

Funding Programs Serving Children, Youth, and Families*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Final Digest
On: Monday, July 29, 2024
Members: Packard, Anderson, Wong, Troy, Wang

The Way It Is Now: The City funds services for children, youth and their families through the Children and Youth Fund, the Public Education Enrichment Fund and the Student Success Fund, and other programs.

The San Francisco Unified School District (School District) is separate from the City and operates the San Francisco public school system. The School District receives some funding from the City.

Children and Youth Fund

The Children and Youth Fund supports services for children and youth through 24 years of age. The Charter requires the City to contribute a dedicated portion of annual property tax revenues to this fund. The City uses these funds to provide services, including child care, health services, job training, social services, educational, recreational and cultural programs, and delinquency prevention services. The City must spend more than the amount it spent in Fiscal Year 2000-2001 to fund these services. The amount spent in Fiscal Year 2000-2001 is referred to as the “Children and Youth Fund Baseline.”

Public Education Enrichment Fund

The Public Education Enrichment Fund (PEEF) supports early childhood education programs and general education programs, including art, music, sports and libraries. The Charter requires the City to contribute a certain amount to this fund each year, adjusted annually. The City must spend more than the amount it spent in Fiscal Year 2002-2003 to fund these services. The amount spent in Fiscal Year 2002-2003 is referred to as the “PEEF Baseline.” In addition to the required PEEF funding, the Board of Supervisors and Mayor may provide additional funding to the School District.

Student Success Fund

The City grants money from the Student Success Fund to the School District and individual schools for programs that improve student academic achievement and social/emotional wellness. The Charter requires the City to contribute money to the fund each year through Fiscal Year 2037-2038. In Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the City must place \$35 million into this fund. That amount will continue to increase each year, though the City may place less money in the fund under certain circumstances.

The Proposal: Proposition __ is a Charter amendment that would change the way the City evaluates funding for services to children, youth and their families by monitoring outcomes.

Proposition __ would create an Our Children, Our Families Initiative (OCOF Initiative), led by the Mayor and the Superintendent of the School District and staffed by employees of the City and School District, to ensure that related funds are used effectively. This group would evaluate expenditures from the Children and Youth Fund and the PEEF and would prepare an annual report for the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, who must approve these expenditures as part of the budget process.

Proposition __ would require the School District to report on PEEF funds and spending to the OCOF Initiative each year. Every five years, the School District must submit a proposal describing how it plans to use these funds. The City’s future contributions to the School District from the PEEF depend on their review and approval of the School District’s proposal.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

Money spent from the Student Success Fund cannot replace money that is included or partially included in the Children and Youth Baseline, the PEEF Baseline or other similar provisions.

Proposition __ would not change the minimum contributions by the City to the Children and Youth Fund, the PEEF or the Student Success Fund.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to create an Our Children, Our Families Initiative to ensure that related funds are used effectively.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.