

# US city plans to provide transgender surgeries

November 9 2012

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(AP)—San Francisco is preparing to become the first U.S. city to provide and cover the cost of sex reassignment surgeries for uninsured transgender residents.

The city's Health Commission voted Tuesday to create a comprehensive program for treating transgender people experiencing mental distress because of the mismatch between their bodies and their [gender identities](#). The vote was announced Thursday.

The idea came out of conversations between [public health officials](#) and transgender rights advocates who wanted mastectomies, genital reconstructions and other surgeries covered under San Francisco's universal [health care program](#).

Public Health Director Barbara Garcia says the new transgender health initiative probably won't be running until late next year.

Her department needs to study how many people it would serve, how much it would cost and who would perform the surgeries.

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