

# **BRING SAN FRANCISCO HOME**

## **Ending Homelessness for San Franciscans**

### **A Bold Direction**

#### **Solving Homelessness in San Francisco** *Implementing Our Collective Vision*

We believe in a San Francisco that is thriving, vibrant and where no one is forced to witness or experience sleeping on the hard, cold concrete. Our vision is a San Francisco that prevents homelessness whenever feasible – be that a temporary subsidy for someone who loses their income due to an illness, or a long-term subsidy for an elder who loses the income of their family member to death, or a tenant who is being illegally evicted and simply needs legal representation. A San Francisco where episodes of homelessness that are not preventable, such as those caused by the recent fires or other unforeseeable events, are addressed quickly with immediate placement in shelter and housing is secured within six months, before the damaging effects of homelessness truly take root.

#### *Goals in a nutshell*

- Prevent homelessness for 7k households per year*
- End Chronic Homelessness for 3K*
- End Family Homelessness for 1k households*
- End Youth Homelessness for 800*
- Eliminate waitlist for shelter for single adults*
- Address all severe homeless mental health and substance abuse illness*

#### ***Why Now? We Have a Magical Moment***

San Francisco is at a precipice – deep into a housing crisis that exists within great wealth and economic fuel. Residents more than ever are motivated to see homelessness addressed as property values and rents skyrocket. Housing-insecure renters see

themselves in the faces of those on the streets. Homeowners have spent small fortunes to acquire property. Yet homelessness is more visible than ever with the proliferation of tents throughout the city, and the visible deterioration of those forced to stay on the streets.

Raising revenue to address homelessness has been a great challenge given California's restrictive laws governing raising revenues that require 2/3rds approval of voters for any special tax that is dedicated to a particular use. In November 2016, the city attempted a split measure with a sales tax increase and then a separate measure that dictated where funds would go if the sales tax passed. The sales tax failed. Another measure addressing arts and family homelessness failed to get the 2/3rds necessary, losing by just 2 points.

We have a magical moment. The California Supreme Court ruled that special taxes put on the ballot by voter initiative are only required to have 50% plus 1 of the votes to pass. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association is expected to go to the November ballot to overturn that decision, so we have window of opportunity now to garner revenue. At the same time, President Trump is giving massive tax breaks to corporations that are broadly opposed by San Francisco voters.

This is a rare and historical moment where conditions are in place to effect great change and end homelessness for thousands of San Franciscans.

### ***How would the Measure Address Homelessness?***

We recognize that housing is the primary solution to homelessness, and we must invest in it. However, while housing is being developed, our emergency system is far too small, and the health of San Franciscans is degenerating without a roof over their head or access to water. The measure would pay for homelessness prevention; permanent housing subsidies, housing trusts, acquisition, and rehabilitation with most of the funds. The remaining funds shall be used on emergency services including expansion and improvement of current shelters, expansion of navigation centers, street based mental health treatment, and hygiene's centers, until that point where the shelter system is adequate to support the need. This measure creates a baseline, where new revenue cannot replace current funding.

### ***Outline of Need***

There are about 7,000 homeless people at any one time in our city. Over the course of the year, according to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, there are approximately 21,000 people who experience homelessness. According to the last homeless count, about 41% of the population became homeless within the past year. This includes families, youth, single adults and elders. This includes people doubled up, staying in hotels, on the streets, in tents, in shelters or in parks. In anyone year, the city places about 800 people in housing, and with other interventions including homeward bound, local subsidies, federal housing vouchers and public housing

placement about 2,500 households will exit homelessness next year due to CCSF efforts. This has added up to only a slight increase in homelessness over time, making an unacceptable situation worse. This measure would dramatically alter the landscape of San Francisco, and not only transform the lives of thousands of homeless people but would decrease the costs associated with police responding to homeless complaints, and health care costs.

According to the DSHH, in order to reduce chronic homelessness by 50% we would need 850 units on top of the unfunded 800 in development, as well as 70 additional housing ladder units, 850 problem solving units, and 360 rapid re-housing units. We want to eliminate chronic homelessness, and address homelessness before health outcomes are decimated by extensive homelessness. We are also supportive of permanently expanding our shelter system by 1,000 beds. In addition, this measure would expand the mental health system and address youth and family homelessness.

## ***Bring San Francisco Home Initiative Breakdown of Uses of New Revenue***

Establish baseline for homeless funding set at current levels at time of passage.

### Housing

50% or \$180 million

This would pay for construction, rehab, prevention and operating subsidies of approximately 4,000 units of housing for homeless adults and youth over time.

20% for youth

25% for families

No more than 6% or \$20 million for time limited subsidies = 360 units of rapid re-housing subsidies

### Prevention

12% or \$40 million = 7,000 households assisted with of prevention and diversion

### Shelter

10% or \$30 million = 1,075 new shelter beds/navigation center beds and drop-ins/bathrooms/showers.

### Mental Health

25% or \$80 million = New peer/clinical program that includes intensive wrap around mental health outreach, treatment, drop in, housing lineage targeting most severely mentally ill homeless people.

### Admin

3% or \$7 million = Administration Costs

Total: \$340,000,000

## ***How would it be paid for?***

This would tax SF businesses earning over \$50 million an average of .5% or \$5 per \$1,000 annually or \$500 per million, which would bring in over \$340 million. (Rate changes according to industry and is a marginal rate. This measure would increase revenue to the City by increasing the city gross receipts tax by increasing schedules across the board, with a focus on making up lost revenues through the Trump tax break. The Trump tax break reduces federal business tax from 35% to 21%, and this would be a small portion of those savings. This would capture those dollars no longer being collected by the federal government and redirect them towards solving homelessness.

*Where would we find the housing?  
Here is one sample plan:*

	<b>Units</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
Rapid Rehousing (annual)	500	\$40,000	\$20,000,000
Nonprofit PSH - pipeline	1500	\$33,000	\$49,500,000
Nonprofit PSH - new	500	\$33,000	\$16,500,000
Master leased	1000	\$39,000	\$39,000,000
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	500	\$40,000	\$20,000,000
	4000		\$145,000,000