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Federal Supports for Low-Income Student Parents: Spotlight on the Pregnancy Assistance Fund

A webinar sponsored by IWPR's Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI)

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 2:00 pm, E.T.

Today's Speakers

- **Evelyn Kappeler**, Acting Director, Office of Adolescent Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- **Susan Warfield**, Program Director, the Student Parent HELP Center, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities
- **Jaimie Edwards-Caleb**, Pregnancy Assistance Fund Grant Coordinator, Virginia Department of Health
- **Stephanie Davis**, Campus-Based Coordinator, Pregnant and Parenting Peer Liaison Program, Southwest Virginia Community College
- **Tiffany Boiman**, Senior Outreach and Policy Associate, Institute for Women's Policy Research (Moderator)

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Evelyn Kappeler
Acting Director
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Evelyn Kappeler
Acting Director
Office of Adolescent Health
July 25, 2012

Office of Adolescent Health

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Agenda

- Office of Adolescent Health
- Legislation
- Services Offered
- Structure of Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF)
- Current Grantees
- Resource and Training Center
- Future Funding

Overview

Office of Adolescent Health (OAH)

- Established in 2010
  - Within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)
  - In the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- OAH responsibilities
  - Coordinating adolescent health initiatives across HHS
  - Implementing and administering new grant programs
    - Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program
    - Pregnancy Assistance Fund
    - National Resource Center for HIV/AIDS Prevention Among Adolescents

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Legislation

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) sections 10211- 10214

Authorizes $25 million for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2019

Authorizes the Secretary of HHS, in collaboration and coordination with the Secretary of Education, to establish and administer a Pregnancy Assistance Fund to award competitive grants to States to assist pregnant and parenting teens and women

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Legislation

Purpose

- To develop and implement programs to assist pregnant and parenting teens and women
- Linking families to supportive services focusing on important outcomes (e.g., graduation rates, maternal and child health outcomes, and parenting skills)
- Address violence against pregnant women

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Services

- Program supports pregnant and parenting adolescents and women and their families
  - High schools, community centers, and institutions of higher education
    - Seamless network of supportive services
    - Help complete high school or postsecondary degrees
    - Gain access to health care, child care, family housing, and other critical supports
  - Improve services for pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, and stalking
  - Increase public awareness and education efforts

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Services

- Program Strategies
  - Home visiting
  - Case management
  - Academic support
  - Group-based support
  - Referrals
  - Health care services
  - Child Care
  - Fatherhood programs
  - Job training
  - Training and TA regarding domestic and sexual violence
  - Legal clinics
  - PSAs
  - Web sites
  - Webinars
  - Hotlines

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Structure

Eligible entities

Any State which includes the District of Columbia, any commonwealth possession, or other territory of the United States, and any Indian tribe or reservation

Partners

Grantees at the state or tribal level primarily partner with others to provide direct services

Emphasis on **collaboration**

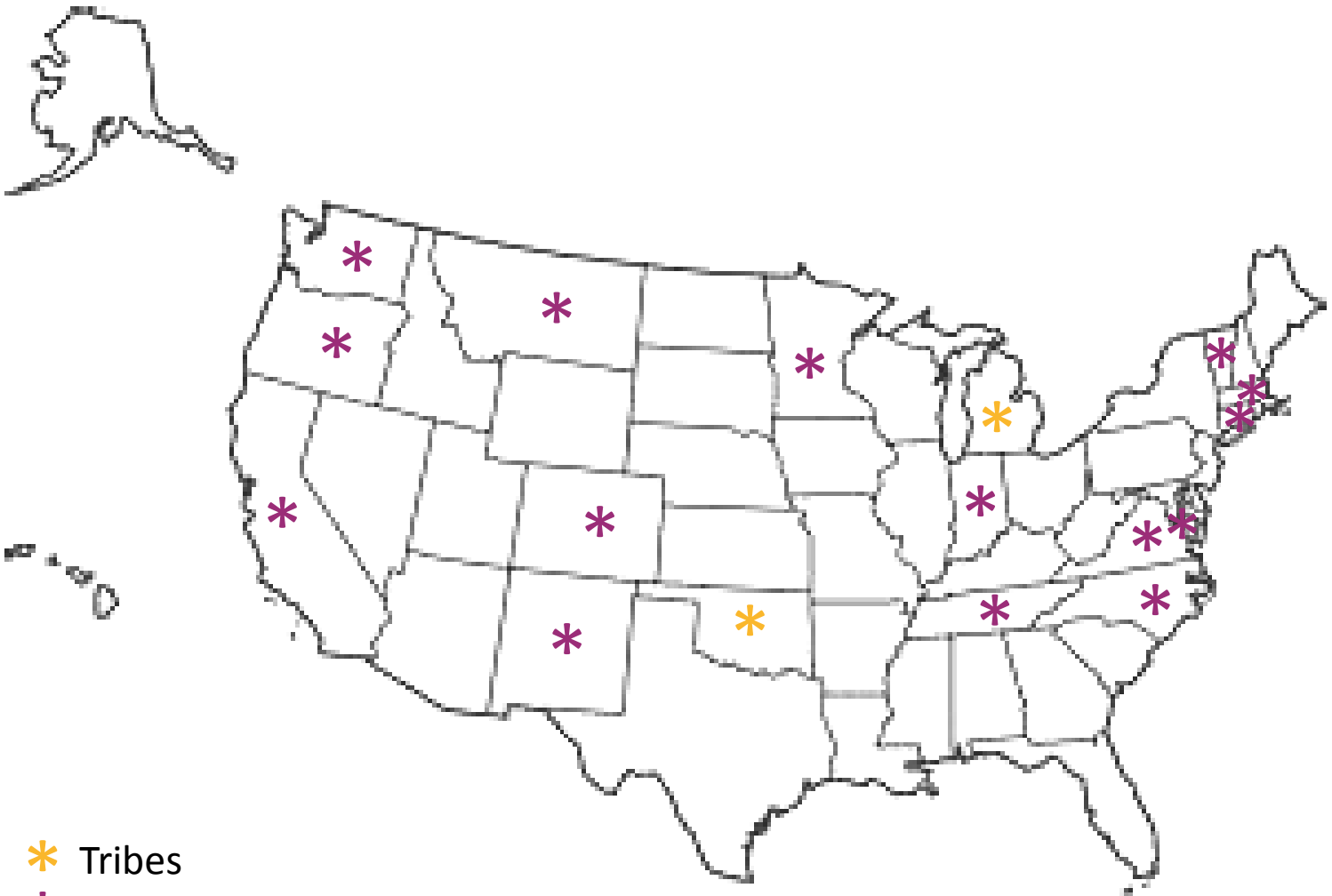
- Advisory councils
- Create new partnerships
- Leverage existing partnerships

Partners include IHEs; School districts; CBOs; FBOs; State agencies; AG's Office; Local health departments; and others

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Current Grantees

- Currently funds **17 States and Tribes**
- Project period: September 1, 2010- August 31, 2013
- Funding range: $500,000- $2,000,000 per year
- Building on existing programs and creating new programs
  - Develop new activities with partners
  - Expand current program services
- Six of the 17 grantees target funds to improve services for pregnant women who are victims of intimate partner violence

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Current Grantees



* Tribes
* States

Office of Adolescent Health

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Current Grantees

* Arkansas Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
* State of California Department of Public Health Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Program
* Connecticut State Department of Education
* Government of the District of Columbia
* Indiana State Department of Health
* Massachusetts Department of Public Health
* Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.
* Minnesota Department of Health
* Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services
* New Mexico Public Education Department
* North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
* Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
* Oregon Department of Justice
* State of Tennessee Executive Office
* State of Vermont
* Virginia Department of Health
* Washington State Department of Health

Office of Adolescent Health

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Current Grantees

- State of Massachusetts
  - Coordinated community-wide approach
  - Multi-disciplinary support team
  - Single entry point into the programs
  - Strong mental health components
  - Case management, life skills and parenting skills

- State of Washington
  - GRADS curriculum in schools
  - Community linkages/resource development
  - Practice guidelines to address IPV
  - Teen friendly web site

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Current Grantees

- State of Tennessee
  - Strong collaboration with multiple agencies
  - Develop a “no wrong door” system in Memphis
  - Integrated enrollment and data collection system

- State of Vermont
  - Program based on best practice
  - Independent third party evaluator to conduct an evaluation
  - Home visiting
  - Child care

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Case Study Evaluation

Case Study Evaluation Goals:

- Identify program needs, learn more about grantee activities, and generate lessons learned that will help improve the effectiveness of the PAF program;
- Inform the development of the funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the next cohort of grantees; and
- Provide OAH with information on the accomplishments of the program to share with policy makers.

Evaluation Tasks:

- Descriptive analysis of grantee annual reports,
- Analysis of grantee performance measures and data, and
- A case study analysis.

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Resource Center

- Online resource center
- Training materials
- Promising approaches
- Open to all
- July 25th launch date

Pregnancy Assistance Fund- Future Funding

- New Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) planned
- Winter 2013 FOA release date- anticipated

Please visit us at www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/ *for more information about PAF and The Office of Adolescent Health*

Twitter: @teenhealthgov

Susan Warfield
Program Director
The Student Parent HELP Center
University of Minnesota—Twin Cities

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PAF, Young Student Parent Support Initiative Funded Project: Minnesota

Technical Assistance Contractor and Young Student Parent Support Initiative Expansion Grant Recipient
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Susan Warfield, MSW, LICSW

Overview of Grant Award

- Minnesota Department of Health is the PAF awarded agency in MN
- MDH awarded 8 sub-grantees funding to develop their own student parent support programs on campus
- In addition, 2 already existing SP programs were awarded expansion grants
- Total of 10 sub-grantees

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Minnesota YSPSI Start-Up Grantees

- Start-up Grantees
  - Century College
  - Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
  - Leech Lake Tribal College
  - Metropolitan State University
  - Pine Technical College
  - Riverland Technical College
  - St. Cloud State University
  - Winona State University

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Minnesota YSPSI Expansion Grant Awardees

- St. Catherine University, Access and Success for "Katies' with Kids"
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Student Parent HELP Center

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Technical Assistance to Sub-Grantees

- The program directors for each of the expansion grant programs, Joan Demeules and Susan Warfield, respectively, are providing technical support assistance to the Start-ups.
- This technical assistance pertains to higher education issues such as student recruitment, operations of student parent center, etc.
- They were selected due to their expertise, and the fact that they have two of the largest and oldest SP programs in the nation

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University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Student Parent HELP Center

- Core SPHC Program Prior to Grant Funding
  - Typically serve 300 low-income, undergraduate students with children
  - 70% of students served by SPHC are single mothers
  - Have been serving U of M students with children on campus since 1984
    - Child care grant
    - Centrally located student lounge, computer lab and staff offices
    - Weekly Parents as Students Support Group (PASS)
    - Social work based staffing model (intensive assistance for family and academic needs)
    - Family friendly and community building events and programs

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Student Parent HELP Center, YSPSI, MDH Expansion Grant Project

- SPHC YSPSI Expansion Grant focuses on providing more in-depth services to currently pregnant students and first time parents under the age of 25
- Were able to hire a full time Student Parent Outreach Coordinator for duration of grant just to focus on the youngest, most vulnerable, new or soon to be, moms and dads
  - Doing outreach to community based testing and pre-natal/family planning clinics we have never done before
  - Utilizing an "intrusive advising" model (we do out-going contacts rather than letting students chose when to contact us)

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Student Parent HELP Center, YSPSI, MDH Expansion Grant Project

- Are able to provide grants to on-going SPHC student parents for mentoring new parents or other service to the program
  - Have connected two new moms with a mentor and have awarded one mentor thus far
- Have added additional programming: new moms and dads content area groups, social-support events, meet and greets with more experienced student parents
- Have developed a collaboration with an organization that donates free layettes to all our new moms and dads

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SPHC Project, cont.

- Has a Lactation Component
  - Received funding to sub-contract with a Public Health consultant to assess the utilization and availability of lactation spaces on the most populated area of campus
  - To the best of our knowledge will be doing the largest project related to lactation resources ever completed at the U of M

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Anecdotal Information

- During the first academic term of project
  - SPOC is already serving 27 at risk students
  - We have full data on 13 students who meet absolute criteria of under age of 25, first time parents or currently pregnant, who entered Spring term 2012
    - Remaining students started prior to official start date and can not officially be counted in final evaluation but are deemed at risk and in need of assistance
  - Have done outreach visits to 9 community based clinics and 17 campus based programs
  - Have established a collaboration with our own campus health services (Boynton Health Services) we had not previously developed

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Anecdotal Information, cont.

- Have had at least one student enter 2 months into pregnancy reporting she learned about us from a clinic we had never contacted prior to grant
- Are overall seeing more students seeking SPHC services earlier in their pregnancies
- Have several students receiving intensive services from SPOC who we believe would not have remained in college without the support provided by this project
- Engaging in additional marketing we have never had time to do before, more posters and flyers, more places on campus, and campus colleagues are noticing

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Challenges

- Higher education works on a calendar that does not easily align with other entities
- The academic calendar drives *everything* when targeting college students
- Have to think in terms of semesters, peak testing times, students being out of touch for breaks
- Limit to how intrusive you can be with tuition paying adults vs. dependent minors in health care settings
- It takes awhile for those outside Higher Ed to learn our scheduling parameters, FERPA constraints, hierarchy, 'edu-speak", academic environment vs. health clinic constraints
- Even youngest college students are very different population from teen parents in a health clinic or public health environment

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Virginia's Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) Grant: Supporting Colleges in Supporting Student-Parents

Jaimie Edwards-Caleb
Pregnancy Assistance Fund Grant Coordinator
Virginia Department of Health

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Stephanie Davis

Campus-Based Coordinator

Pregnant and Parenting Peer Liaison Program
Southwest Virginia Community College

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The Office of Pregnant and Parenting Student Services

Virginia's Community Colleges

Virginia Community College System
Stephanie Davis, LCSW
Campus-Based Coordinator
Southwest Virginia Community College

Mission

To strengthen the academic achievement of pregnant and parenting students at six of Virginia's Community Colleges, resulting in an increase in the rates of retention, graduation, transfer to four year institutions, and/or attainment of a workforce credential by connecting students to educational, health, social, and counseling services or support services for domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

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The Office of Pregnant and Parenting Student Services (OPPSS)

6 Virginia Community Colleges providing OPPSS services

- Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC)
- Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC)
- Paul D. Camp Community College (PDCCC)
- Tidewater Community College (TCC)
- Virginia Western Community College (VWCC)
- Southwest Virginia Community College (SWCC)

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Program Structure

System Office

Director (PT)

Program Specialist (FT)

Program Evaluator (PT)

Colleges

Campus-Based Coordinators (PT or FT)

3PLs Pregnant and Parenting Peer Liaison

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Target Population

- Male and female students
- 18 to 29 years of age
- Actively enrolled in college
- Currently expecting a child and/or parenting a child under the age of 5

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Referral Services

1. Educational
2. Health
3. Social Services
4. Counseling and referral for domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

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Educational Services

- Advising and academic planning
- Tutoring
- Career planning
- Networking with faculty and staff

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Health

- Connecting to community resources for Prenatal and parenting support
  - Prenatal care
  - Nutrition counseling through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program
  - Medicaid and FAMIS
  - Resource Mothers program
  - Healthy families program

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Social Services

- Child Care
- Food Stamps
- Housing
- Employment Programs
- Transportation

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Counseling

Referral for:

- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking

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Current Initiatives

- Internal Advisory Board
- Peer Support groups
- Program promotions
- Red Flag campaign
- Participant Emergency Fund
- Community Partnerships

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Common Barriers

- Transportation
- Child Care
- Financial

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Question and Answer Session

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