

PROTECTING SAN FRANCISCO'S MOST VULNERABLE IN A TIME OF CRISIS

THE CRISIS

1. An unprecedented and shocking \$15 million in city services to children & youth are immediately at risk in the Mayor's budget plan, placing thousands of San Francisco children and young people in danger. [we will learn specifics of the DCYF budget cut plan on Thursday night]
2. There is a proposed June ballot measure that could all but eliminate the entire \$40 million Children's Fund and the \$60 million Prop H/Public School Enrichment Fund, which together support well over half of all kids in the city!
3. The recession is already hitting San Franciscans with children hard – budget cuts will lead to greater desperation. Thousands of working parents are reaching the end of their rope, trying to put food on the table and keep a roof over their children's head. The city's family shelters are suddenly overcrowded as 10,000 more San Franciscans were reported unemployed last month and 1000 families have lost their homes to foreclosure.

THE SOLUTION

1. We want San Franciscans to speak up for our values, and San Francisco's elected leaders to live up to them. In San Francisco we believe in the special vulnerability of children and youth and the special need to invest in their safety, their health and their future opportunities in life. Balancing the budget is a legal requirement; living up to our values is a moral one.
2. We want Mayor Newsom and the Board of Supervisors to fight like hell to protect the special safety net 'set-asides' for our children – the Children's Fund and the Prop H Fund for Public Education. Set-aside reform should move forward, but not at the expense of a safety net for kids. We expect city decision makers to act as responsibly as the city's parents do -- in tough times we will feed growing children before we feed ourselves.
3. To solve the budget crisis, those with the most must shoulder the burden before our children suffer one bit. Cutting the highest paid city managers, eliminating every single perk and inefficiency, and raising tax revenue to protect the city's most vulnerable is the responsible and morally right thing to do.
4. Community providers are willing to share the pain – but the city must partner with us to help make tough budget choices. We know what works, how services can be streamlined, and what kind of cuts would cause the least harm. We have developed guidelines for Department decision-making. Don't force us just to react to poorly thought-out decisions.
5. We want Mayor Newsom to show up and get serious about running the city instead of running for Governor. The entire city is in crisis and where is he?
6. We need strong leadership at DCYF – with the firing of Margaret Brodtkin, we need a new advocate for our kids to protect and build San Francisco's safety net for kids in city government. [We have no way to know if Maria Su is just temporary and we fear she is.] As the communities impacted by DCYF's funding and policy decisions, we must be included in the decisions about its future.