



Department of Benefits  
and Family Support

Department of Disability  
and Aging Services

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**London Breed**  
Mayor

**Trent Rhorer**  
Executive Director

**Proclamation: Recognition of April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**WHEREAS**, child maltreatment impacts not just the child, but the family, the community, and society at large. The physical, mental, and emotional effects of maltreatment persist long after child maltreatment occurs and result in ongoing costs to society; and

**WHEREAS**, child abuse continues to be a persistent and pervasive problem in San Francisco with 4474 allegations of child abuse, and 346 substantiations in 2022. The cumulative financial impact to the San Francisco community for 441 verified child victims in 2021 was \$273,000,000. Abused children are more likely to experience negative educational, health, and behavioral outcomes, which contribute to many of San Francisco’s challenges, such as homelessness, chronic health issues, and high school dropout rates; and

**WHEREAS**, rates of both allegations and substantiation of child abuse disproportionately impact BIPOC families, requiring us to address long-standing issues of structural and systemic racism. Society has a moral and ethical obligation to protect families from unnecessary intervention of child welfare and ensure the availability of services and supports that strengthen all families; and

**WHEREAS**, direct investment in social programs for children and families and community protective factors--such as economic supports, community institutions and services, high quality childcare, and policies and educational campaigns that promote equity and inclusion and change social norms--prevent child abuse and provide short- and long-term benefits, far outweighing the overall cost of downstream interventions to address the costly results of child maltreatment and trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, effective prevention efforts succeed because of collaboration between community and public organizations, recognition of the strengths, experiences, and wisdom of families, and accessible, non-stigmatizing services. San Francisco has invested in several key prevention strategies, including the Family Resource Center Initiative, jointly funded by the Human Services Agency, First 5, and the Department of Child Youth and Families, and developing a Family First Prevention Services Act comprehensive prevention plan, in partnership with several other City and County agencies, multiple community-based organizations, Tribes, and caregivers and youth with lived expertise; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential to continue to invest in child abuse prevention and raise awareness about child abuse and the need to support all vulnerable children and their families. Healthy children and families create the foundation for communities to thrive; and



SAN FRANCISCO  
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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**NOW, THEREFORE,** We, the Human Services Commission, join with others, including the Human Services Agency and Safe & Sound, to recognize April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. We urge all San Franciscans to take shared responsibility for child and family well-being and for ensuring that every family has what they need to be safe, healthy, and strong.

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Scott Kahn  
President, Human Services Commission

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Date