MAYOR'S OFFICE OF INNOVATION: BUDGET COMMITTEE UPDATE

JANUARY 28,2026

The Mayor's Office of Innovation (MOI) is seeking BOS approval to accept and expend a $7M grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg's Investment in San Francisco

- Over the last decade, Bloomberg has provided grants to dozens of innovation offices and teams worldwide. The $7M for San Francisco will be the single largest grant they have ever awarded
- Bloomberg views San Francisco as its prime candidate to be the global "lighthouse model" of innovation by using new approaches to deliver outcomes for residents

Grant Details

- Amount: $7,000,000
- Term: January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028 [introduced on December 9, 2025]
- Match Requirement: 1/3 of grant size through general fund allocations to support projects and philanthropic fundraising
- Team size: 9 people – five existing positions and four new positions – plus one City funded position for a total of 10 people
  - 2 new service designers
  - 1 new product manager
  - 1 new data scientist

MOI uses new approaches to support the Mayor and Departments on delivering outcomes for residents

MOI's purpose is to achieve long-term strategic priorities by experimenting with and scaling new approaches and solutions that meet resident needs.

Our unique position enables us to

- Be strategic and long-term
- Focus relentlessly on 2-3 top City priorities with fewer political and operational distractions
- Conduct research and engage residents to understand the best ways to meet their needs
- Bring quantitative and qualitative data to identify the right solution
- Have freedom to experiment, which enables us to take risks, fail, iterate, learn, and improve
- Try out bold or new ideas, assess what works best, and facilitate long-term implementation

Our skillsets include

- Product management
- Research
- Management consulting
- Data science
- Human centered design
- Cross-sector partnerships
- Technology assessment and prototyping

The Mayor's Office of Innovation works across the City's key priorities

Homelessness, Health, and Family Services	Housing and Economic Development	Public Safety	Climate, Infrastructure, and Mobility	Strategy and Performance
Improve Street Conditions & Effective Government Services	Revitalize the Economy	Improve Street Conditions	Improve Street Conditions & Revitalize the Economy	Effective Government Services
"ASTRID 2.0": Data and Tech for Street Teams	Transformative Permitting Technology	Police Hiring	Transit Customer Experience	Outcomes-based Contracting
Benefits Experience		Violence Prevention	Budget Opportunities (e.g., Fares, Project Delivery)	Innovation Ecosystem (e.g., Open Innovation Challenge)
New Tools to Improve Affordability for Families				Performance Diagnostics

Policy Vertical

Mayoral priority supported by MOI

MOI project

MOI proposed/ exploratory project

Our projects focus on some of the City's most urgent challenges

Projects	Status	What Problems Are We Tackling?	What is MOI's Focus?
ASTRID 2.0	Ongoing	Homelessness and street conditions	Deploy data and technology solutions to deliver better services and outcomes on homelessness
Benefits Experience	Ongoing	San Franciscans at risk of losing food and healthcare benefits due to new federal work requirements	Use human-centered design and technology tools to sustain coverage for Medi-Cal and CalFresh recipients
Permitting	Ongoing	Slow, confusing, complex permitting processes for building homes and opening businesses	Implement centralized software that makes permitting simpler, more transparent, and faster
Police Hiring	Advisory role	500 police officer shortage affecting City progress on safe streets	Built integrated data pipeline to address bottlenecks, improved digital marketing to applicants, and applied human-centered design to accelerate hiring
Violence Prevention	Complete	Lack of leadership visibility into violent incident response and violence prevention	Developed shared outcomes and launched new reporting tools
Transit	Complete	$330M annual transit budget deficit	Deployed teams to respond proactively and visibly to rider feedback and offer a safe, cleaner, rider experience

In the last six months, our six-person team has delivered meaningful progress, but this is just the beginning

"ASTRID 2.0": Data and Tech for Street Teams

- Led RFI with 44 respondents and 16 vendors pitching in person to 40+ City staff
- Piloted 4 new technology partnerships to support homelessness response
  - ASTRID database and mobile app to coordinate client services
  - DPH treatment bed availability dashboard and booking tool
  - Accurate, efficient data collection with Code for America
  - High need client engagement system (could save $3.6M per year)

Benefits experience

- Identified four major staff and customer opportunities: awareness, information intake, work connections, and IT connectivity
- Planning 4-6 technology and process redesign pilots with HSA for Q1 2026
- Held preliminary conversations with 11 technology companies on potential partnerships

Permitting technology

- Leading delivery of City-wide, simple, transparent permitting system for applicants and staff
- Launching first phase of new application, review, and tracking system for Fire, Building, Special Events permits by February 2026

Police hiring

- Increased applications 50% year over year
- Reduced background check timelines by 40% and total hiring timelines by 66%
- Transformed officer hiring trajectory from -40 with attrition in 2024 to 40 in 2025
- Launched philanthropic partnership to further streamline background checks

Violence prevention

- Developed shared outcomes for violence response programs across 4 Departments
- Launched violence response dashboard to track interventions in 24-48 hour time frame

Transit

- Partnered with MTA to pilot rapid response teams to improve bus safety and cleanliness

Our new hires will both support existing projects and enable us to expand our impact across new projects

New Hire	Projects of Focus
Service Designer - Manager	**[New]** Reforming homelessness, food assistance, healthcare, and workforce contracts to deliver better outcomes for residents
Service Designer	**[Existing]** Improving cross-agency coordination and operations for homelessness response **[Existing]** Launching process improvements and new technologies to sustain Medicaid and SNAP benefits for recipients
Data Scientist	**[New]** Diagnosing pain points and underperforming areas on public safety **[New]** Piloting interventions for clean streets **[New]** Developing systems for on-time, on-budget transportation capital project delivery
Product Manager	**[New]** Launching an Open Innovation Challenge to engage residents, companies, nonprofits, and other community groups on clean, safe, thriving streets **[New]** Building partnerships that source the best talent and tools across sectors to help solve City challenges

MOI's work can deliver both better results for residents and support long-term City budget goals

- Police hiring overtime savings
- Long-term placements for high-need clients in homelessness system that reduces ER visits and hospital stays
- Better value for money in human and family services contracts
- On-time and on-budget transportation capital projects

We ask for your support and partnership on using new approaches to improve government service delivery for San Francisco!