



HOPE SF/SFUSD Alignment of Educational Services

ISSUE

In 2008, the HOPE SF initiative was created as a large scale, cross sector effort to revitalize four of San Francisco’s most distressed public housing communities: Alice Griffith, Hunters View, Potrero Hill, and Sunnyside. HOPE SF is led by the San Francisco Mayor’s Office in partnership with other government offices, community-based organizations, foundations, and housing development companies. This comprehensive initiative focuses on providing support services for public housing residents in education, workforce development, public safety and health to disrupt the cycle of intergenerational poverty. The educational priorities include: supporting programs and systems to ensure students enter Kindergarten ready for school, support efforts to increase quality of schools in or near HOPE SF sites, and increase access to quality summertime and before and after school educational programs and other learning opportunities for youth.

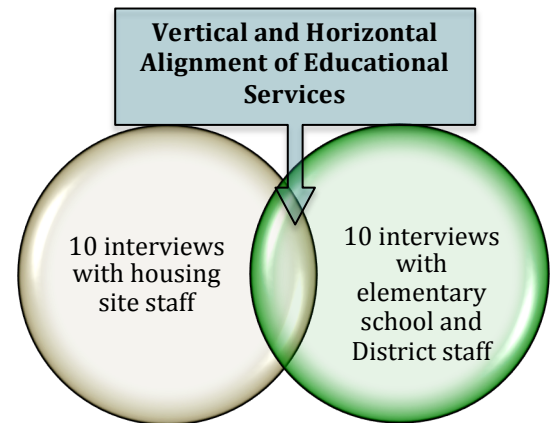


To address these educational programs and other learning opportunities, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) partnered with the San Francisco Mayor’s Office on HOPE SF to provide and increase access to dual generational education services across the eight HOPE SF public elementary schools and four public housing sites.

Issue: *How aligned are services between HOPE SF elementary schools and public housing sites to support the HOPE SF educational priorities in order to improve the lives of HOPE SF residents?*

METHODOLOGY

In understanding the context and current work of the HOPE SF PLUS project, various sources on HOPE SF, such as previous PLUS reports and the HOPE SF Baseline report were examined. Interviews were then conducted using the same questions with housing site, district and key school personnel. Promising practices from cities across the nation where collaboration between housing sites and schools illustrated positive outcomes were also consulted.



FINDINGS

With limited resources, the HOPE SF initiative is constantly working to leverage existing assets. Overall, the relationship between the public housing sites and schools to do the HOPE SF work is promising and there is a genuine desire for schools to engage in the work. To bolster the ongoing and evolving relationships, it would help to have a common and consistent understanding among the involved schools of HOPE SF.

HOPE SF housing site personnel have strong ties with community residents and provide diverse service offerings and resources for health, workforce development and public safety. To enhance these services, an early/elementary education strategy developed by



SFUSD and the Mayor’s Office to be implemented across the HOPE SF housing sites and schools is essential for children being ready to learn and succeed in school. Existing, effective strategies between schools and housing sites currently exist that can serve as models of success such as the walking school bus, addressing truancy and the Y-PLAN program.

Typical of large organizations, personnel turnover trends make it imperative to create written compacts between housing sites and schools to preserve current and prior work for new staff to adopt and further develop. Similar to the 2008 findings, there is a scatter effect of HOPE SF students attending schools across San Francisco. This is a critical consideration for Out of School Time (OST) programming, since many students do not stay for afterschool activities in school due to limited transportation and safety concerns.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Four major themes emerged from the data: **bridging fragmented systems, relationship building, staffing, and communication.** Granted, no individual category can stand-alone and all are necessary to strengthen HOPE SF’s impact with the goal of a sustained alignment of educational efforts.

Bridging Fragmented Systems

- For SFUSD Early Education Department to develop an early/elementary education strategy for HOPE SF housing sites and schools.
- Increase Pre-K enrollment of HOPE SF children living in public housing.
- Offer consistent out of school time (OST) programming at HOPE SF housing sites using a dual generation approach in collaboration with local public schools.

Staffing

- Ensure all housing site service providers and education liaison staff are able to provide services and fulfill explicit requirements for working with public housing residents.
- Systematize training for new site service and education liaison staff to include evidence-based family engagement strategies and collective impact tactics for partnering with schools and community-based organizations.

Building Relationships

- Develop strategies for public housing families to minimize their reliance on extrinsic motivation and build towards self-determination with an emphasis on the importance of participation in educational programming.
- Inform principals and key school staff of consistent HOPE SF community activities, as well as opportunities for housing site staff to be in school committees.

Communications

- Create a data-sharing dashboard of updated site services inventory and directory to encourage collaboration.

