

The Title XX Adolescent Family Life Program



Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs (OAPP) Overview

The Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs (OAPP) was created in 1978 to administer **adolescent pregnancy programs** under Title VI of the Public Health Service Act (P.L. 95-626). This was the first Federal adolescent pregnancy program aimed at providing comprehensive health, education and social services to pregnant and parenting adolescents. In 1981, Title XX of the Public Health Service Act (P.L. 97-35), also known as the Adolescent Family Life (AFL) legislation, replaced Title VI and **legislated discretionary funds for research, care, and prevention demonstration projects**. Throughout the years, OAPP has supported approximately 400 Adolescent Family Life (AFL) care and prevention demonstration projects and 80 research projects. In 2007, 57 projects offer prevention services and 39 offer care services.

The AFL program is unique in its approach to teen pregnancy and related issues. Care and prevention demonstration grants allow organizations to propose and test innovative public health methods while requiring a comprehensive evaluation component. Successful applicants for AFL funds have comprehensive demonstration models based on theory and a series of hypotheses. In addition to incorporating a strong evaluation design, grantees are expected to develop and follow a thorough logic model. All AFL grants are required to recruit and retain both parents and males in their programs.

AFL Care demonstration projects serve **pregnant adolescents, adolescent parents, their infants, young**

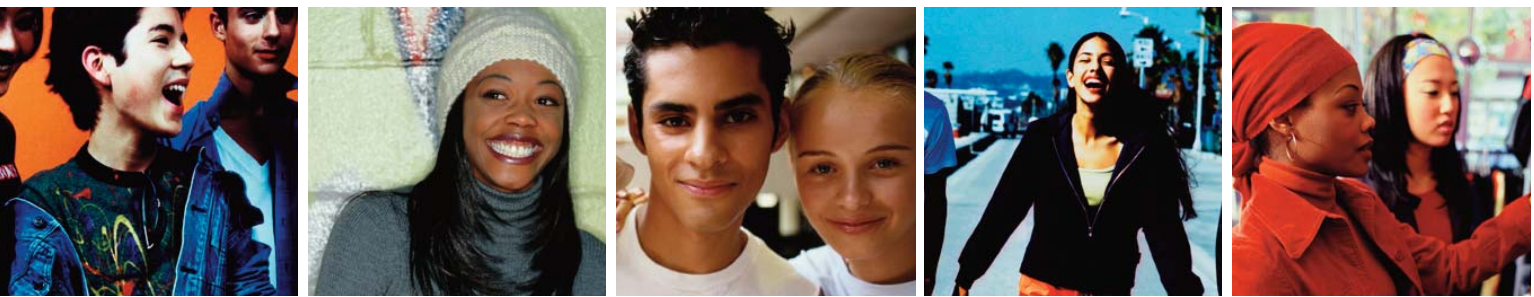
fathers and/or male partners and extended families. Care grantees can implement and test various methods for caring for pregnant and parenting adolescents and are required to provide a set of ten core services. Care project activities are comprehensive and easily accessible and include **health, education and social services** that emphasize family involvement and assist clients in becoming productive contributors to family and community life. These services include case management, home visitation, counseling, advocacy, job training, clinic visits, and educational services. The goals of all care projects are to reduce the number of repeat teen pregnancies, improve infant immunization, and increase educational attainment of clients. Care projects also focus on increasing the positive factors related to good pregnancy outcomes, self-sufficiency, and parenting and provide a **variety of services** to teen parents, their children, and their families.

AFL abstinence education demonstration projects are prevention demonstration projects implemented in accordance with the A-H criteria contained in Title V, Section 510(b)(2) of the Social Security Act, as amended. Prevention grantees implement and test various methods to serve **preadolescents, adolescents and their families**. Projects generally operate through a series of developmentally appropriate **classroom and/or after school sessions**. Prevention grantees incorporate abstinence education curricula in combination with other youth development activities such as sports, community service activities, and leadership opportunities to build internal and external assets. Some projects incorporate cultural and holistic



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approaches with the abstinence message, i.e., rites of passage. The goal for serving preadolescents and adolescents in AFL prevention demonstration projects is to prevent teen pregnancy by increasing knowledge about the positive health and emotional benefits of abstinence and improving parent-child communication.

All care and prevention projects funded through the OAPP must include an evaluation component to be conducted by an **independent evaluator associated with a college or university in the grantee's home state**. The statute allows between 1 percent and 5 percent of federal funds to be spent on evaluation. Through recent Requests for Applications, the OAPP has waived this percentage to allow for up to 20 percent to 25 percent allocated for more rigorous, long-term, outcome-oriented evaluations, particularly those using experimental

or quasi-experimental design. AFL core data instruments must be used within these evaluations for all grantees funded after 2004 and a uniform *End of the Year* report template gathers crucial program data that will be used to improve AFL evaluation as a whole.

The Title XX statute authorizes research on the causes and consequences of adolescent premarital sexual activity, pregnancy and child rearing (Section 2008). The OAPP funded research projects focus on such issues as premarital adolescent sexual relations, adoption, services for pregnant and parenting adolescents, adolescent parenting and child development. These research projects provide important and valued information and data to the field of adolescent sexual health and well-being. As such, the OAPP is able to contribute to this field by providing access to new knowledge to better serve adolescents and their families.

