

[DCYF 2024-2029 Cycle RFP Awards - Review and Amend]

Resolution urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to review and amend the proposed funding allocations to youth-serving nonprofits and community-based organizations from the Department for Children, Youth, and Their Families for the 2024-2029 cycle to maintain current services for youth and mitigate budget reductions, and to explore additional revenue sources for the Children and Youth Fund.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Department for Children, Youth, and Their Families (DCYF) is the main Department responsible for funding and overseeing services for children, teens, and transitional-aged youth (TAY) in the City and County of San Francisco, and does so by administering the Children and Youth Fund through grant-making to youth-serving nonprofits and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, Around \$260,000,000 was set aside for the DCYF Grant Program in the 2022-2023 budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, San Francisco voters made history with the passage of a Charter Amendment to create a Children's Fund (Proposition J), with 54.4% of votes in favor, becoming the first city in the nation to guarantee funding specifically allocated for children in the annual budget; and

WHEREAS, In 2000, the Children's Fund was reauthorized by San Francisco voters (Proposition D), with 73.13% of votes in favor; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, the Children's Fund was renamed the Children and Youth Fund and was reauthorized by San Francisco voters (Proposition C), with 74.44% of votes in favor; and

1 WHEREAS, the Children and Youth Fund is intended to ensure the holistic well-
2 being and academic success of San Francisco's children by fostering stable, safe, and
3 supportive family and community environments, complementing community
4 development efforts, prioritizing equity, utilizing best practices and innovative models,
5 equitably distributing funds across age groups, offering gender-responsive and
6 culturally-competent services, and fostering collaboration among service providers for
7 children, youth, and families; and

8 WHEREAS, 0.04% of local property tax revenue is set aside for the Children and
9 Youth Fund, amounting to approximately \$120,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and

10 WHEREAS, DCYF distributes the Children and Youth Fund through a Request
11 for Proposals (RFP) process; and

12 WHEREAS, This process most recently took place in 2023 and 2024 for the
13 2024-2029 RFP awards, in which RFPs were evaluated and awarded in a three phase
14 process; and

15 WHEREAS, In the 2024-2029 RFP proposal, \$414,713,817 was requested and
16 92,017,300 was granted to 231 proposals out of the 698 proposals submitted; and

17 WHEREAS, Nonprofits that support essential services for LGBTQ youth,
18 leadership development, and more either received cuts or no funding from the RFP
19 process; and

20 WHEREAS, The end of many programs not currently included in the RFP awards
21 will create disparities in access to imperative resources that youth rely on; and

22 WHEREAS, The first phase of this process was the Scoring Phase, which
23 included 153 subject matter experts and 50 DCYF staff members scoring submitted

1 RFPs, with readers providing recommendations to “fund”, “fund with reservations”, or
2 “do not fund”, which are then averaged, and RFPs which received either “fund” or “fund
3 with reservations” recommendations moved forward; and

4 WHEREAS, The second phase of this process was the Deliberation Phase,
5 where DCYF staff and funding partners considered four questions (“Does the proposal
6 align with the goals and requirements of the strategy or initiative?”, “Does the proposal
7 indicate an ability to recruit, engage and serve the target population?”, “Is the budget
8 adequate and appropriate for the proposed services?”, and “Does the agency/program’s
9 past performance or non grantee site visit indicate an ability to implement the proposed
10 services”) and RFPs which received four affirmative responses moved forward; and

11 WHEREAS, The third phase was the Decision Phase, in which DCYF senior
12 leadership and funding partners reviewed RFPs to make final funding decisions; and

13 WHEREAS, 698 RFPs were originally submitted to DCYF, with 670 moving out
14 of phase one, 338 moving out of phase two, and 231 moving out of phase three and
15 being partially funded; and

16 WHEREAS, Youth-serving nonprofits and community organizations have
17 expressed frustration over allocations as funding decisions did not match the written
18 comments and scores; and

19 WHEREAS, Multiple youth-serving nonprofits, community-based organizations,
20 and programs have expressed concerns due to major funding reductions from the
21 proposed RFP Awards compared to previous awards; and

22 WHEREAS, Many LGBTQ+ youth-serving nonprofits, community-based
23 organizations, and programs, including the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information

Center (LYRIC) and San Francisco LGBT Center, have expressed serious concerns with the proposed funding reductions, putting existing services for queer TAY at risk; and

WHEREAS, LYRIC will have their entire Career Leadership Program funding eliminated under the current proposed RFP Awards; and

WHEREAS, The LYRIC Career Leadership Program works to support and employ queer TAY who lack other support networks by providing them with part-time paid internships which help develop their skills to enter the workforce and become financially independent, as well as access to a Program Coordinator and Youth Advocate to support their individual needs; and

WHEREAS, LYRIC will have their entire Sequoia Leadership Institute program funding eliminated under the current proposed RFP Awards; and

WHEREAS, The LYRIC Sequoia Leadership Institute consists of three cohorts of youth who receive leadership training and support while engaging in a paid internship, with the first cohort examining power and privilege, LGBTQQ+ identities, community organizing strategies, and developing leadership skills, the second cohort program is co-created by youth participants based on social issues or interests impacting their communities, and the third cohort makes up the LYRIC youth advisory board; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco LGBT Center will see a 56% reduction (-\$321,012) in funding for their Queer Youth Drop-In services under the current proposed RFP Awards, which provides TAY with access to food, clothing, hygiene, gender affirming supplies, and mental health care support, as well as housing navigation services; and

1 WHEREAS, Many youth-serving nonprofits, community-based organizations, and
2 programs focused on serving homeless TAY have expressed serious concerns with the
3 proposed funding reductions; and

4 WHEREAS, Larkin Street Youth Services will have their entire Youth Workforce
5 Development (YWD) program funding eliminated under the current proposed RFP
6 Awards; and

7 WHEREAS, The YWD program provides unhoused TAY paid employment
8 opportunities, career development support, and transition planning services, located at
9 their Tenderloin Service Hub; and

10 WHEREAS, Larkin Street Youth Services will have their entire Youth Leadership
11 Program funding eliminated under the current proposed RFP Awards; and

12 WHEREAS, The Larkin Street Youth Services Youth Leadership Program
13 provides TAY with paid opportunities, including focus groups, workshops, conferences,
14 and policy work, to influence internal Larkin Street Youth Services policies and citywide
15 advocacy on the homelessness crisis; and

16 WHEREAS, Huckleberry Youth Programs will have their entire Huckleberry
17 Advocacy and Response Team (HART) program funding eliminated under the current
18 proposed RFP Awards; and

19 WHEREAS, HART is a program for youth aged 11-24 who are vulnerable to or
20 previously involved in sex trafficking which creates safe spaces for individuals to heal
21 and provides supportive services to connect them with support in their communities;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Many nonprofits, community-based organizations, and programs
2 which promote youth leadership and provide support for youth-led initiatives have
3 expressed serious concerns with the proposed funding reductions, putting existing
4 programs at-risk of ending; and

5 WHEREAS, The Community Youth Center (CYC) of San Francisco, a nonprofit
6 that supports youth leadership, applied for a total 20 proposals and only one was fully
7 funded; and

8 WHEREAS, CYC supports the District 7 Youth Council, the only district youth
9 council in the entire city, but will receive no funds to allow for the continuation of this
10 program under the current proposed RFP Awards; and

11 WHEREAS, The District 7 Youth Council was initially created to increase youth
12 civic voice in government, and numerous youth in the current and past councils have
13 worked on projects like supporting ballot initiatives, writing resolutions, and hosting large
14 community events for District 7 and the greater San Francisco community; and

15 WHEREAS, Youth Funding Youth Ideas (YFYI), a program of Bay Area
16 Community Resources, will have their entire program funding eliminated under the
17 current proposed RFP Awards; and

18 WHEREAS, YFYI is a grant-making and education program which provides
19 grants to youth-led projects to address community issues, with training and support for
20 youth grantees; and

21 WHEREAS, The aforementioned services have long been present for youth in
22 the City and County of San Francisco, providing critical support for housing stability,

1 community support, employment assistance, fostering new youth leaders, and more;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, RFP applicants who did not receive funding were provided less than
4 a week to appeal the funding decisions; and

5 WHEREAS, The Youth Commission has historically partnered with many of the
6 aforementioned nonprofits and community-based organizations to ensure young San
7 Franciscans are connected with their government; and therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor and
9 Board of Supervisors to review and amend the proposed funding allocations in the
10 current Request for Proposals Awards from the Department of Children, Youth, and
11 Their Families to ensure adequate funding is provided to youth-serving nonprofits and
12 community-based organizations; and be it

13 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the
14 Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families to
15 explore additional revenue sources for the Children and Youth Fund, including an
16 increase in General Fund allocation, state and federal grants, and philanthropic
17 fundraising; and be it

18 FURTHER RESOLVED, That San Francisco Youth Commission staff are
19 instructed to distribute copies of this resolution to the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and
20 Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families.