



## SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY 2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLAN

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The mission of the Human Services Agency (SF-HSA) is to promote well-being and self-sufficiency among individuals, families and communities in San Francisco. In accordance with this mission, SF-HSA helps to shape public policy at the state and federal level through the development of an annual plan that identifies legislative priorities; through proactive collaboration with the Mayor's Office, other City departments, the City's lobbyists, community partners, and state, regional and other affinity groups; and through communication and outreach to elected officials and other decision makers. This document will serve as a framework to guide the Agency's advocacy on state legislative, regulatory and budget issues in 2011.<sup>1</sup>

### AGING & ADULT SERVICES & LONG TERM CARE

1. Support stable or increased funding for programs serving seniors and adults with disabilities.
2. Support legislation and regulation to protect elders and dependent adults from neglect and abuse including financial fraud. Specifically, support maintained or increased funding for the Adult Protective Services program. Also support legislation that enhances the program's ability to identify, investigate and respond to reports of abuse and neglect and provide appropriate services to elderly and disabled victims of abuse. Support proposals to create or strengthen fraud abatement programs such as statewide professional certification for brokers and marketers of annuities, reverse mortgages and other financial products to seniors.
3. [Support efforts to enroll more seniors in CalFresh, including selective repeal of California's "cash out" policy, whereby SSI/SSP recipients are ineligible for CalFresh benefits.](#)
4. Oppose proposals that further restrict eligibility and service levels in the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program, or that reduce state participation in provider wages and benefits. [Oppose implementation of the new requirement that IHSS recipients be fingerprinted.](#)
5. Support efforts to restore the Share of Cost Buy-out Program to enable more people to have access to IHSS and Medi-Cal.
6. Support efforts to maintain and if possible increase funding for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. The Ombudsman serves the most vulnerable clients in nursing homes and residential care, to investigate complaints, monitor facilities, advocate for better care, rights, and transition plans if desired by the resident. San Francisco's Ombudsman Program continues to operate with a severely reduced staff for more than 3,000 beds, not counting Board & Care, due to earlier budget cuts.
7. Support legislation to fully fund implementation of the Omnibus Conservatorship Act of 2006. This legislation merged three bills that promised to provide a number of important protections for extremely vulnerable populations and created new requirements for counties to accept additional court appointed cases and provide extensive additional reporting and deadlines that effectively doubled the workload for counties without providing the necessary additional funding, and imposed penalties if the new required reporting and timelines could not be met.

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<sup>1</sup> Items underlined and in blue font indicate revisions or additions as compared to HSA's 2010 plan.

8. Support proposals that increase funding for the entire spectrum of community-based long term care and expand access to community-based living options and services that allow seniors and people with disabilities to avoid institutionalization and receive appropriate levels of care and support in the community.
9. [Support proposals to fully fund rapid State implementation of the structure needed to support the 2011 authorized provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, such as the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports \(CLASS\) Act , the opt out payroll program for universal long term care insurance.](#)
10. [Support legislative and regulatory changes that increase the availability of local Medi-Cal Home and Community Based Services waivers, increase the value of non-distinct part waivers, and continue efforts to streamline the process for organizations becoming approved providers of waiver services. The State Nursing Facility/Acute Hospital Waiver \(NF/AH\) has combined three previous waivers and added 500 slots and new services for community transition, and habilitation to allow at-risk persons to remain in, or return to, the community by providing funding equal to the cost of institutionalization to be used for integrated services provided in a home and community environment. Currently waiver eligible persons leaving distinct-part facilities such as Laguna Honda Hospital can receive \\$77,600 per year in community services, and waiver eligible persons discharged from acute care facilities, who are at risk of institutionalization, may receive up to \\$48,000 per year in community based services. Support an increase in availability of waivers for persons exiting nursing homes other than Laguna Honda, as there is a significant wait list for that population. Increasing availability of waivers and waiver service providers, and increasing the value of non-distinct-part waivers will enable more persons to remain in the community rather than be institutionalized.](#)
11. Support legislative proposals that require comprehensive hospital discharge planning to ensure that individuals are discharged into appropriate settings where they will receive adequate care and support, and prevent exits to homelessness.
12. Support legislative and budgetary proposals that address the needs of the growing population of individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.
13. [Support restoration of funding for Community Services. Support efforts to restore funding for Linkages, Brown Bag, and Alzheimers Day Care. Increase funding for Alzheimers and Dementia support programs to keep pace with the growing population affected by these devastating diseases.](#)
14. Support legislation, budgetary proposals and regulatory changes that provide increased funding for Para-transit and funding of alternative transportation options for seniors and adults with disabilities.
15. Support proposals to provide flexible funding and loan assistance to support training, education and professional development for home care providers, social workers and other direct care providers in geriatric settings.
16. Support tax credits or deductions for senior home modifications, health insurance and family caregivers for seniors and adults with disabilities.

## **CALWORKS**

1. Support an adequate budget for the CalWORKs program that is based on actual costs, caseload projections and spending abilities across counties.
2. Support proposals that promote the ability of low-income families to increase their income, build and maintain assets, and attain self-sufficiency through employment services and other work supports.

3. [Co-sponsor legislation to enhance and expand subsidized employment opportunities for CalWORKs clients.](#)
4. Support legislative and budgetary proposals that will result in improvements to the state's TANF work participation rate, including implementation of the Work Incentive Nutritional Supplement program.
5. Support elimination of the CalWORKs 100-hour rule, which makes two-parent working families ineligible for aid if the principle wage earner works 100 or more hours per month.
6. Support legislation to make a vehicle exempt from the CalWORKs household property limit.
7. Oppose legislative and budget proposals that weaken the safety net for low-income families and children. [Specifically, oppose imposition of full family sanctions and time limits on CalWORKs safety net and child-only grants, both of which are pending implementation in July 2011.](#)
8. [Support proposals to implement semi-annual reporting in the CalWORKs program.](#)

## CHILD CARE

1. Support budget and legislative proposals that maintain or increase funding for child care, expand access to subsidized child care for working families and families on welfare, reimburse providers for their actual costs, and promote high quality child care programs through investments in the early education workforce, facilities and other quality improvement activities.
2. [Support restoration of \\$256 million in state funds for CalWORKs Stage 3 child care, including full reimbursement of local First Fives and counties that provided bridge funding to sustain the program. Over 1,200 low-income children in San Francisco lost access to a child care subsidy when Stage 3 care was eliminated.](#)
3. Oppose reduction in Regional Market Rate (RMR) payment ceilings. RMRs are based on surveys indicating 85% of the market. If a child care provider's rates are higher than the RMR ceiling the family must pay the difference. The market rate ceiling has been suppressed by the state to the 2004 survey results, therefore families are not accessing the market and are indirectly forced into license exempt care.
4. Support legislation and regulatory changes that improve continuity in eligibility for child care subsidy programs, thereby reducing disruptions in care. Specifically, advocate for continuity of care for children in locally-subsidized child care programs when they transfer from a local voucher into a state or federally-funded program. Advocate for continued eligibility for children in state programs, particularly infants and toddlers for the maximum federal eligibility period rather than continuous eligibility.
5. Support proposals to improve quality through the State Quality Planning Process created by the approval of SB 1629. Specifically, support moving toward a tiered reimbursement system over time which rewards quality and provides an incentive for parents to use quality providers.
6. Support proposals to adjust the Standard Reimbursement Rates (SRR) to account for regional differences in the cost of providing child care, and to implement catch-up and annual cost-of-living adjustments to the SRR.
7. Support increased funding for Community Care Licensing to improve frequency of site visits for monitoring compliance. California is last in the nation in center monitoring, with inspections currently conducted once every five years. CCL is currently not approving any new licenses.
8. Support regulatory and legislative proposals to better align the administration of child care subsidy programs under the Department of Social Services and the Department of Education. Specifically, align CalWORKs Stage 1 and Stage 2 administration in order to maximize ease of access and retention of child care subsidies for low-income families and to better support work participation; and streamline the

eligibility process for families who have existed aid by reducing the frequency and complexity of reporting and documentation requirements.

9. Support legislation to include child care in any disaster planning investments or initiatives. Specifically, permit Community Care Licensing and Child Care Resource and Referral agencies to share small family home information with local disaster planning agencies and other planning agencies in order to include small family child care homes in community planning for child care and in disaster preparedness planning, response and recovery.

## **CHILD WELFARE**

1. Support legislation that promotes child safety, reduces the number of children in long-term foster care, promotes adult connections and permanency, and helps foster children to sustain family ties.
2. Oppose reductions in Child Welfare Services (CWS) funding. Support legislation that requires the state to budget child welfare services in accordance with optimal caseload standards recommended by the SB 2030 CWS Stakeholders Group and adopt an appropriate methodology for budgeting to meet child welfare program requirements and outcomes.
3. Support restoration of the \$80 million in state general funds for child welfare services that was vetoed in the FY 09-10 and FY 10-11 budgets. San Francisco lost \$1.7 million annually as a result of this veto.
4. [Support restoration of \\$133 million in state general funds \(\\$70M for placement and at \\$53M for services\) for the provision of AB 3632 residential placements and mental health services for severely emotionally disturbed children.](#)
5. [Support clean-up legislation and the timely development of state regulations to guide the implementation of AB 12, which allows for federal participation in kinship caregiver payments and extends foster care and adoption services to age 21.](#)
6. Support stable or increased funding for the Transitional Housing Placement Program and the Transitional Housing Placement Program Plus for foster youth. [Ensure the adequacy of THP-Plus funding for former foster youth who opt out of extended care under AB 12.](#)
7. Support the expansion of educational opportunities and supports for current and former foster youth.
8. Support proposals that enhance foster and adoptive parent recruitment, retention and training.
9. Oppose reductions in payment rates for foster parents, legal guardians and adoptive parents.
10. Support extension or elimination of the sunset date on provisions of current law that allow counties to grant criminal record exemptions to prospective relative caregivers.
11. Support legislation that will result in timely permanence and stability for children, including proposals to reduce delays in administrative processes in the juvenile court and child welfare systems.

## **HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS**

1. Support legislative and budget proposals that enhance San Francisco's ability to provide integrated, appropriate and high quality housing and supportive services for the homeless and people at risk of homelessness.
2. Support proposals that would maintain and expand the supply of affordable housing in San Francisco.

## **CAL-FRESH (FOOD STAMPS) & NUTRITION**

1. Support legislative and budgetary proposals that expand access to nutrition benefits for low-income families and individuals, including former drug felons.
2. Oppose reductions in Food Stamp benefits for legal non-citizens and other low-income beneficiaries and oppose reductions in county funding to administer the Food Stamps program
3. Support legislation that allows counties to optimize their use of all available technology to make the Food Stamps program more efficient, accessible and customer friendly.
4. Support elimination of the requirement that Food Stamps clients be finger-imaged as a condition of receiving benefits.
5. [Support proposals to implement semi-annual reporting in the CalFresh program.](#)
6. [Support “express lane” proposals to expedite the enrollment of eligible public school students into the Food Stamps Program.](#)

## **MEDI-CAL & HEALTH CARE**

1. Oppose further reductions in Medi-Cal base funding, administrative allocations and caseload growth funding. Support reinstatement of annual cost-of-doing business increases for the Medi-Cal program. San Francisco’s Medi-Cal allocation has been reduced by \$7 million over the past two years.
2. Support legislation to increase the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Level (MNL), or to address the sudden and disproportionate increase in the Medi-Cal share of cost that can occur as a result of modest increases in income. The MNL is intended to establish a share of cost for Medi-Cal while allowing the beneficiary to retain enough income to meet basic needs, but because it has not been increased since 1989, it is now set at an inadequate level. As a result, low-income persons, particularly those who are on SSI, may lose their coverage or experience radical increases in their share of cost due to a slight increase in income.
3. Oppose proposals that restrict access to Medi-Cal coverage or reduce benefit levels for newly qualified immigrants, undocumented immigrants or individuals with PRUCOL status.
4. Support efforts to restore the Medi-Cal “Optional Benefits.” Dental, optical, audiological and podiatry services which were eliminated for the people most in need of them. These critical services can mean the difference between a senior being able to walk out of their apartment, hear or see an approaching car, or even be able to eat. The designation of “optional” is questionable when lack of maintenance of these basic abilities can be life threatening.

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

1. Support legislative and budget proposals that further San Francisco’s efforts to build a coordinated and integrated system for the delivery of workforce services.
2. Support expansion of workforce development efforts that help move low-income people toward self-sufficiency. Particularly support enhanced workforce services [and subsidized employment opportunities](#) for welfare-to-work clients and transitional aged youth.

## CROSS-PROGRAM PRIORITIES

1. Support cost-of-doing-business increases for county administrative allocations, and oppose proposals to further reduce allocations. Among other things, the state allocations that county welfare agencies receive pay for front-line staff who provide critical services to abused and neglected children, vulnerable senior and adults and other low-income populations. Current allocations are inadequate due to the fact that they have not received a cost of doing business increase since 2001, effectively freezing allocations in time while the cost of operating programs has continued to rise. The County Welfare Directors Association of California calculates that as a result, there is over a \$1 billion *annual* deficit in state funding for human service programs, \$31 million of which represents San Francisco's share.
2. Oppose any proposal that would reduce San Francisco's current Realignment funding allocation for health and human service programs. [Oppose any new realignment proposals that transfer additional responsibilities to local government without added flexibility, sufficient funding and a fair distribution of risk.](#)
3. Support proposals that reduce barriers to enrollment in human services programs and make it easier for families and individuals to retain benefits and receive services once they are found eligible. Examples include but are not limited to proposals that: enable the use of technology to facilitate program enrollment and service delivery; streamline or eliminate duplicative administrative procedures; and eliminate excessive documentation requirements.
4. Support restoration of IT hardware replacement funding for county social services agencies.
5. Oppose cuts targeted to programs that serve low-income immigrants, including the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants and the California Food Assistance Program.