

Approved: 5/14/10



Policy Education & Information Guidelines

Background

- The unique structure of the San Francisco Family Support Network as an organization comprised of Family Support Provider Members, Public and Private Funder Members, and Affiliate Members, requires special attention to its role in representing the breadth of San Francisco's Family Support field.
- The SFFSN promotes the development of policies that support San Francisco's families, which necessitates providing education and information to stakeholders, policy makers, elected officials, SFFSN members, and others about families' needs and potential strategies for addressing them.

Definitions¹

- Education - intends to spread knowledge and information, increase expertise.
- Information - intends to provide facts, data, analysis, implications.
- Input/Recommendations - intends to provide suggestions and ideas for how to address a situation.
- Advocacy - intends to persuade, is focused on a specific change of attitude, or behavior.
- Lobbying - intends to persuade, is focused on specific legislation.

Statement of Intention

The SFFSN seeks to operate within the parameters of 1.) providing Education and Information and 2.) providing Input/Recommendations on request.

Guidelines

1. **Advocacy:** The SFFSN does not engage in advocacy
2. **Lobbying:** The SFFSN does not engage in lobbying.
3. **Education and Information:** The SFFSN provides education and information to stakeholders, policy makers, elected officials, SFFSN members, and others about key issues affecting San Francisco's families.
4. **Input/Recommendations:** The SFFSN provides input into initiatives supporting or affecting families and provides recommendations on key issues **as requested**. Recommendations must be endorsed by the Steering Committee and/or Full Group and presented through written communication.
5. **Member Responsibilities:** The SFFSN supports members to understand and operate within appropriate advocacy parameters for their own organizations. SFFSN member organizations may choose to do their own advocacy or lobbying, which is beyond the parameters of the SFFSN's work.

¹ adapted from *United Nations Training Toolkit for Millennium Development Goals*