



Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP): Federal Funding Language and Talking Points

Sample language for educating:

Dear [Senator/Representative] _____:

I'm writing to let you know about the important work being done in [state/city/county] that is funded through the Office of Adolescent Health's Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program.

The TPP Program is characterized by high quality implementation, evaluation, innovation, and learning from results. If funding continues for FY 2018 and beyond, Texas communities will be able to continue providing a variety of evidence-based programs that meet the needs of the most at-risk youth while growing our knowledge of what works.

There are eight Texas organizations that receive a combined \$8.6 million annually through this federal funding stream and these programs serve thousands of youth including our most vulnerable populations such as youth in foster care, pregnant and parenting youth, and adjudicated youth.

Why is this important? Because Texas has more teen parents than any other state in the nation - more than half a million in the last decade; one of the highest teen birth rates (5th overall); and takes the top spot when it comes to repeat teen births. And while rates of teen pregnancy are on the decline nationwide, in Texas the rate of decline is much slower. As a matter of fact, in some parts of Texas, the teen pregnancy rate is nearly twice the national average.

Teen childbearing costs our state \$1.1 billion annually. The TPP Program is helping address high teen birth rates in Texas which, in turn, has the potential to reduce high school dropout rates, improve college completion and overall educational attainment, boost tax contributions through higher earnings, and improve the economy. In addition, reducing births to adolescents can help strengthen families, improve child wellbeing and assist young people in achieving their goals, all of which reduce the likelihood that the cycle of teen pregnancy, economic hardship, and poverty will continue.

If you have additional questions about the TPP Program and the impact to our [state/city/county] or if you or your staff would like to visit when you are home in the [state/city/county] please feel free to contact me at _____.

Sincerely,

[Your name and number here.]

Sample language for advocating:

Dear [Senator/Representative] _____:

I'm writing to urge you to support maintaining funding for the Office of Adolescent Health's Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program for FY 2018 and beyond. There are eight Texas organizations (Include county/city specific info here, if relevant) that receive a combined \$8.6 million annually through this federal funding stream and these programs serve thousands of youth including our most vulnerable populations such as youth in foster care, pregnant and parenting youth, and adjudicated youth.

The TPP Program has been recognized as a pioneering example of tiered evidence-based policymaking—an approach that has bipartisan support. It is characterized by high quality implementation, evaluation, innovation, and learning from results. Moreover, it allows communities to choose from a wide variety of evidence-based programs to select approaches that best meet the needs of their young people.

Why is this funding important? Because Texas has more teen parents than any other state in the nation -- more than half a million in the last decade; one of the highest teen birth rates (5th overall); and takes the top spot when it comes to repeat teen births. And while rates of teen pregnancy are on the decline nationwide, in Texas the rate of decline is much slower. As a matter of fact, in some parts of Texas, the teen pregnancy rate is nearly twice the national average.

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The TPP Program represents a modest but highly strategic investment by the federal government to address the nation's high rates of teen pregnancy. **We respectfully request that you maintain level funding for this program for FY 2018 and beyond.**

If you have additional questions about the TPP Program and the impact to our state/city/county or if you or your staff would like to visit when you are home in the [state/city/county] please feel free to contact me at _____.

Sincerely,

Your name and number here.

What is the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program?

The Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program is a national, evidence-based program that funds diverse organizations working to prevent teen pregnancy across the United States. OAH invests in both the implementation of evidence-based programs and the development and evaluation of new and innovative approaches to prevent teen pregnancy. The OAH TPP Program reaches adolescents age 10-19, with a focus on populations with the greatest need in order to reduce disparities in teen pregnancy and birth rates. [Click here to read more.](#)

Other important information:

- Texas has the 5th highest teen birth rate and the highest rate of repeat births to teens in the nation.
- Teenage births cost Texas taxpayers \$1.1 billion in health care, foster care and lost tax revenue in 2010, according to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.
 - Texas spends more state dollars than any other state on this issue.
- Teen childbearing is connected to lower educational attainment, an unprepared workforce, higher incarceration rates, more kids in foster care, higher demands on Medicaid and the public health system and the repetition of this cycle generation after generation.
- Taking steps to address high teen birth rates in Texas can reduce high school dropout rates, improve college completion and overall educational attainment, boost tax contributions through higher earnings, and improve the economy.
- 86% of teen births are paid for by Texas Medicaid.
- Many of our youth/students are already sexually active, and we want to help them stay as healthy as possible and avoid teen pregnancy (or another teen pregnancy).

Current grantees include:

- UT Health Science Center at San Antonio
- North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy
- Community Action Corporation of South Texas
- Project Vida Health Center
- Texas A&M Health Science Center
- EngenderHealth
- Healthy Futures of Texas

[Click here for grantee project summaries.](#)

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