


 Briefly...

Teen Pregnancy Prevention in the President's FY 2010 Budget
(As of 5/12/09)

On May 7, 2009, the Obama-Biden Administration released its FY2010 budget. The budget proposes a new initiative to prevent teen pregnancy using evidence-based and promising models. The summary below is our effort to synthesize key points from several different budget documents to provide the fullest possible picture of the Administration's proposal. It is important to keep in mind that Congress still needs to act on the President's request. In addition, once Congress appropriates funds for competitive grants, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will develop application guidelines that will likely provide further specificity.

According to the HHS Budget Overview,¹ the budget provides a total of \$178 million in funds for teen pregnancy prevention programs to address rising teen pregnancy rates.² "Funds will support State, Tribal, Territory, and community-based efforts to reduce teen pregnancy using evidence-based models as well as promising programs that require further evaluation." At the same time, the budget eliminates funding for Community-Based Abstinence Education (which was funded at \$95 million in FY 2009) and the Mandatory Title V Abstinence Education grants to states, which has been funded at \$50 million annually, but is set to expire June 30, 2009.

The new funding consists of several parts:

1. Within HHS' Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the budget provides \$110 million in discretionary funds for a competitive grant program for community and faith-based organizations as well as outreach, training, technical assistance and evaluation.³ According to the ACF Congressional Justification, these funds will support evidence-based models that provide medically-accurate and age-appropriate resource to reduce the risks of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Of this amount:
 - a. At least \$75 million will be used to fund grants for programs to replicate curriculum-based models that have been shown through strong evaluation (defined as experimental) to be effective in reducing teen pregnancy, delaying sexual activity, or improving contraception use (without increasing sexual activity). The appropriations language provided in the President's Budget Appendix specifies that these funds shall be for programs that replicate the elements of one or more teenage pregnancy prevention programs that have been proven through rigorous evaluation to affect the behaviors mentioned directly above.⁴
 - b. At least \$25 million will be used to fund grants for demonstration programs to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teen pregnancy.
 - c. According to the Budget Appendix "any remaining funds shall be available to fund other teen pregnancy prevention activities." The Congressional Justification mentions funding activities to support parents in communicating with their children about teen pregnancy and other high-risk behaviors. These funds will be used for an interactive website and other outreach activities for parents, youth, teachers and community members.⁵

The Congressional Justification also indicates the target population for the grants is youth ages 12 – 19, that the funds will support approximately 275 grants at an average of \$350,000 annually with a 25 percent match requirement, and that grants will last three-five years.

2. Within ACF, \$4.5 million is provided in Public Health Service Act evaluation funds to carry out evaluations (including longitudinal evaluations) of teen pregnancy prevention approaches.⁶ This continues funding from previous years to test a range of teen pregnancy prevention programs.
3. The ACF budget also proposes authorization for a new \$50 million mandatory teen pregnancy prevention grant program to states, tribes, and territories. The budget assumes the mandatory abstinence education funds will not be reauthorized.⁷
4. Within the Office of Population Affairs, the budget includes \$30 million to provide support for the Adolescent Family Life (AFL) demonstration and research program authorized under Title XX of the PHS Act. Of the \$13.1 million dedicated to teen pregnancy prevention, the majority will support programs whose effectiveness has been demonstrated through rigorous evaluation and the remaining portion will be for promising teen pregnancy prevention programs that require further evaluation to determine effectiveness.⁸ Note that in past years, this funding has been focused on abstinence education, tied to the same definition as the Title V abstinence grants. The remaining funds are for care demonstration projects (for pregnant and parenting teens) and for research.

In addition to the programmatic activities mentioned above, the FY10 budget supports the expansion of the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) current teen pregnancy prevention efforts to promote evidence-based interventions.⁹ CDC's activities will highlight three key strategies: state-based partnerships, national technical assistance, and promoting youth development programs. CDC will fund up to eight additional state-based teen pregnancy prevention coalitions to work with state departments of education to implement innovative science-based prevention programs in youth-serving organizations and schools.

Finally, as part of a commitment to reducing unplanned pregnancies, the President's budget proposes resources for family planning programs that serve both teens and adults. This includes:

- \$317 million – a \$10 million increase – for Title X Family Planning programs, expanding access to contraception, health information, and preventive services.
- Expansion of Medicaid family planning eligibility through a state option which would allow states to cover individuals up to 200% of the federal poverty level.

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1. <http://www.hhs.gov/asrt/ob/docbudget/2010budgetinbrief.pdf> (p. 4)
 2. Note: actually the teen birth rate has risen between 2005 and 2007; the most recent teen pregnancy data is from 2004, at which point rates were continuing to decline.
 3. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/olab/budget/2010/sec2d_cfsp_2010cj.pdf (p. 94-95)
 4. http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/policymakers/PDF/Presbudget_hhs.pdf (p. 490-491)
 5. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/olab/budget/2010/sec2d_cfsp_2010cj.pdf (p. 94-95)
 6. http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/policymakers/PDF/Presbudget_hhs.pdf (p. 490-491)
 7. <http://www.hhs.gov/asrt/ob/docbudget/2010budgetinbrief.pdf> (p. 82)
 8. <http://www.hhs.gov/asrt/ob/docbudget/2010budgetinbrief.pdf> (p. 94)
 9. http://www.cdc.gov/fmo/topic/Budget%20Information/appropriations_budget_form_pdf/FY2010_CDC_CJ_Final.pdf (p. 10)