reinstating city funding for general civil legal services
Date: Friday, April 25, 2025 9:35:17 PM

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Dear Mr. Jalipa,

Although I attended the 4-23-25 Budget and Appropriations Committee meeting and briefly spoke about the need to reinstate funding for general legal services, specifically employment-related legal services such as those offered by Open Door Legal, I am also emailing you a more detailed written comment.

I strongly oppose these cuts since employment-related legal services are critically important in reducing poverty and homelessness and urge that this funding be reinstated.

I've lived in San Francisco since 1990 and the Hayes Valley/Western Addition neighborhood since 1995, and like many San Franciscans, I personally experienced decades of wage theft, including one period in which my amount of unpaid overtime alone was often over \$1,000 per month in a state in which wage theft in the amount of \$950 per year can theoretically be charged as a felony.

Despite repeated internal and external complaints to government agencies about unfair labor practices/disparate treatment affecting myself and other employees, I received no effective help until Open Door Legal expanded into my service area and got me a \$12,000 settlement for the one remaining legal claim I still had by that time: 10 months of unpaid overtime. (I unfortunately lost the right to pursue what I now know are several other very well-documented claims, including whistleblower retaliation/wrongful termination, due to expired statutes of limitations.) After my settlement, I was told by a former co-worker that the company involved had finally started tracking hours and paying overtime, an example of the positive ripple effect even individual civil suits can have in improving working conditions for others.

Anyone who incorrectly believes that employment-related legal services are not essential because unrepresented workers can file claims with state agencies for free should read the linked article from the Bar Association of San Francisco's publication San Francisco Attorney Magazine entitled "Jobless Californians Harmed by Dysfunction in State Safety Nets."
<https://www.sfbar.org/sfam/q4-2022-jobless-californians-harmed-by-dysfunction-in-state-safety-nets/>

My experience and that of many other workers mirrors the extraordinary level of misconduct/dysfunction at California state regulatory agencies documented there and in more recent California state auditor's reports and CalMatters investigations.

This dysfunction is so severe that what we have here is essentially enforcement of workplace regulations through civil litigation only. Cutting the funding that allows low-income workers to access employment-related legal services will do nothing but increase poverty and homelessness in the future since there is no other way for us to effectively enforce our rights.

In sum, I strongly oppose proposed cuts to employment-related civil legal services and hope for the sake of San Francisco workers that this funding for non-profits such as Open Door Legal will be restored.

Sincerely,

Bali K. Nelson
home office landline: 415-551-7159

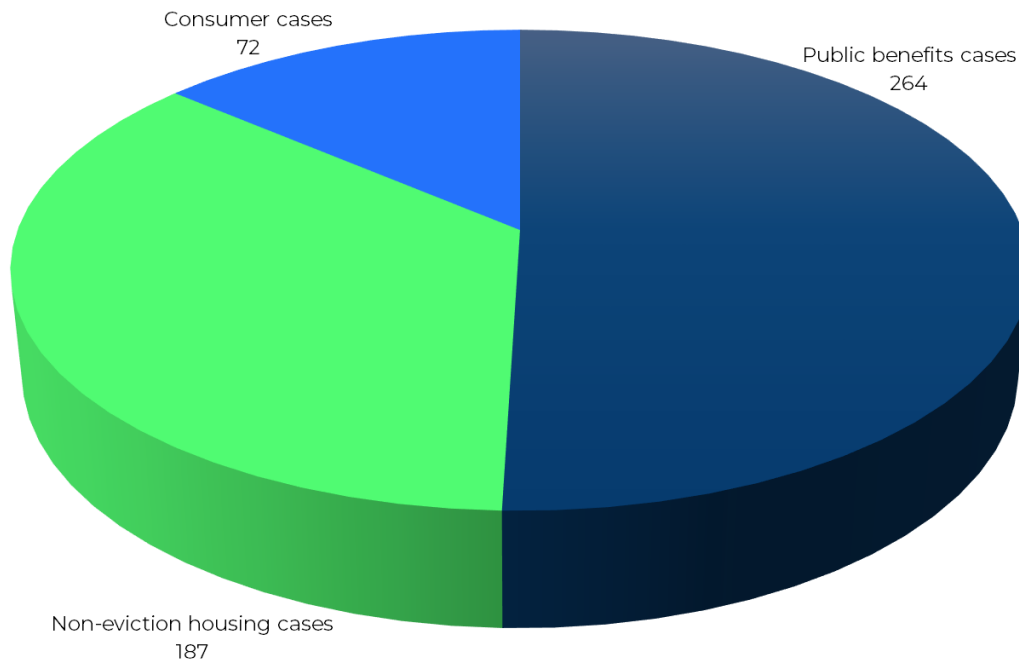
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YouTube: www.youtube.com/@balikathleennelson3471



The impact of General Legal Services funding for Bay Area Legal Aid's clients

523 MOHCD general legal services-funded cases in FY 23-24



Public Benefits

- **\$3,200+** average economic recovery **per client** in 214 cases closed during FY 2023-24.
- Monthly CalWORKs grant for a family of 4 is approximately \$1,400.
- This economic recovery makes a big difference for our clients who are housing insecure – **this is rent**.
- Maintaining CalWORKs also includes housing assistance benefits for unhoused families, and child care support that is essential for maintaining employment.
- Economic recovery includes debt relief for alleged overpayment of benefits –which can lead to a tax intercept.

Housing

- **\$2,100** average economic recovery **per client** in 184 cases closed during FY2023-24.
- Representing federal-ly subsidized tenants through informal advocacy with the SF Housing Authority, administrative hearings, and grievances.
- We assist with recertification, life and safety transfers for DV survivors, erroneous rent increases, habitability issues.
- Some of these issues can lead to loss of a Section 8 voucher or subsidy, and then eviction.
- For these tenants, maintaining their subsidy is critical to staying housed.

Consumer Rights

- **\$5,500** average economic recovery **per client** for all cases closed during FY 2023-24.
- Bimonthly clinics at MEDA and the SF Law Library (served over 225 people last year).
- FY 2023-24 we handled over 70 cases on predatory debt collection, identity theft, and erroneous credit reports, including rental debt, that can cause a barrier to housing.