

Family Economic Success Policy Platform



2012

Executive Summary

Families with children are an essential part of San Francisco's social, economic and civic vitality. Yet, San Francisco has the lowest percentage of families with children of any city in the U.S.—according to the 2010 Census, only 14.6 percent of all San Francisco households include children under age 18. Between 2000 and 2010 the overall child population decreased by about 5%. Only 13.4 percent of San Francisco's population is under the age of eighteen, as compared to 21.3 percent in neighboring Oakland, 16.8 percent in Boston, and 15.4 percent in Seattle.

Further, one quarter of families with children report that they are likely to leave San Francisco within the next three years.¹ African American families are even more likely to leave, with 35% reporting they will do so. Families of all backgrounds have identified the high cost of living as one of the major factors limiting their ability to live in San Francisco.

The San Francisco Family Support Network (SFFSN) supports family retention by promoting strategies for families' economic stability, advancement and success. Family Economic Success is the ability of families to secure the financial resources to meet their needs and achieve their goals for themselves and for their children within one or two generations.²

The SFFSN seeks to raise awareness of the unique role the Family Support field can play to address Family Economic Success with a two-generation strategy that includes both parents and their children.

Working collaboratively, the SFFSN has identified actions for itself, state and local government, private foundations, community-based programs, and families themselves focused on:

- Helping families make ends meet
- Supporting families to build and protect assets
- Increasing families' incomes
- Promoting educational opportunities for families
- Increasing funding to support Family Economic Success efforts



Policy Strategies Summary

I. Helping Families Make Ends Meet

Objective 1: Increase access to public benefits and private money saving programs designed to help families make ends meet

Objective 2: Increase access to affordable child care and out-of-school time programs

Objective 3: Increase access to affordable family housing at all income levels

II. Helping Families to Build and Protect Assets

Objective 1: Promote family financial management through education

Objective 2: Increase opportunities for families with children to save for themselves and the next generation

Objective 3: Reduce or eliminate asset limits in programs that assist low-income families

III. Increasing Families' Incomes

Objective 1: Ensure that workforce development policies, programs, and strategies are family supportive

Objective 2: Support families in reducing their tax burden and maximizing their credits including the Earned Income Tax Credit, Working Families Credit, Child Credit/Additional Child Tax Credit, and the Child and Dependent Care Credit



IV. Promoting Educational Opportunities for Families

Objective 1: Increase school readiness, reduce early chronic absenteeism, and increase summer learning in order to increase grade level reading

Objective 2: Strengthen expanded learning opportunities for school-age youth before and after school

Objective 3: Increase the quality of public education through increased family engagement

Objective 4: Increase access to adult education and English-as-a-Second-Language education for parents

V. Increasing the Coordination and Quality of Families Economic Success Efforts

Objective: Support the coordination and quality of Family Economic Success efforts

¹ City Survey 2011, San Francisco Controller's Office. In a multi-lingual, random sample of families with children, 25% expressed likelihood to leave in the next three years, down from 31% in 2009.

² Judy Chenoweth for the California Family Resource Association.