

March 6, 2017

## **How Can You Help to Protect the TPP Program and Title X?**

### **Background**

- On December 10<sup>th</sup> President Obama signed a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government at Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 funding levels—including the TPP Program and the Title X Family Planning Program—**through April 28, 2017. Beyond April 28<sup>th</sup>, funding is uncertain.** Read The National Campaign’s full statement on the CR [here](#).
- We need your help to protect funding for the TPP Program and Title X through the remainder of FY 2017 (which ends September 30, 2017).
- We also urgently need your help to begin laying the groundwork to protect funding for the TPP Program and Title X for FY 2018 (which runs from October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018), as the House and Senate Appropriations will soon have to begin drafting spending bills for FY 2018. See The National Campaign’s [FY 2018 Appropriations Request Letter](#).
- While separate from the appropriations process described above, we also need your help to secure ongoing support for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). PREP is currently funded through the end of FY 2017.

### **Everyone Can Do Something to Protect Funding. What Can You Do?**

#### **Advocate**

Before the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees begin drafting their spending bills, members of Congress have the chance to submit programmatic funding requests to the Subcommittees. For those who are able to advocate, it is critical that you weigh-in with your members of Congress as they work on their appropriations requests, especially if there is a [current TPP Program grant benefitting your community](#).

Many members of Congress have deadlines coming in the next few weeks for submitting appropriations requests to their office. **The sooner they receive input from the community, the better.**

The ask is “**please maintain funding for the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program and the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) for FY 2017 and beyond.**” You can also borrow from our [sample advocacy letter](#) and [FY 2018 Appropriations Request Letter](#) for your outreach. Remember, grantees can advocate (ask members to take action on legislation or vote in a specific way) for this federal funding, they just cannot use their federal funds to do so.

**Educate.** If you aren’t able to advocate, you can still help protect the TPP Program and/or PREP by educating members about the great work that these programs fund in your community. See our [sample education letter](#) as a guide for your efforts.

**Don't forget about Title X.** If you are able to advocate or educate about the need for the Title X Family Planning Program, you can use our [Title X talking points](#), as well as our polling resources [Everyone Loves Birth Control](#) and [Survey Says: Thanks, Birth Control](#) to do so.

**Whether you are contacting your members of Congress about the TPP Program, PREP, Title X, or all three, please share our latest [polling](#)—which shows broad bipartisan support for all three programs.**

To look up your Representative, [click here](#) and enter your zip code in the box on the top right. To view your Senators, [click here](#).

### **Key Messages:**

- Investing in evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs saves taxpayer dollars. Teen pregnancy costs taxpayers at least \$9.4 billion annually, and the estimated savings in 2010 alone due to the 61% decline in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2010 was \$12 billion.
- 85% of adults (including 75% of Republicans and 89% of Democrats) favor maintaining federal funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and the Personal Responsibility Education Program.
- 75% of adults (including 66% of Republicans and 84% of Democrats) favor continuing the Title X Program.

### **Additional Actions You Can Take:**

- 1) Develop a statement or news release to make sure local press know about the grants serving your area, and the great work they're supporting in your community.
- 2) Create documents that demonstrate the scope of your project, how much funding is going into the state or district, and how many people are being served with the funds. See grantee [Success Stories](#) created by the Office of Adolescent Health for some good examples, and a [great one-pager](#) from TPP Program grantee, Mission West Virginia. Include your documents when reaching out to your members of Congress.
- 3) If you aren't already, start collecting short stories or quotes from the youth you serve, and parents/guardians when possible, to showcase the impact of your work in the community and to put a personal face on the work you do. Having these on hand will make it easier in the future when you need to create communications that highlight the importance of your work and the need for continued funding.
- 4) Take advantage of recess in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) when members of Congress will be in their home districts and try to set up meetings and site visits with them. You can use our [sample advocacy letter](#) or [sample education letter](#) to reach out to your members of Congress (just amend the letter to include an invite to visit your site).
- 5) Send an alert to others in your network asking them to contact elected officials to let them know about the value of your program. Feel free to use our language to make it easier. Ask the young people you work with to lend their voice—they can write letters to the editor, send emails to elected officials, and/or use social media to encourage their friends to contact their elected officials.

- 6) If you have board members or other friends who have good relationships with your congressional delegation, encourage them to weigh in—a quick phone call or email from someone who is well connected goes a long way.
- 7) If you haven't already, have your **organization** [sign on to this letter](#) to Congressional Leadership from more than 150 national, state, and local groups supporting the TPP Program. Contact [tmancini@thenc.org](mailto:tmancini@thenc.org) to add your organization's name to the letter.

**Resources:**

- The National Campaign's [FY 2018 Appropriations Request Letter](#).
- [Polling data](#) that demonstrates widespread support for the evidence-based TPP Program and Title X.
- [State specific information](#) about teen and unplanned pregnancy, and TPP Program and Title X grants going to the state.
- It's About Evidence: What You Need to Know About The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program ([TPP Program Talking Points](#)).
- [Letter](#) from more than 150 national, state, and local groups demonstrating broad support for maintaining funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.