



September 24, 2024

Mayor London Breed
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, Room 200
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Release of FY 24/25 Budget Addbacks (OEWD)

Dear Mayor Breed:

We represent the grantees of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development Sector Training programs: TechSF, Hospitality and HealthCare Academy. Our organizations serve jobseekers who have been systematically excluded from the workforce, helping them access high-demand careers with family-sustaining wages.

Last spring we were extremely concerned to see that your FY 24/25-25/26 budget proposal sought to make significant cuts to the OEWD Sector Partner Training program. During the Board of Supervisors budget negotiations over the summer many nonprofits were notified of significant contract cuts if the Mayor's proposed reductions proceeded. These cuts would impact thousands of participants, their families, the local economy, and hundreds of employer partners.

We were heartened to see the Board of Supervisors' budget ordinance restore \$3.7 million annually for two years to OEWD and the Sector Partners Training program, stating:

"WHEREAS, Funding for the City's workforce development through Office of Workforce and Economic Development, and the Human Services Agency, in the areas of sector training and unhoused employment opportunities were reduced impacting the job opportunities for young people, low-income households, unhoused people, and immigrant workers, putting more people at higher risk of homelessness, and continuing trap of the cycle of poverty were reduced by the Administration and the Board seeks to restore \$7,400,000;"

It has been nearly two months since you signed and approved the budget, yet the Office of Economic and Workforce Development has not made any adjustments to their budget despite the \$3.7 million funding addback and instead has asked nonprofits to move forward with cutting programs.

Nonprofits depend heavily on this grant funding to operate and without the immediate restoration of funding many organizations are having to draw on reserves to operate or make the difficult decision to lay off staff and eliminate training programs, preventing thousands of San Franciscans from achieving economic mobility and a better future for themselves and their families. We cannot be expected to continue operating with the hope that the city will someday restore funding that was approved months ago.

On behalf of OEWD Sector Partners, we respectfully request that you release the addback funding you approved in the FY 24/25 budget and direct OEWD to restore funding to workforce development programs - the livelihoods of thousands of San Franciscans and their families are at stake.

For questions, please contact Gabriela Jimenez, JVS Government and Community Affairs Manager at gjimenez@jvs.org.

Sincerely,

Lisa Countryman-Quiroz
Chief Executive Officer
JVS Bay Area

Christina Ortega
Chief Executive Officer
Mission Bit

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Marcela Trujano Senior
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CC:

Members, San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Sarah Dennis Phillips, Executive Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Ken Nim, CityBuild Director, Acting Workforce Director

Members, Workforce Investment San Francisco Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Breed Must Unlock the Funds: Community Mobilizes at City Hall to Demand Immediate Action after Millions in Community Resources go Unallocated

San Francisco, CA – Community members, housing advocates, and families facing eviction will rally at City Hall on September 25th, escalating their demands for Mayor London Breed to release the Emergency Rental Assistance funds. This action follows weeks of growing pressure and public outcry over the Mayor’s failure to respond to the city’s housing crisis.

“We’re at a breaking point,” said Maria Zamudio, Director of the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco. “Mayor Breed has the funds, and yet she’s choosing not to act. Every day she waits, more families are pushed closer to losing their homes. This is not leadership—it’s negligence.”

The rally and press conference will feature testimonies from those directly impacted by the eviction crisis, alongside powerful calls for Mayor Breed to take immediate action. Advocates will also present a list of demands, including the immediate release of the funds and a comprehensive plan to address the housing needs of all San Franciscans.

“Enough is enough,” said Lucia Obregon, Director of the San Francisco Latino Parity and Equity Coalition. “Mayor Breed’s inaction is causing real harm to our communities. We’re here to say: Unlock the funds, protect our families, and do your job.”

“Communities are suffering, and the organizations that support them are being forced to scale back their work or even face layoffs due to the Mayor’s refusal to allocate these funds,” said a representative from HOMEY (Homies Organizing the Mission to Empower Youth). “The Mayor’s failure is not just a lapse in judgment; it is a blatant disregard for the well-being of our city’s most vulnerable. We need action now to prevent further damage.”

The rally aims to send a clear message to City Hall: The time for delays is over. The community will continue to organize and escalate until every family in San Francisco has the stability and support they deserve. Mayor Breed’s continued inaction is worsening conditions for San Franciscans and demonstrates a clear failure in leadership and responsibility.

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The People’s Budget Coalition is a powerful alliance of 40+ community organizations and unions including the Budget Justice Coalition, Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association (HESPA), Homeless Workforce Collaborative, the Latino Parity and Equity Coalition, SF Rising, and Jobs with Justice San Francisco,. These organizations serve impoverished people working towards a City budget that prioritizes working families and poor communities in San Francisco. We believe that the City’s budget should increase resources to address the unmet needs of the City’s most disenfranchised populations, and reflect these values by fully funding programs that ensure everyone has safe and affordable housing, stable employment with fair wages, sufficient healthy food, essential health care, quality early care and education and other investments including those that empower and develop communities. The City can afford these services by redirecting existing funds away from systems of oppression such as the police and sheriff.