

Our Children, Our Families Council
Summary of SF Family Economic Success Coordinating Council
April 30, 2015

Goals of the Effort

The SF Family Economic Success (FES) Coordinating Council's goals are to:

- Promote cross-fertilization of ideas and learning across key FES stakeholders
- Identify effective strategies for FES
- Track FES resources and initiatives
- Identify gaps or ways to improve the utilization of available resources or services
- Enhance site certification program, providing sites with ongoing support and publicizing the program

The Council focuses on six priorities to aid low-income families in San Francisco in finding economic success:

1. **Expand Training & Technical Assistance on Available Economic Supports:** Invest in technical assistance and training to enhance the capacity of community-based organizations and City agencies to connect low-income families with economic supports, city programs and services, and keep families abreast of new public benefits.
2. **Leverage Local & Federal Tax Credits & Free Tax Preparation:** Support and expand the reach of the Working Families Credit Program and free tax preparation services so as to increase the take-up rate of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, and link working families with other benefits and services.
3. **Develop Web-Based Benefits Applications:** Support the continued development of web-based approaches to increasing the utilization of key public benefits (including *BenefitsSF*) and engage networks of community-based organizations in their use via outreach, education, and the provision of application assistance.
4. **Advance Safe Financial Services and Education:** Connect San Franciscans to safe financial products, such as low-cost checking and savings accounts, direct deposit, and low-interest rate small dollar loans. Combat predatory lending like payday and refund anticipation loans. Connect families with appropriate financial education, credit and debt counseling, and foreclosure prevention services.
5. **Increase Employer Participation:** Encourage San Francisco employers to connect eligible workers to federal, state, local and private income benefits, tax credits and payments, community resources, non-predatory financial products and services, and worksite financial education.
6. **Connect Workforce Development and Income Supports:** Maximize the utilization of an array of economic supports among participants in local workforce development programs.

Focal Population of the Effort

The council's work is focused on low-income families throughout San Francisco

Impact

The Council develops trainings with a particular focus on family economic success. The Family Support Network then executes these trainings. The council also developed an FES site certification program. Family resource sites are certified if they have gone through all eight of the FES trainings. The certification ensures they are qualified to navigate the system. The Council developed a resource map to show which sites have been certified.

The greatest strength of the group is having the right people around the table.

Challenges

The Council faces the common challenge of sustaining the energy of its members.

Origins of the Effort

The FES Coordinating Council was founded in 2007 to be a unique collaboration of public agencies, private funders, and city-wide nonprofits committed to improving the economic well-being of low-income families in San Francisco.

Leading the Effort

The Council is co-chaired by Andrew Russo of the Family Support Network and Leigh Philips of the Office of Financial Empowerment at the Office of the San Francisco Treasurer.

Members of the Effort

The FES Coordinating Council is currently comprised of nine members:

- First 5 San Francisco
- SF Human Services Agency
- Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
- Office of Financial Empowerment, Office of the San Francisco Treasurer
- San Francisco Family Support Network
- Tax-Aid
- United Way of the Bay Area
- Mission Asset Fund
- Mission Economic and Development Agency

Structure of the Effort

The Family Support Network serves as the backbone of the FES Coordinating Council. The Council meets every other month and has about 60-70% of its members in attendance. The group communicates by email.

The Role of Data

The FES Coordinating Council uses economic data collected by the Human Services Agency to guide its work.

Related Documents

- More information about the FES Coordinating Council can be found at <http://sffsn.org/policy-planning>.
- FES Certified Sites list
- FES Certified Sites map
- FES overview memo