



London N. Breed
Mayor

City and County of San Francisco
Department on the Status of Women



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 10, 2024

Working at the **intersection of health, safety, socioeconomics, politics and gender**, the Department on the Status of Women has an **expanded portfolio that prioritizes improving the whole lives of women, girls and nonbinary people** through three core service areas: **Health and Safety, Economic Security and Civic Engagement and Political Empowerment.**

With a focus on its three core service areas, the **Department serves as the City's Watch Dog and Accountability Partner on all issues related to gender parity; Chief Advocate for equity in service delivery, employment opportunities, leadership development and budget allocation; and Community Convener – bringing people together inside and outside the City to collaborate on ideas, strategy and impactful action to help San Francisco transform into a fully gender equitable City.**

Reorganized and reimagined to meet this post-Roe moment, today's Department on the Status of Women is one that is **human-centered, informed by data and infused with confidence, conviction and clarity of purpose.**

The items below **reflect the Department's work towards building a more diverse and efficient San Francisco City and County government through gender-responsive and racially equitable policies and programs.**

I. ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

- **Fiscal**

The Controller's Office announced that the San Francisco Budget system is now open, and the Department Stage for the FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 budget cycle is active. This marks the beginning of our budget preparation process for the upcoming two fiscal years. The Mayor's Policy Instructions and the Controller's Technical Instructions, which will guide our budget planning and submission, are expected to be announced and provided during the first week of December. These directives will inform our priorities and ensure alignment with the City's overarching goals. We will continue to provide updates on the budget process as additional information becomes available.

- **Grants Administration**
N/A

II. COMMISSION
N/A

III. COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- The Department recently launched its new website (dosw.org), which will serve as a central hub for all things DOSW - offering easy access to resources, programs, and our latest work. The site's revamped features include: a user-friendly design that makes finding the information you need easier than ever; a dedicated section to keep you updated on the latest reports, events, and initiatives; and resources to connect with local services, community programs, and support networks in San Francisco and the Bay Area. The new site reflects our commitment to ensuring that women, girls and nonbinary people have access to the information, tools and resources they need to create opportunities, build pathways to healthy and prosperous futures - and thrive!

IV. POLICY, PROGRAMS, EXTERNAL GRANTS & REPORTING

- **Policy & Legislation**
N/A

- **Program: Health & Safety**

The Department continues to support our current portfolio of Health & Safety grantees through FY24-25 at DOSW while looking ahead to the transition to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD). DOSW is also working with the Family Violence Council Tri-Chairs, and the Mayor's Office of Victim and Witness Rights (OVWR) to transition the Family Violence Council to the new office established by Proposition D to advance the rights of domestic violence survivors.

The mental health initiative, *Free Your Mind SF*, is working on the next pop-up in partnership with SF SafeHouse and San Francisco Women's Housing Coalition. This pop-up will focus on healthcare and resource navigation for women who experience housing instability, and sexual exploitation or trafficking, and will take place at the Hope Center in the Tenderloin District. Multiple smaller outreach events have taken place at senior centers, community centers, and at SF State School of Nursing.

- **Program: Economic Security**

The Department continues its collaboration with Indigenous Justice and the Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice's Cameo House for the Department's Economic Mobility Project. This project includes a guaranteed income (GI) pilot program and a microgrant initiative. With the Department's support, Indigenous

Justice launched its GI pilot program in May 2024, providing \$1,000 each month to support ten violence survivors. Similarly, Cameo House is supporting ten justice-impacted individuals with \$1,000 each month through this initiative. The program helps support the recipients for 12 months. Cameo House launched its Microgrant Program on September 18, while Indigenous Justice's program is ongoing. Both programs aim to assist low-income survivors of violence and justice-impacted individuals in San Francisco.

- **Program: Civic Engagement & Political Empowerment**
N/A

- **Strategic Initiatives**

The Department is grateful to Supervisor Catherine Stefani and the Board of Supervisors for passing new legislation to enhance security at reproductive healthcare clinics in San Francisco. Ensuring the safety of patients and providers is one of the key recommendations from our abortion landscape report, Preparing for an Uncertain Future in Post-Dobbs America. Additionally, the Department is planning its annual event to recognize the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision in January 2025.

- **SF Bay Area SOL Collaborative [CA Department of Social Services Grant]**

The SF Bay Area SOL (Safety, Opportunity and Lifelong Relationships) Collaborative continues to develop a continuum of care for youth involved in or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. This past month, the Department and collaborative partners participated in an Executive Forum on Human Trafficking through the Department of Justice to discuss trends, concerns and updates by various task forces, law enforcement agencies, and community-based organizations. Additionally, UC Berkeley, Human Rights Center released its third evaluation on the FAM (family & me) model, which focuses on providing placement support to families caring for youth at-risk of or experiencing commercial sexual exploitation. This is the first report to include caregiver and youth data. The link to the report can be found here:

<https://humanrights.berkeley.edu/publications/family-and-me-fam-2-0-a-new-model-of-foster-care-for-youth-impacted-by-commercial-sexual-exploitation-in-san-francisco-evaluation-3>.

Finally, one of the collaborative partners, Village is Possible, hosted its third Village Vibes event in San Francisco. The theme was Friendsgiving, which included a family feud-style Thanksgiving-themed game, a private chef and various wellness activities including a community village tree activity. Over 15 youth were in attendance. To see more, visit their TikTok account @village_is_possible.

- **Office on Violence Against Women [Department of Justice Grant]**

The Department is pleased to announce that the San Francisco District Attorney's

Office successfully participated in the comprehensive three-day Interpersonal Violence & Stalking Summit. This summit provided advanced training on investigating and prosecuting domestic violence and stalking cases. The attendance of a prosecutor from the District Attorney's Office highlights their dedication to improving expertise in addressing these sensitive and complex cases.

Additionally, the Department has submitted a Grant Award Modification request on behalf of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office. This request seeks approval to reallocate funds from the Victim Advocate position to the Prosecutor position, addressing an anticipated surplus in the current funding cycle. The reallocation will enhance the prosecutor's capacity to handle increasingly complex high-lethality Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) cases, especially those involving strangulation. These funds will support casework that relies on medical expert reports and testimony which are critical for the effective prosecution of such high-risk cases.

The funding adjustment will also improve the District Attorney's Office's efficiency in processing high-lethality cases. This includes strengthening coordination between medical experts and SFDA investigators, ensuring that expert testimony is seamlessly integrated into investigations and trials.

The Department would also like to note that the current grant from the DOJ's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is set to conclude at the end of December. In preparation, the Department anticipates a particularly busy month finalizing and submitting the final invoices for the DOJ's Federal Financial Report. Concurrently, the Department will complete the collection and submission of collaborative documents required for the Semi-Annual Progress Report.

While the conclusion of this grant is bittersweet, its impact has been profound. The funding has supported critical training programs and established essential protocols that have strengthened our City's response to interpersonal violence. The legacy of this grant will continue to inform and enhance our efforts for years to come.

- **HEALing Roots Collaborative [Blue Shield of California Foundation Grant]**
In addition to the [HEALing Roots Podcast](#) series, the HEALing Roots Collaborative is working to host a convening of domestic violence service providers and City leaders with the goal of forging lasting partnerships between these stakeholders. This convening will allow domestic violence service providers, with the assistance of the Department, to pose the question to City departments as to how they consider domestic violence in their everyday operations and how they can better serve survivors in all areas of public service.

V. RESEARCH & DATA/ PROJECTS, STRATEGIC LEARNING & CAPACITY BUILDING

- **Research & Data**

- The Department is in the data analysis stage for the even-year Gender Analysis of Public Art, Streets, Buildings, and Parks. This report focuses on the representation of women in public-facing art and the names of buildings, streets, and parks across San Francisco. It will measure how close the City has come to its critical 30% representation mandate and serve as an important advocacy tool for increasing the representation of women in public spaces.
- The Department continues to prepare the 2024 Human Trafficking in San Francisco Report. This report provides a comprehensive overview of human trafficking in San Francisco and utilizes data from various law enforcement and NGO sources. This year's report incorporates data from eighteen organizations and agencies from 2022 and 2023, indicating a notable increase in participation compared to the previous 2021 report, which only had eight participating organizations. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors Budget and Legislative Analyst released a policy analysis report this past month recommending policy options on anti-human trafficking initiatives within the City and County of San Francisco. Some of the recommendations included:
 - i. San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) should consider increasing dedicated staffing for human trafficking cases
 - ii. San Francisco District Attorney's Office should strengthen the collaboration with SFPD through joint training sessions, regular case reviews and coordinated task forces.
 - iii. The new Mayor's Office of Victim and Witness Rights (OVWR) should reignite and administer the Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking, develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the Task Force, co-locate anti-trafficking services, and improve data reporting
 - iv. Department on the Status of Women should support the transition of the Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking to OVWR as well as work on developing a sustainability plan for the long-term viability of anti-trafficking programs, including the SF SOL Collaborative.
 - v. Department of Public Health (DPH) should evaluate healthcare provider training and the massage program.
 - vi. Office of Labor Standards Enforcement (OLSE) should develop labor trafficking protocols and engage in interagency coordination
 - vii. The link to the report can be found here:
<https://sfbos.org/sites/default/files/BLA.HumanTrafficking.103024.pdf>
- Finally, the Department has completed its first quarter of data collection in the Envisio data collection system. Envisio helps the Department administer the quarterly reports it receives from grantees and improves our ability to use the data in these reports. We are excited to report this will be the second year of data collection through the Envisio system.

VI. GENERAL UPDATES

N/A

VII. SPECIAL EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

N/A

VIII. DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

December

Tuesday, December 10

Wednesday, December 25

Regular Commission Meeting

Christmas Holiday

January 2025

Tuesday, January 14

Wednesday, January 29

Annual Commission Winter Retreat

(Located @ 25 Van Ness, Conference Rm, 610)

Regular Commission Meeting