

News Release

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HHS Awards \$2.6 Million for Adolescent Family Life Care Demonstration Grants

The Office of Population Affairs of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced seven Adolescent Family Life (AFL) Care Demonstration Grants totaling \$2,622,340.

Adolescent Family Life (AFL) care demonstration programs implement and evaluate innovative approaches to the delivery of care to pregnant and parenting teens in an effort to ameliorate the effects of too-early childbearing.

“These programs test new and enhanced methods of providing an array of public health services to teen parents and their infants. In addition, all AFL care programs work directly with the teens’ support systems, which include the extended family. Because these programs are evaluation-intensive, they are expected to disseminate findings at the end of their grant cycle that will enhance the field of adolescent health.” said Johanna Nestor, Director of the AFL Program.

Through these efforts, programs help prevent repeat pregnancies, increase educational attainment, and enhance the well being of teen mothers and fathers, their infants and their families. Programs include pregnancy testing and maternity counseling; adoption counseling and referral services; primary and preventive health services; counseling and referrals for family planning services; referrals for screenings and treatment of sexually transmitted disease, including HIV; and educational services relating to parenting, healthy relationships, healthy marriages, and family life.

Research shows that future educational and economic prospects for teen parents and their children decline significantly compared with teens who do not have a child. Teen pregnancy is closely linked to less than optimal health outcomes for mothers and infants, school dropout, lack of job skills, repeat pregnancies, poverty and unstable home environments. Teen parents are

less likely to marry the father of their infant and children of teen mothers are less likely to have a relationship with their father.

The seven new care projects will make a total of 30 AFL care demonstration programs funded in FY 2007 by the Office of Population Affairs to combat these effects. The AFL care demonstration grants are for five years, based on funds available.

Grant recipients include:

| Organization | Location | Amount Funded |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Children's Hospital Corporation | Boston, MA | \$375,000 |
| San Diego Unified School District | San Diego, CA | \$372,340 |
| City of Bridgeport | Bridgeport, CT | \$375,000 |
| Lake County Health Department | Waukegan, IL | \$375,000 |
| Our Family Services, Inc. | Tucson, AZ | \$375,000 |
| The Children's Shelter | San Antonio, TX | \$375,000 |
| University of Maryland, Baltimore | Baltimore, MD | \$375,000 |

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