Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Annual Symposium

Advocacy 101 – Tips to Engage Policymakers and Influence Public Policy

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Texans Care for Children
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Advocacy can take place at every level

You can be active at:
- Local level
- State level
- Federal level

Federal Advocacy Matters

You have the unique opportunity to:
- Share your expertise and experiences
- Highlight issues/problems you are seeing in your community
- Educate lawmakers
- Provide insight on an issue that may otherwise not be considered

It's important to contact your representative and talk to him/her about legislation or programs that impact your field
- For example, funding for comprehensive sex education programs in Texas

What’s the Role of Congress?

- Several federal funding streams support teen pregnancy prevention programs
  - Funding for sex education programs
  - Funding for health centers to offer birth control, contraception counseling, and STI screenings

- Amount of funding is decided by lawmakers in Congress each year
- Lawmakers oversee policies for federal family planning and sex education programs
Sex Education Programs

- Evidence-based Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP)
  - Office of Adolescent Health
  - 5-year competitive grants to organizations and state agencies
  - To implement evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs, based on list of 37 approved programs
  - Demand outpaces funding

- CDC Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grants
  - Currently funds 5-year agreements to 3 organizations

- Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)
  - Funding for evidence-based programs to educate on both abstinence and contraception to prevent pregnancy and STIs, as well as other adult preparation topics like healthy relationships
  - Texas receives 3-year competitive grants
  - New round of grants was awarded in 2015 for FY 2015 – FY 2017

Abstinence Education Funding

- Competitive Abstinence Education Grants
  - Projects for 2-year cycle
  - Focuses on education and counseling that promotes abstinence
  - No requirement to be evidence-based

- Title V Abstinence Education Grant
  - $75 million annually in formula grants to states for education and counseling that promotes abstinence
  - No requirement to be evidence-based

Federal Funding for Services

- Pregnancy Assistance Fund
  - Administered by Office of Adolescent Health
  - $25 million annually in 2010-2019 for competitive grants to states to support pregnant and parenting teens and women, and to combat violence against pregnant women
  - Programs to help women access health care, child care and affordable housing

- Title X Family Planning Grants
  - Administered by Office of Population Affairs
  - Funding to enable health centers to offer low- or no-cost birth control, STI screening, cervical cancer screening to low-income men and women
  - Health centers in Texas served 47,390 teens in 2013, including 27,760 teens served by Title X-supported health centers

Federal Funding for Services

- Services like STI screening and treatment and cervical cancer screening are integral to quality family planning care

- CDC Section 318 STI Grants
  - Federal grants to states to establish network of providers that offer low- or no-cost STI testing and treatment
  - State subcontracts or sub-grants to health centers

- CDC Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program
  - Federal grants to states to establish network of providers that offer low- or no-cost HPV tests, pap tests, mammograms, pelvic exams, and clinical breast exams
Congress Decides Federal Funding Each Year through Appropriations

- The amount of federal funding for family planning and sex education programs is decided each year through the budget process.
- As lawmakers debate the budget, you have the opportunity to talk to your representative to emphasize the importance of continued – and increased – funding for these programs in your community.
- Congress also sets and oversees policies and requirements for federal programs, including Title X family planning, CDC programs, and sex education.

Committees Relevant to Health and Teen Pregnancy Prevention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Senate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Energy and Commerce – Oversees health and public health bills</td>
<td>• Finance – Oversees health care programs, like Medicaid and CHIP</td>
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<td>• Ways &amp; Means – Oversees health and tax bills</td>
<td>• Health, Education, Labor &amp; Pensions (HELP) – Oversees public health bills. Has jurisdiction over federal agencies like CDC and HHS</td>
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<td>• Education &amp; Workforce – Oversees school bills</td>
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Timeline for Federal Budget

- **Oct - Jan**
  - Federal agencies determine amount of funds needed for their programs
  - Agencies send funding requests to President

- **Feb - Mar**
  - President sends budget request to Congress
  - Asks for certain funding amounts for each agency and each federal program
  - Appropriations subcommittees in House and Senate hold hearings with agency leaders and stakeholders

- **March**

- **May - June**
  - House and Senate budget committees set overall goals and limits for government spending
  - Full House and Senate adopt “budget resolution” set by Budget committees
  - Once overall spending levels set, Appropriations committees divide total levels among 13 subcommittees
  - House Appropriations subcommittees prepare spending bills and send to Senate Appropriations subcommittees

- **July - Sept**
  - House passes spending bill
  - Senate passes spending bill
  - House and Senate conference committee resolve differences and agree on final version of spending bill
  - President signs or vetoes bill
Budget Process Not Always Smooth

- Federal funding should begin October 1 (fiscal year)
- If spending bill is not passed by October 1, Congress can pass “continuing resolution” to maintain funding for each agency at current levels until a spending bill is passed
  - This happens pretty frequently
  - Sometimes multiple continuing resolutions are needed to avoid federal government shutdown

Where Do You Fit In?

Highlight issues or “success stories” you see in the community. Advocate for continued funding for teen pregnancy prevention programs.

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<tr>
<th>Call, email, or write your Senator and/or Representative in Congress</th>
<th>Visit your Senator or Rep. in Washington, DC or when he/she is back in the Texas district</th>
<th>Build relationships with the Congress Member’s local staff in the Texas district</th>
<th>Invite Member to do a tour or site visit to show off your program</th>
<th>Write an op-ed or letter to the editor in a local or state media</th>
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Thank You!

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