

City and County of San Francisco



Edwin M. Lee, Mayor

Human Services Agency

Department of Human Services
Department of Aging and Adult Services

Trent Rhorer, Executive Director

November 21, 2016

A message from the San Francisco Human Services Agency to our community partners:

In the aftermath of such a divisive Presidential election, many of us are feeling a sense of anxiety, fear and speculation about how we can move forward to best protect and serve our communities.

We want to make clear that at this point in time, **there are absolutely NO changes to any of the vital programs** administered by the Human Services Agency's (HSA) three departments: the Department of Human Services, the Department of Aging and Adult Services and the Office of Early Care and Education. Our social safety net and protective services remain intact.

The values of respect, diversity, integrity, partnership and commitment to serve define the City of San Francisco and empower us to uphold and defend the programs entrusted to our care for our most vulnerable citizens. Mayor Lee has reinforced his resolve to ensure that San Francisco will continue to lead on Human Rights, remain a Sanctuary City and provide affordable healthcare for all. Many questions remain unanswered about the long-term future of our services. However, it is important to note that none of our programs can be singlehandedly dismantled by a Presidential Executive Order. Any changes would require specific acts of Congress. Even with the very real threats to reform or repeal the Affordable Care Act, we are hopeful that critical pieces of this health program that now insures 20 million Americans will continue.

We are proud that nearly one in four San Franciscans now has access to high-quality healthcare through the expansion of Medi-Cal under the Affordable Care Act. Similarly, California's CalFresh program leverages federal funding to help bring more healthy food to the tables of nearly 50,000 San Franciscans who receive nutritional benefits each month. Dismantling these programs runs counter to healing the wounds of a divided nation and cannot simply fall into place without opposition from elected officials at the local, state, and national levels and a very large constituency of Americans.

In the coming months and years, we may very well need your support in protecting the services we have come to depend on. But for now, we remain open for business as usual. Our staff is more focused than ever on HSA's mission to promote well-being and self-sufficiency among individuals, families and communities in San Francisco.

We invite you to join us in a renewed effort to strengthen our community partnerships as we implement innovative strategies to reach all eligible populations, renew benefits for existing clients and keep the community informed about any impending changes to our services.

Sincerely,

Trent Rhorer
Executive Director,
Human Services Agency

Shireen McSpadden
Executive Director,
Department of Aging and Adult Services

September Jarrett
Director,
Office of Early Care and Education

The San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA) remains committed to providing assistance to all families, single adults, the disabled and seniors through cash assistance, food and nutritional support, health insurance (Medi-Cal), employment training, child care subsidies, in home care, and supportive housing, among other services. For more information, please visit, www.sfhsa.org

Affordable Healthcare for Californians

The Medi-Cal public health insurance program offers access to free or low-cost health care coverage. HSA provides Medi-Cal enrollment, in addition to support for those who are low income but not eligible for Medi-Cal to purchase affordable private health insurance offered by Covered California. All immigrants who meet the income guidelines can receive Medi-Cal for emergency care, regardless of immigration status. HSA does not share any information from Medi-Cal applications with the federal government. For more information about the current use of immigration information collected as part of the Medi-Cal eligibility process, visit www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/ice-aca-memo.pdf

Apply for Medi-Cal by phone (415) 558-4700, in person at 1440 Harrison Street and 1235 Mission Street in San Francisco, or online at, www.mybenefitscalwin.org

Covered California Open Enrollment is here! Apply by December 15, 2016, and coverage will remain intact for 2017. We encourage everyone to renew existing plans or shop for a new plan that best fits you and your family. Don't risk a financial burden in 2017 by not enrolling. Learn more at, www.coveredca.com

Before the Affordable Care Act (ACA), San Francisco had Healthy San Francisco, Healthy Workers, and Healthy Kids to provide health care to our residents. These programs will still be there in the event of changes to the ACA.

Healthy San Francisco: www.healthysanfrancisco.org or (415) 615-4555

Healthy Kids: www.sfhp.org/visitors/healthy-kids or (415) 777-9992

Sanctuary Cities and Federal Funding

Mayor Lee has reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that San Francisco remains a Sanctuary City. This policy has been adopted by cities across the country to protect immigrant rights and is not a program aligned with federal funding. The incoming Presidential Administration's position to 'defund' sanctuary cities has created speculation about the future of San Francisco's economic and nutritional support programs for food and working families, including CalFresh and CalWorks.

It is unclear how efforts to defund sanctuary cities would advance without significant implications for social services, public health and safety, infrastructure, and education initiatives for millions of thriving families. National policy reform of this measure will require acts of Congress and, for now, there is no legislative action taken to block San Francisco from receiving federal funding. HSA continues our efforts to promote inclusiveness for all services.

A guide to frequently asked questions and additional resources regarding eligibility and access to HSA services for immigrant populations is available at, www.sfhsa.org/2668.htm