

City & County of San Francisco  
Homelessness Oversight Commission  
Resolution No. 24-008  
February 20, 2024



**Resolution Recommending that the Mayor Maintain the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing Budget to Sustain the Positive Progress**

Whereas, in July of 2023 Mayor London Breed issued San Francisco's first Strategic Plan, through the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) launched a five-year strategic plan for 2023-2028 to significantly reduce the number of people who are unsheltered by 50% and reduce the total number of people experiencing homelessness by 15 percent.

Whereas, in its first year, progress and momentum has been achieved reflecting the Strategic Plans core values of equity, quality and innovation; and

Whereas, in the fourth quarter of 2023 Coordinated Entry data found that, likely for the first time 40% of Coordinated Entry Clients were African American and 40% of the housing placements were African American addressing the overrepresentation of Black and Latino people among those experiencing homelessness; and

Whereas, over 2,248 households have been served by the San Francisco Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) average assistance being \$6,382 and total distributed \$14.3m from March of 2023 to January of 2024 preventing evictions for a population where 83% are below 30% of Area Median Income (AMI), 66% had experienced homelessness, 72% were at risk of displacement and 77% identified as people of color; and

Whereas, the vacancy rate for San Francisco's 9,046 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) has reduced from 11.6% in January of 2023 to 7.1% in January of 2024; and

Whereas, the occupancy rate for shelters for single adults is 91% and, following implementing same day referrals family shelter occupancy increased to 96% reflecting the Strategic Plan's mandate to generate and use consistent and reliable data to assess and improve performance, identify gaps in capacity and address disparities; and

Whereas, all of this progress and improvement requires that San Francisco maintain focus and commit necessary funding to achieve Strategic Goals by June 2028 including reducing the number of people who are unsheltered by 50%, increasing the number of people exiting homelessness by at least 30,000; and

Whereas, supportive housing is an essential component of the Home by the Bay strategic plan, further investments must be made to ensure the sustainability and capacity of the model.

Whereas HSH has made progress in investing in the capital needs of the legacy portfolio of supportive housing, continued and increased investments are necessary to promote equitable conditions across the portfolio and sustain the City's investment.

Whereas HSH has been successful in decreasing the vacancy rate to 7.1% through focused interventions such as the Streets to Home program, these advances will not continue without continued investment in the interventions to support residents with higher levels of acuity.

Whereas a robust workforce is critical to ensure the functioning of the homelessness response system, and the prevalence of BIPOC individuals with lived experience in that workforce, increased investment in wage equity is required.

Whereas, funds for unhoused young people and families cannot be cut or reduced to balance the city budget and that significant additional investments are needed to ensure unhoused youth and families with dependent children needs are met; and

Whereas, ongoing funding for unhoused young people and families must come from general funds, not from one-time funds; and

Whereas, general funds should be reallocated from other departments in order to fully fund the HSH budget so that progress on Home By the Bay objectives can be sustained, including all youth, family, and adult interventions including shelter, transitional, supportive, and subsidy-based housing, support services.

Be it resolved that the Homelessness Oversight Commission recommends that Mayor London Breed maintains the HSH budget.

Be it further resolved, by maintaining the current budget we will be able to sustain the positive progress achieved so far and continue advancing towards the goals of the Home by the Bay Strategic Plan.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Homeless Oversight Commission at its February 16, 2024, meeting adopted the foregoing resolution.

*Bridget Badasow*

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Homelessness Oversight Commission Manager