



**Training and Technical Assistance Project:  
Addressing Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy in Dependency and Juvenile Delinquency  
Courts**

**Request for Proposal**

**Background**

The United States has made extraordinary progress in reducing rates of teen pregnancy. Since its peak in 1990, the teen pregnancy rate has declined by 61%. Few social problems have improved quite as dramatically over the past decade. Successes in teen pregnancy prevention have been significant in all 50 states and among all racial and ethnic groups. However, despite its steep declines, one in four teen girls will become pregnant at least once by age 20.

For youth within the child welfare system, teen pregnancy is an even greater challenge. Teen girls in foster care are 2.5 times more likely to become pregnant by age 19 compared to their peers not in foster care. Early pregnancy and childbearing can exacerbate the challenges faced by youth in care—particularly for youth who age out of care. Young parents face increased challenges related to educational attainment and employment, often affecting their ability to become self-sufficient. It is also the case that the children of teen parents are more likely to be placed in foster care than children of older parents.

As part of its efforts to address both teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (The National Campaign) will support up to eight (8) jurisdictions overseeing dependency and juvenile delinquency cases to receive intensive Training and Technical Assistance on the *When You Decide: A Judges Guide to Pregnancy Prevention Among Foster Youth Toolkit* developed by The National Campaign and The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ).

Designed to guide judges in ensuring youth are able to make healthy choices, the Toolkit focuses on ensuring youth receive the support, knowledge, and tools they need from appropriate system stakeholders to make healthy long-term decisions regarding sex and reproduction. The Toolkit includes judicial practice designed by judges, including bench tools, and foundational information for a court-based collaborative initiative on reducing pregnancy among foster youth. Easily incorporated with existing bench books and bench tools, the Toolkit will help judges empower foster youth to make choices which delay pregnancy by giving judges and child welfare stakeholders tools and strategies to support foster youth empowerment.

## **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 families who are committed to and ready for the demanding task of raising the next generation. The specific strategy for reaching this goal is to prevent both teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy among single young adults. The National Campaign supports 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 with 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 applicants for this *Training and Technical Assistance Project* include dependency and juvenile delinquency courts who have an interest in preventing unplanned pregnancy among youth in care. The lead applicant must be a standing dependency or juvenile delinquency court judge or judicial officer. Localities in which there is a federal investment in evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs, disproportionate rates of teen pregnancy or childbearing overall, as well as those communities with large populations of youth in foster care or under the court's jurisdiction will be prioritized. Tribal courts are encouraged to apply.

## **Project Focus**

The goal of this project is to improve educational and economic outcomes for youth involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems by reducing teen and unplanned pregnancy. The objectives of the *Training and Technical Assistance Project* offered by The National Campaign are to (1) increase judicial and key staff knowledge about evidence-based strategies to prevent teen and unplanned pregnancy; and (2) increase the comfort of judges and stakeholders in ensuring foster youth in their care receive the appropriate support and information shown to reduce teen and unplanned pregnancy. The National Campaign hopes to increase the overall presence and profile of pregnancy planning and prevention in the dependency and juvenile delinquency court systems and stimulate action and innovation.

Successful applicants will:

- Demonstrate quantitative and/or qualitative data describing the impact of teen pregnancy and childbearing in their jurisdiction.
- Have demonstrated interest from stakeholders in preventing teen and unplanned pregnancy among youth in child welfare.
- Have a collaborative stakeholder community and the ability to convene at least 6 other judges and at least 50 stakeholders to receive the training and technical assistance.
- Provide a selection of three (3) dates for the training to be provided between August and December 2017.
- Ability to manage this project through June 30, 2018.

## **Activities Timeline**

The proposal deadline is May 5, 2017.

Selected jurisdictions will be notified by June 5, 2017.

Initial training of selected jurisdictions will take place between August and December 2017, with technical assistance, additional trainings, and follow-up support being provided as requested through June 30, 2018. The National Campaign will also select up to four jurisdictions to conduct courtroom observations during the project period.

## **Funding**

The National Campaign will cover all costs associated with training (i.e., room rental, food/beverages, printing, etc.) not to exceed \$4,500 per site selected. Technical assistance materials and training faculty costs will be covered by The National Campaign.

## **Proposal Questions**

1. Name of Lead Applicant (must be a standing dependency or juvenile delinquency court judge or judicial officer). How long have you been on the bench? When does your current term end?
2. Please provide three (3) dates between August and December 2017 for the training to be provided in your jurisdiction.
3. How many children are in foster care in your jurisdiction? Provide relevant demographic data on children in care (i.e., by age, race/ethnicity, gender)
4. How does teen and unplanned pregnancy impact foster youth in your jurisdiction? Please share any quantitative and/or qualitative data you have available on how teen and unplanned pregnancy impacts foster youth in your jurisdiction, including data about the disproportionality of teen pregnancy in foster care among minority youth.
5. What projects, programs, initiatives, policies, etc., have already been implemented to address adolescent health among foster youth in your jurisdiction?
  - a) How long have they been in place?
  - b) What have been the outcomes?
6. Does your jurisdiction utilize a multi-stakeholder collaborative process? Describe the collaborative process in your jurisdiction (e.g., how frequently does the collaborative group meet; which stakeholder groups regularly participate in the collaborative; what have been the results of the work of the collaborative group?).

7. How do you see this *Training and Technical Assistance Project* being of most help in your jurisdiction?
  - a. Why are you interested in this project?
  
8. Does your jurisdiction receive federal funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs? This may include funding from the Office of Adolescent Health, Family and Youth Services Bureau, and/or Centers for Disease Control.
  - a. If yes, please provide the name of the federal funding stream, a description of the project and the role of the court or child welfare agency in the federally funded project

### **Proposal Submission Process**

[Click here for the application](#). Please submit via the google form by midnight, Eastern Time on May 5, 2017. Applicants can expect to be notified of award decisions by June 5, 2017.

### **Questions?**

If you have any questions about the project or proposal process, please contact JeNeen Anderson at [janderson@thenc.org](mailto:janderson@thenc.org).