

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Memo of Agreement</b> <b>Teen Parent Connection</b> <b>Final</b></p>
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**A. Why we are working together**

To prevent teen pregnancy while nurturing success for teen parents and their children, we come together to create Teen Parent Connection, a system of seamless support for teen mothers, fathers and their children which:

- Helps them develop the motivation to delay second pregnancies;
- Provides successful educational experiences for teen parents;
- Promotes healthy growth of the next generation through parenting support and early childhood screening and development; and
- Prevents teen pregnancy among children and family members of teen parents.

**B. What we mutually believe**

1. Teen Parent Connection is teen pregnancy prevention. Helping teen parents and their children be successful decreases both repeat teen pregnancy and teen pregnancy among children born to teens.
2. We are working together to help teen parents and their children develop hope, purpose and self-esteem, because every teen parent family has the potential to succeed.
3. Healthy development and future self-sufficiency for teen parents and their children requires:
  - Educational success and vocational preparation
  - Access to and use of health services
  - Support for teens to develop their parenting skills
  - Quality early childhood experiences for the children
  - Family and community connections
  - Culturally-appropriate and knowledgeable providers and effective cross-cultural tools
4. We must simplify the multiple systems affecting teen parents by creating a seamless system that provides teen parents and their children stability, safety, education and the self-esteem to achieve self-reliance.

### **C. What we will do together**

1. Attempt to identify ALL teen parents and connect them to appropriate services through a new coordination project called Teen Parent Connection.
2. Strengthen education options for teen parents and their families.
3. Identify and remove barriers hampering teen parents' use of services.
4. Develop more culturally sensitive strategies and services.
5. Work to secure adequate resources to achieve our mutual goals. Resources will be coordinated and distributed so as to maximize best practices and desired results
6. Create opportunities for co-located services ("one stop shops")
7. Work to get family members of parenting teens involved in recreational/self-esteem building or career mentoring activities as a pregnancy prevention tool.
8. Identify policies that support improved outcomes for teen parents and their children.

### **D. What will be different for teen parent families as a result of our work together?**

#### For Teen Parents

1. There will be a decline in the rate of teen pregnancy.
2. There will be fewer repeat pregnancies among teen parents.
3. There will be higher rates of educational success among teen parents.
4. Teen parents will develop and strengthen their individual assets to achieve increased:
  - sense of hope and future direction
  - academic skills
  - work skills
  - language skill for English language learners
  - school attendance (decreased truancy)
  - graduation rates
  - parenting skills for both teen fathers and mothers
  - stable and supportive living arrangements
  - access to quality child care
  - use of preventive and primary health care
  - use of key services
  - confidence and skill in navigating life challenges

### For Children of Teen Parents

1. Decreased teen pregnancy rates among children in families that formed because a teen had a baby
2. Increased access to school readiness experiences and strong early childhood education programs.
3. Increased positive indicators of growth and development.
4. Decreased repetition of the cycle of poor school achievement; low self-esteem; long-term welfare dependence; and/or involvement in the criminal justice system.

### For Extended Families of Teen Parents

1. Decreased teen pregnancies among extended family members of parenting teens.
2. Increased involvement of and support from family members for teen parents to achieve their desired goals.

### **E. How we will work together**

All organizations participating in Teen Parent Connection will:

1. Have a "shared voice" in planning and implementing services for teen parents.
2. Come to the table as equals and share accountability/success for mutual outcomes.
3. Give similar messages and expectations about teen pregnancy and teen parent success.
4. Continue to build trust, understanding and partnership among all organizations that interact with teen parents.
5. Give and accept feedback to better meet the needs of teen parents.
6. Use data and experience to evaluate our progress and improve upon our efforts.
7. Help teen parents create and develop goals.
8. Involve teen parents in contributing to overall program development.
9. Advocate collectively for the most effective policies for teen parents.

**Memorandum of Agreement (What we Endorse)**

We are endorsing the purpose, principles, outcomes and action steps to create and operate Teen Parent Connection as outlined in this document. We agree to cooperate and use our best efforts to reach our identified outcomes. By signing this document we agree that:

- We commit ourselves to the purpose, principles, outcomes and action steps as stated in this agreement.
- We will actively participate by attending quarterly meetings and participating in at least one ad-hoc committee on an ongoing basis,
- We will commit resources and help identify additional resources to create success for teen parents and their children.

Organization	Signature	Position	Date

## **Section 2: Implementation**

### **A. Potential Common Products**

1. Common protocol or approach to working with teen parents – a norm for the community of service providers
  - Ask: Are you a parent? Are you pregnant? Do you attend school or are you connected to school in any way?
  - Provide: List of resources and services of partner organizations
  - Connect: Teens to resources
  - Check-in: Follow-up on progress and connection
2. Clear description of services available from partners
3. Common process for sharing referrals and tracking teen parents
4. Common outcomes
5. Common data collection, sharing and reporting processes
6. Common accountability: shared process and outcome measures that include both data and stories
7. More collaborative advocacy to make teen parents and their children a priority.

### **B. Partnership Process: How we will work together**

- Membership
- Partnership coordination and process
  - Administrative tasks
  - Communication among partners
  - Work teams
  - Meeting frequency
- Partner Expectations/Responsibilities

**APPENDIX 1**  
**PRIORITIES FOR YEAR 1**

*(Brainstorm these and Transition to Implementation will more fully develop them)*

- **Outcomes**
- **Action Steps**
- **Strategies**
- **Evaluation**