

SAN FRANCISCO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

# INPACT REPORT 2021–2022

Flowfley

NCISCO UNITY CENTER

# WELCOME



At times, it feels as if the world we once knew is no longer. We continue to weather a persistent global pandemic that perpetuates in new mutations and variations and has

profoundly impacted our daily rituals. The uniquely American epidemic of gun violence reaches into ever more lives, including the most innocent and vulnerable among us. The Supreme Court has yanked away access to reproductive freedom, a protection so many of us believed was a given. And now, the threat of Monkeypox is burdening our overtaxed public health resources with gay and Trans communities again in harm's way.

And through it all, in the face of these daunting realities, SFCHC has expanded our programming and our reach. **Our** year-over-year operating budget has most recently grown by nearly 90% — from \$8.9 million last year to \$16.8 million in our current fiscal year

— and we remain committed to our mission of providing quality health care for everyone in need. We will continue to advocate for unfettered access to reproductive health, for resources that empower Trans communities, and for health care innovations that reach those on the margins — particularly the unhoused. We will continue the work we started 35 years ago, remain true to our values and never abandon our fight against racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, and transphobia. In this new world, we have no other choice. —Lance Toma, CEO



San Francisco Mayor London Breed visits our Trans: Thrive She Boutique

### **PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE**

### **TRANS:THRIVE**

Formulated within the community, Trans:Thrive provides case management; medical services including primary care, hormone therapy, and needle exchange; and mental health and substance use support. It also offers social groups; special events; and a drop-in center offering refreshments, a clothing closet, and a computer lab.

# MEDICAL, BEHAVIORAL, DENTAL HEALTH CARE

Our stellar team of providers, including a medical doctor, dentist, nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, and case managers offers the highest quality medical care, mental health, and substance use services, gender care, and HIV care.

### **COMPREHENSIVE HIV SERVICES**

For those often overlooked by the system, SFCHC provides a drop-in center where clients can spend time in community, eat breakfast, watch TV, use the internet, make phone calls, participate in art therapy, attend support groups, and access case management. SFCHC also helps unhoused individuals living with HIV/AIDS reconnect with primary care providers and enter longterm housing.

### THE CONNECTION

Established in 2012, The Connection has enabled API queer men to come together and build a safe, empowering community. Through the years, The Connection has provided a safe space for API MSMs to learn and improve on their sexual health, discuss the meaning of being queer and API, and become leaders in their communities.

### WHAT'S NEW

### EXPANSION OF STREET MEDICINE

With support from Saint Francis Foundation and in conjunction with Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, we are expanding our Street Medicine program to treat at-risk individuals in the Tenderloin before hospitalization becomes necessary.

#### **API HEALTH ACCESS POINT**

In early 2023, with funding from SFDPH, we will be partnering with the Alliance Health Project at UCSF to implement an innovative, multidisciplinary, consumer-directed initiative to provide an equityfocused, community-centered, whole person care approach to providing integrated HIV, HCV, and STD prevention services for API communities.

### **PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES**

With the addition of a psychiatric nurse practitioner to our staff, SFCHC now offers psychiatric assessment and treatment as part of our mental health services.



## 5,001 COVID-19 vaccinations administered via SFCHC-led efforts April 2020 through

April 2021

1,305

Hepatitis

screenings

administered

2021

**10,088** Patient visits in 2021

62% over 2020

**3,967** Individual Patients in 2021 More than double the

number in 2020

\$16.8M FY 2023 Operating Budget

# 89% increase from FY 2022

90%

COVID-19 vaccination rate in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. Exceeding city, state, and national rates

778 dental visits April 2021 - April 2022



"DPH deeply appreciates and celebrates the contributions SFCHC has made during the COVID 19 pandemic. Through its commitment to serving the most vulnerable in the Tenderloin, SFCHC has been a key partner in our COVID-19 response. By adapting its innovative and effective approach to HIV/AIDS to address COVID, the Health Center continues its leadership in promoting health and wellness in SF."
Dr. Grant Colfax, Director, San Francisco Department of Public Health

# **CAPACITY BUILDING & NATIONAL ADVOCACY**

### A NATIONAL IMPACT: CAPACITY BUILDING ASSISTANCE

Since 2019, our Capacity Building Assistance (CBA) program, administered out of our Chicago office, has had an impact in twelve midwestern states. Supported by a five-year cooperative agreement with the CDC, our staff provide technical assistance to local and state health departments, as well as community based non-profit organizations (CBOs) and clinical sites to help increase their ability to provide clinical HIV testing and prevention for persons living with HIV. As part of this work, we develop resource banks, webinars, tailored workshops, and toolkits to be used by the HIV workforce.

Recently, the CDC provided additional funding enabling us to offer technical assistance (TA) to help CBOs and their partners extend the reach of HIV prevention and care efforts for transgender people. Our Chicago team includes specialists in capacity building, clinical HIV testing and an expert in interventions and services for persons of transgender experience.

### NATIONAL ADVOCACY

When COVID-19 hit San Francisco in early 2020, we focused our services squarely on the pandemic and, employing what he had learned from our history of grassroots HIV activism, connected with organizational partners across the country with whom we have long-established relationships. With Black AIDS Institute and Latino Commission on AIDS, we formed a coalition — the Stronger Together Partnership – to support other people-of-color HIV organizations struggling to adapt to COVID-19 and help assess the impact of the pandemic on their ability to continue providing HIV/STI/HCV services in their communities.

With support from ViiV, Gilead, Chevron, and Elton John AIDS Foundation, our Stronger Together Partnership conducted a national assessment involving 142 organizations. In October 2020, we convened a virtual national think tank involving 162 community leaders that created a policy platform of 10 key recommendations to enhance the health and quality of life for communities of color across the US, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and

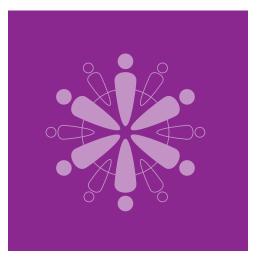


As part of our advocacy efforts, our team has had the privilege of meeting several times with Admiral Rachel L. Levine, MD, Assistant Secretary for Health, and the highest ranking openly transgender official in the federal government.

Pacific Island Jurisdictions. This group reconvened in May 2021 and again in November 2021 for a special briefing with the Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy Harold Phillips for a preview of President Biden's updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy. A key priority of the Stronger Together Partnership is working alongside NMAC (National Minority AIDS Council) to advocate for expanded funding for the Minority AIDS Initiative and directing these funds to people-of-color led HIV organizations.



Nurse Alan Velasquez prepares to administer our first doses of the Monkeypox vaccine.





"There aren't a lot of places in San Francisco where people are met with that much dignity and respect. We have hearts, and we extend our hearts to others in order to keep them beating." — Pat, former staff member and client

"If there's no community health center, I'd be in the street." —Gretchen, client





"I have a lot of love for this place because this place saved my life." —Erica R., program supervisor and former client

"In a world of no's, I found some yesses." — Michael, client





"I walk in here and I can walk in with my head held high and I can be proud of who I am because I am a trans woman. Right when I walked in, everyone was so nice and caring that I knew I'd finally found a home." —Denise, client

# **CLIENT STORIES**



As a college student in San Francisco in the early 2000s, David was struggling to come to terms with his sexual orientation and feeling alone until he found AQUA25, a youth group for young, LGBTQ Asians and Pacific Islanders at our agency. Two decades later. David is a member of the board of directors at SFCHC. He remains steadfast in his commitment to our mission and so confident in the quality of the care we provide, that he relies on our clinic as his primary health care provider. "It's great to have a sense of community at my doctor's office. The Center is where I first came out, where I felt a sense of belonging, and where I found the courage to celebrate the full version of myself." -David Win, client and a board member

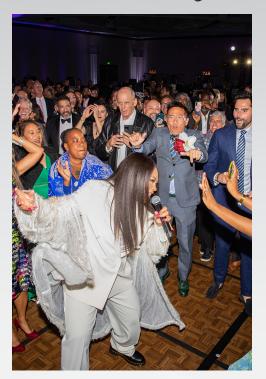


Having sought refuge as a teen from gang violence in El Salvador, Jose found himself in the grip of a devastating methamphetamine addiction, estranged from his family, regretting his choices, and in a dark place. At age 22, he decided it was time to turn his life around and seek treatment. Soon after, he volunteered as a Community Ambassador with SFCHC, helping others overcome the problems that had derailed his own life. Now, Jose works full-time as our Community Engagement Coordinator.

# SHOWOF BE 35th Anniversary Gala

April 2022 marked our first in-person fundraising event in more than three years due to COVID-19. Over 400 of our supporters, community partners, friends, staff, and clients gathered to celebrate and affirm **our shared commitment to making quality health care accessible to all who need it.** 

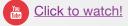
Made possible by the generous support of Gilead Sciences, ViiV, Chevron, Saint Francis Foundation, and many others, the gala featured remarks by former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, a concert by Grammy Award-winning singersongwriter Jody Watley, and a video presentation showcasing the work of San Francisco Community Health Center. We are grateful for the overwhelming support of our community and looking forward to our Show of Hope Gala on April 29, 2023.



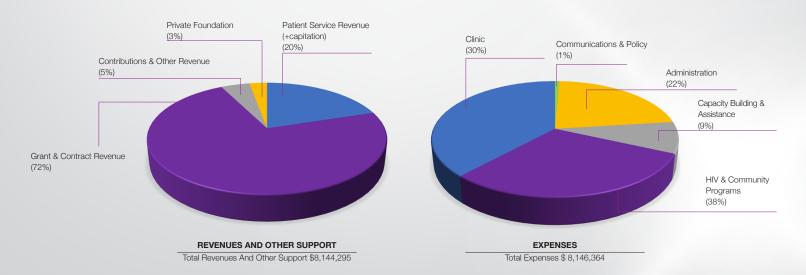
At the end of the night, Grammy award winner Jody Watley had everyone up and dancing



Former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown address guests at the Show of Hope gala



# FY 2021



# **DENTAL SERVICES**



Access to routine and needed dental care is essential to overall health. Unfortunately, over half the U.S. population do not visit a dentist annually and that number increases drastically among lower income individuals and those living in vulnerable and underserved communities. **Poor oral health can lead to malnutrition, speech problems, and life-threatening infections. It is also associated with diabetes, heart disease, and premature births.** 

In February of 2020, we opened our dental practice with one full time dentist. Even as the COVID-19 pandemic raged, demand for these services was immediate and exceeded our initial capacity. In October of 2021, we established our dental clinic in its own location at 1800 Market Street, now with two dentists, a dental technician, and a dedicated case manager.



# **COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which hit the Tenderloin particularly hard, SFCHC has added services and programs designed to enrich our community. With partners such as Code Tenderloin, City Hope, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and Curry Senior Center (among many others), we are devoting staff and resources to new initiatives aimed at building human connection, fellowship, and trust in our neighborhood. After all, "**community**" **is in our name.** 

### **COMMUNITY LIVING ROOM**

In Fall of 2021, in partnership with <u>City Hope</u>, we established the Community Living Room at 750 Ellis Street, just across from our main clinic. This welcoming space is open weekday mornings and offers free coffee and breakfast to anyone living (permanently housed or not), working, or simply passing through the neighborhood. Our goal is to cultivate a culture of connection and belonging while connecting people with needed services.

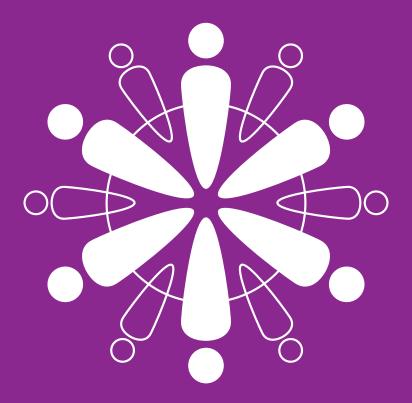
### **TENDERLOIN LINKAGE CENTER**

In 2022, San Francisco's Department of Emergency Management opened the <u>Tenderloin Linkage Center</u> at 1172 Market Street as part of the city's <u>Tenderloin Emergency</u> <u>Initiative</u>. **This center is open seven days a week to provide food,** water, hygiene services, personal protective equipment (PPE), and other basic services to individuals in need of them.

An average of 300 daily visitors have access to two meals each day, a warm shower, laundry services, and harm reduction supplies. **SFCHC oversees outreach, referral, and linkage and provides HIV, Hep C, and STI testing as well as gender affirming therapy.** 



Community Engagement Coordinator Jose Cisneros prepares coffee for a guest at the Community Living Room



Main Office 730 Polk St. 4th Floor San Francisco, CA 94109 Phone: 415-292-3400 M–F: 8:45am – 4:45pm

Tenderloin Clinic 726 Polk St. 4th Floor San Francisco, CA 94109 Phone: 415-292-3400 M–F: 8:45am – 4:45pm (closed for lunch: 12 – 1pm)

Castro Dental Clinic 1800 Market St. Suite 401 San Francisco, CA 94102 Phone: 415-292-3420 x501 M–F: 9:00am – 5:00pm (closed for lunch: 12 – 1pm)

Email Inquiries Info@SFCommunityHealth.org

Website www.SFCommunityHealth.org