



## Family Economic Success Policy Platform



2008



The San Francisco Family Support Network is a unique partnership of the stakeholders in the Family Support field: families, community-based organizations, public departments, and private foundations. The San Francisco Family Support Network was founded in June 2004, building on the San Francisco Starting Points Initiative's Strategic Plan for Supporting Families.

For more information about the San Francisco Family Support Network, please see [www.sffsn.org](http://www.sffsn.org) or e-mail [info@sffsn.org](mailto:info@sffsn.org)

## Executive Summary

**F**amilies with children are an essential part of San Francisco's social, economic and civic vitality. Yet, San Francisco has the lowest percentage of families with children of any city in the U.S. (14.5%).<sup>1</sup> Further, more than one-third of families with children report that they are likely to leave San Francisco within the next three years. Families of all backgrounds have identified the high cost of living as one of the major factors limiting their ability to live in San Francisco.<sup>2</sup>

The San Francisco Family Support Network (SFFSN) supports family retention by promoting strategies for families' economic stability, advancement and success. Family Economic Success is the ability of families to secure the financial resources to meet their needs and achieve their goals for themselves and for their children within one or two generations.<sup>3</sup>

The SFFSN seeks to raise awareness of the unique role the Family Support field can play to address Family Economic Success with a two-generation strategy that includes both parents and their children.

Working collaboratively, the SFFSN has identified actions for state and local government, community-based programs, and families themselves focused on:

- Helping families make ends meet
- Supporting families to build and protect assets
- Increasing families' incomes
- Promoting educational opportunities for families
- Increasing funding to support Family Economic Success efforts



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census 2000.

<sup>2</sup> City Survey 2007, San Francisco Controller's Office. In a multi-lingual, random sample of families with children, 36% expressed likelihood to leave in the next three years, down from 45% in 2005.

<sup>3</sup> California Family Resource Association.

## Policy Strategies Summary

### I. Help Families Make Ends Meet

**Objective 1:** Increase access to food stamps, health coverage, and other programs and public and private benefits designed to help families make ends meet.

**Objective 2:** Increase access to affordable child care.

**Objective 3:** Increase access to affordable family housing.

### II. Help Families to Build and Protect Assets

**Objective 1:** Promote family financial management through education.

**Objective 2:** Increase opportunities for families with children to save for themselves and the next generation.

**Objective 3:** Reduce or eliminate asset limits in programs that assist low income families.

### III. Increase Families' Incomes

**Objective 1:** Ensure that workforce development policies, programs, and strategies are family supportive.

**Objective 2:** Support families in reducing their tax burden and maximizing their credits including the Earned Income Tax Credit, Working Families Credit and Childcare Tax Credit.



### IV. Promote Educational Opportunities for Families

**Objective 1:** Increase School Readiness

**Objective 2:** Increase Family Literacy

**Objective 3:** Increase the quality of Public Education

**Objective 4:** Increase Adult Literacy and Education

### V. Increase Funding for Family Economic Success Efforts

**Objective:** Encourage public and private funders to expand funding to include resources for Family Economic Success efforts.