



April 27, 2023

Co-Chair, Steve Hum, Co-Chair Maureen Loftus
Supervisor Hillary Ronen
Youth, Young Adult and Families Committee
Youth Commission and Civic Engagement and Education Committee
C/O Clerk of the Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244,
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Co-Chairs and Members:

Thank you for convening a joint meeting of the Youth, Young Adult and Families Committee and the Youth Commission and Civic Engagement and Education Committee to consider the student and family needs in San Francisco. On behalf of the the Family Resource Center Alliance, we are grateful for Proposition G funding in recognition of the need to address both academic achievement and social-emotional wellness. We ask *that the implementation plans for Proposition G include information and support for school sites to partner with Family Resource Centers and other family support organizations.*

The Alliance is made up of a network of 40+ family support organizations that serve tens of thousands of caregivers and children who face challenges related to systemic racism, poverty, income inequality, immigration, mental health issues, and intergenerational trauma, those families with some of the city's most vulnerable students. Many of our FRCS have programs that support children and their families throughout the age spectrum -- pre and peri-natal, parent/infant programs, early childhood education, and after-school programs for school-aged children.

Research shows that a two-generation approach is essential for bolstering long-term outcomes for children, particularly social-emotional needs. We have models like the Aspen Ascend/2-Gen approach to build family well-being¹. As the American Academy of Pediatrics stated, we are approaching crisis levels of child/adolescent mental health challenges and lack of access to sufficient supports²; The social emotional challenges of students post-pandemic is leading to disruptions and challenges in the classroom, making it hard for students to learn, and in some cases, resulting in violent behavior. Even before the pandemic's health and economic crises and the renewed reckoning with our country's systemic racism, too many of San Francisco's families were struggling to survive, facing challenges raising their children in San Francisco, and experiencing feeling overwhelming barriers to staying in the City.³

¹Ascend, Aspen Institute, 2Gen Approach, <https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/2gen-approach/>, 2023

² American Academy of Pediatrics, [Declaration of a National Emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health](#), October, 2021

³ San Francisco First 5's Family Resource Center Overview: <https://www.first5sf.org/family-resource-center-initiative/>

- 63% of San Francisco families report experiencing one or more risk factors that could negatively impact their well-being.
- 47% of families report not having, or only somewhat having, a strong support system.

Given the effectiveness of FRC’s two-generation approach that focuses on children and parents/caregivers, and existing partnerships with a variety of systems, FRCs are key to the Recovery Plan’s recommendations around “access, navigation, and systems change” that cut across all need categories of the Recovery Plan: i) Improve Systems Coordination; ii) Improve Service Delivery; iii) Reach Communities and Build Trust.⁴ FRCs already have the trust of their communities and are able to reach them to provide information and support to obtain resources, services, and supports. Moreover, FRCs provide a central point in key communities for distribution of and connection to the concrete, material needs identified in the Recovery Plan.

As demonstrated throughout the pandemic, FRCs pivoted services and their delivery, joining together to secure and distribute hundreds of thousands of basic need items to families, including as many as 2,400 food and diaper bank distributions a week⁵, two tons of baby formula, over 116,000 diapers, and 13,000 rolls of toilet paper. FRCs also provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in emergency relief, and many experienced a 300% increase in case management needs as they worked on multiple levels to ensure families were connected to new and existing public resources such as rental subsidies, unemployment benefits, and more. Moreover, FRCs currently partner with multiple City agencies and are working to pilot even more established linkages with pediatric systems, ECE, schools, and after-school programs so that FRCs can provide families with a continuum of trauma-informed care as they navigate among different systems. During the pandemic, FRCs were able to fill gaps while the public systems mobilized, including the above-mentioned distribution of basic needs, providing distance learning support, partnering with DCYF to set up Community Learning Hubs, and working with COVID Command to support families with health and safety issues. **FRCs are single-stop shops that serve as the linchpin among systems, supporting families’ multiple needs in a coordinated and collaborative manner.**

We need to provide what is necessary for strong families to build social-emotional competency in our students. To leverage Proposition G funds to provide necessary two-generation support, school sites should have information about organizations like FRCs and other Family Support agencies so that school sites have the power and choice to look for partners that may be a vital part of their community and will support long-term outcomes for children through two-generation support.

Thank you for your dedication and leadership on behalf of San Francisco’s families. The FRCs and other Family Support agencies look forward to future collaboration and this important investment in San Francisco’s schools, students, and families.

Sincerely,

Jenny Pearlman
Chief Policy Officer
Safe & Sound
Family Resource Center Alliance

⁴ San Francisco First 5’s Family Support Impact Dashboard: <https://www.first5sf.org/impact-dashboard/>

⁵ San Francisco First 5’s COVID-19 Impact Report: <https://www.first5sf.org/covid-19-impact/>