

August 6, 2020

Budget and Appropriations Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Mayor's Proposed Budget -- Dept of Homelessness and Supportive Housing -- 120 Units of Permanent Supportive Housing for Transitional Aged Youth

Dear Chair Fewer and members of the Budget and Appropriations Committee,

The members of the Housing and Land Use Committee of the San Francisco Youth Commission request the allocation of 120 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) within the budget of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY, ages 18-24) experiencing homelessness.

In 2007, the Mayor's Office of Housing established a goal to create 400 units of PSH for TAY by 2015, a plan known as the 2015 TAY Housing Plan. As of 2020, five years past the deadline to complete the plan, HSH has still to identify 120 of those units, even though the City has committed to the Grand Challenge to End Youth Homelessness, a nationwide campaign to focus on solutions to homelessness for TAY as a priority in order to build tools to better serve the population experiencing homelessness at large. The Youth Commission has urged the City to invest in identifying and building out the remaining 120 units of PSH for TAY in the 2015 TAY Housing Plan in its annual Budget and Policy Priorities Report the past two years.

The Mayor's Proposed Budget submitted to the Board of Supervisors on July 31, 2020 "includes new revenue sources to acquire or lease 1,500 new units of Permanent Supportive Housing in the next two years, the largest one-time expansion in the City in 20 years." **We recommend that the Board specify that at least 120 of these 1,500 units be designated TAY-specific (less than 10%)**, in order to finally complete the 2015 TAY Housing Plan. Finally bringing 400 units of PSH for TAY online will still leave a gap in the needs of TAY experiencing homelessness, but it will finally fulfill the promise the City made to San Francisco's most vulnerable youth over a decade ago.

On top of this baseline ask, given that youth and TAY make 15% of the population experiencing homelessness according to the 2019 Point in Time Count, we recommend the City **explore allocating up to 15% of the 1,500 units (up to 225 units) over the next two years as TAY-specific units**, to bring the total number of units up to 505 units of PSH for TAY.

This **would not materially increase the budget of HSH over the next two years** since these budget modifications only involve specifying that some of the proposed units should be made targeted specifically to TAY.

We are available to meet with your offices to further explain and discuss this ask.

Commissioners Dong, Alameri, Hirji, Quick and Ty
San Francisco Youth Commission