

Addressing the Increase in the Teen Birth Rate: A Call for Proposals

Background

The United States has made extraordinary progress in reducing rates of teen pregnancy and birth. Since the early 1990s, the teen pregnancy rate has declined 38 percent and the teen birth rate has declined by one-third. In fact, few social problems have improved quite as dramatically over the past decade.

The most recent news on this front, however, has not been positive. After 14 straight years of overall decline in the teen birth rate, and declines in all 50 states and among all racial/ethnic groups, the teen birth rate increased 5 percent between 2005 and 2007; three quarters of this increase was among 18 and 19 year olds. For more information about this recent increase, see <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/birthdata/default.aspx>.

As part of its efforts to stem this increase, the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (National Campaign) wishes to provide grants to several state or local-level entities that are experiencing increasing rates or stubbornly high rates of teen pregnancy. The goal of this modest grant program is to enable applicants to undertake activities that would likely benefit their own state/locality/tribe and that are also likely to help other communities in their efforts to prevent teen pregnancy.

Overview of the National Campaign

The National Campaign's goal is to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families and, in particular, to help ensure that children are born into stable, two-parent families who are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation. Our specific strategy for reaching this goal is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy, especially among single, young adults. We support a combination of responsible values and behavior by both men and women and responsible policies in both the public and private sectors. If we are successful in reducing both teen and unplanned pregnancy, child and family well-being will improve. There will be less poverty, more opportunities for young men and women to complete their education or achieve other life goals, fewer abortions, and a stronger nation.

Eligibility

Eligible entities include public and non-profit organizations and agencies from states, localities and tribes that have seen an average annual increase of 5 percent or more in their teen pregnancy and/or teen birth rates in at least two of the last three years for which data are available. We understand that given the lag in securing solid pregnancy data, birth data are often used as a proxy measure. We also understand that state data may not always match federal data.

Grant Focus

This grant announcement centers on increasing the intensity of efforts to prevent teen pregnancy by encouraging those who work in the field of teen pregnancy prevention field to collaborate with colleagues who work in such closely related sectors as foster care, juvenile justice, STD/HIV treatment and prevention, workforce development, community colleges or programs that help to build stronger relationships (such as healthy marriage and responsible fatherhood programs).

The goal of this grant announcement is to increase the presence and profile of pregnancy planning and prevention in a wide range of settings where many teens—especially older teens 18 and 19—are already found. Relevant activities include but are not limited to co-locating services, new cooperative agreements, joint staff training, and developing of new materials (including online materials) that can be used in a range of systems and services.

In addition, we will consider **other** ideas that applicants feel hold strong promise for reducing teen pregnancy. Although our main focus is outlined directly above, we recognize that colleagues nationwide may wish to suggest quite different approaches. We welcome them.

Successful applicants will demonstrate that their ideas and proposed activities:

- Are anchored in the relevant science and data;
- Include good measurement metrics so that the activity can be tracked and a reasonable assessment can be made of its probable value and results;
- Have the potential to attract additional public or private resources and funding either as part of the proposed activity itself or in the future; and
- Are likely to be useful in other communities and will contribute to nation-wide learning about how to make progress on reducing teen pregnancy.

Preference will be given to organizations whose proposed project meets **at least one** of the following:

- Focuses on disconnected youth (typically defined as those not in school and not working), Latino youth or other populations with high rates including Native American youth or youth in or aging out of foster care;
- Centers on older teens 18 and 19 years of age;
- Engages community colleges;
- Engages young men as well as young women;
- Is a truly innovative idea.

Grant type

The National Campaign will award approximately three 18-month grants in the range of \$75,000-\$100,000 each. We hope that applicants will be able to offer some kind of modest matching support, either in-kind or cash, but this is not a requirement .

Process

Interested parties should fill out the Letter of Intent (LOI) form on our website at: by midnight, Eastern Time on Sunday, June 21st. After reviewing the LOIs, we will invite 4-6 applicants to submit full proposals. Applicants can expect to be notified of our review process decisions by July 9th, 2009. Proposal will be asked to include additional information on the relevant science base, measurement metrics, and how progress will be defined and tracked, as well as to include a detailed budget for the project. Full proposals will be due no later than August 5th, 2009. Please contact Melissa Spindler with questions at 202-478-8505 or mspindler@thenc.org.