



City and County of San Francisco  
Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

## San Francisco Department of Public Health

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Director of Health

### Director's Report for Health Commission Meeting of

June 3, 2014

*A current overview of issues affecting the state of public health in San Francisco*

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/dirRpts/default.asp>

#### **Mayor Lee Presents Proposed Balanced Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 & 2015-16**

Mayor Edwin M. Lee presented his proposed two-year balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15 and 2015-16. The Mayor's proposal balances a two year budget that closes budget deficits of \$66.7 million in FY 2014-15 and \$133.4 million in FY 2015-16. To deliver this two-year consensus budget proposal, Mayor Lee worked with the Board of Supervisors and heard directly from residents and community leaders in their districts, held an online budget town hall, and met with hundreds of residents, nonprofit organizations, City Commissioners, labor organizations, business owners, and advocates to discuss priorities and address concerns.

Mayor Lee's two-year budget invests in people who live, work and visit San Francisco; protects the social safety net and supports seniors, youth and residents who need it the most; invests in housing, transportation and affordability for low-income and working class families; and supports the City's critical infrastructure and thriving diverse neighborhood corridors.

This budget balances the prosperity of the economic boom with realities faced by San Franciscans by proposing smart, responsible, and targeted investments to make San Francisco a better and more affordable place to live and work for everyone. This includes investments in:

- Housing Opportunities for All San Francisco Residents
- Increasing the Minimum Wage
- Service Increases to Make San Francisco More Livable
- Maintaining and Improving Our City's Social Safety Net
- Safe, Reliable, and Affordable Transportation
- Investing in Children and Families
- Long-Term Financial Sustainability

In addition to making strategic one-time investments, this budget also continues to grow the City's reserves to offset the impact if an economic downturn does occur. Consistent with the City's Financial Policies, the City's reserves for economic stabilization will also grow over the next two years. By the end of FY 2015-16 the City projects to have \$234.9 million across its General Reserve, Budget Stabilization Reserve and Rainy Day Reserve. These reserves function

as the City's savings account; protecting the City's budget and service levels from economic uncertainty. In 2013, the ratings for City's General Obligation bonds were upgraded by Standard & Poor, Fitch, and Moody's; all three agencies noted the City's strong financial performance, growing reserves, and increasingly responsible financial practices as the reasons for their upgrades.

The City Charter requires that the Mayor submit a balanced budget proposal by the first working day in June. Mayor Lee will continue to work with the Board of Supervisors to develop the best balanced budget for the City and County of San Francisco over the next month.

### **Single Room Occupancy HIA Project**

All San Franciscans should have access to safe and healthy living environments. Single room occupancy (SRO) hotels make up the largest supply of low-cost housing for our most vulnerable neighbors. In September 2013, the San Francisco Health Commission passed a resolution to improve the health of SRO residents. The resolution requested that the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Program on Health, Equity, and Sustainability (PHES) carry out a health impact assessment (HIA) to evaluate conditions to improve the health of residents in SROs. This HIA is an opportunity to build on existing policy research, learn from diverse stakeholders and elevate collective problem solving efforts. SFDPH will draw on over a decade of HIA practice to examine healthy policy solutions. As part of this process, we have been convening key stakeholders in a collective, public/private multi-agency approach to improve the health of residents in SROs and as part of this process we have already:

- Conducted over 20 key informant interviews to understand potential issues that could be addressed at a policy level. The result was the "Key Informant Interview Summary Report", which details the findings from those interviews
- Convened a SFDPH advisory committee with 17 staff members representing clinics, Behavioral Health, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Housing and Urban Health and Placement
- Convened a non-profit stakeholder advisory committee with representatives from thirteen diverse community based organizations.

In early June, we will be convening a multi-city agency advisory committee group to identify key issues and support health-oriented planning and policy. The output from this meeting, along with the SFDPH and non-profit advisory group meeting feedback, will be analyzed to select our policy solutions for our HIA. Over the summer, we will identify and evaluate policy options that improve health and minimize negative health impacts. Based on our assessment, we will prioritize action-oriented policies and provide decision-makers with a set of evidence-based recommendations that will most improve the health of residents in SROs. A final report will be issued in the fall of 2014.

### **The 25th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Hepatitis C Virus: Looking Back to Look Forward**

Dr. Philip Coffin with the Center for Public Health Research within the Population Health Division has been selected to present on Hepatitis C at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Grand Rounds. Dr. Coffin, MD, MIA, will be speaking on "Steps toward Ending Hepatitis C in the U.S." The Rounds will take place Tuesday, June 17 at 1:00 p.m., EST at the CDC Campus Global Communications Center.

## **US Department of Health and Human Services Lifts Medicare Ban on Sexual Reassignment Surgery**

On Friday, May 30, 2014, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ended a 33-year ban on using Medicare to cover gender reassignment surgery. Ruled by an HHS independent board, the decision responds to a 2013 lawsuit filed on behalf of Denee Mallon, 74, a transgender woman and army veteran from Albuquerque, New Mexico. While Medicare is only for individuals age 65 and older and people with disabilities, private insurance plans often look to Medicare for guidance on what should be considered medically necessary treatment. As a result, the HHS decision may put pressure on more insurance providers to cover gender reassignment surgery. Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program, already covers some gender reassignment procedures.

## **Chinatown Health Center Graduation**

Chinatown Public Health Center graduated over 70 families at the May 10th We Can!® Chinese Families graduation at Chinatown YMCA. Assemblyman Phil Ting and the SF Board of Supervisors presented certificates to honor the Chinese We Can campaign, commending them for advocating healthy eating and active living in the Chinese community. The campaign graduated over 550 families. The We Can!® workshops inspired the participants to adopt healthy eating and active lifestyles by empowering them with 10 healthy skills, including: eat a balanced diet, more fruits and vegetables, choose low-sugar and low-fat foods, limit portion sizes, "Choose MyPlate," increase physical activity, limit sugar-sweetened beverages, reduce screen time, read food labels, and cook healthily. Three "Champions for Change" moms shared the healthy changes they made for themselves and their families, and their strategies on how to shop, cook, eat and drink wisely.

## **June is World Refugee Awareness Month**

Since the mid-1970's, San Francisco has become home to over 50,000 refugees from countries throughout the world. More recently, the City has seen an increase in individuals and families seeking asylum status. In the past year, over 250 refugees and asylees from over 34 countries have received services through the collaborative services of Newcomers Health Program and Family Health Center's Refugee Medical Clinic.

Community Health Equity & Promotion's Newcomers Health Program and Family Health Center's Refugee Medical Clinic are celebrating "Refugee Awareness Month" as an opportunity to recognize the many contributions refugees have made to the City, and the challenges they have overcome. These programs are also celebrating 34 years of collaboration responding to and supporting refugee health in San Francisco. On Friday, June 20, World Refugee Day, Newcomers Health Program will celebrate with community partner Arriba Juntos and others with an afternoon of food, presentations, booths, music, and a talent show with prizes.

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The Whistleblower Program, operated by the Controller's Office, receives complaints regarding the misuse of City funds, improper activities by City officers and employees, deficiencies in the quality and delivery of government services, and wasteful and inefficient City government practices. There are a number of ways to file a complaint. Go to [www.sfcontroller.org](http://www.sfcontroller.org) and click on the Frequently Requested tab to access the Whistleblower complaint instructions in the drop down menu.