

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Case Study: *Tulsa Area Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative* Tulsa, OK

Background

In 2015, the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) awarded 50 Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) grants to replicate evidence-based programs (EBPs) to scale in communities with the greatest need. OPA designed the 2015 TPP grant program to have a significant impact on reducing teen pregnancy rates and disparities by using a multi-component, community-wide strategy. The strategy integrated EBPs into multiple safe and supportive settings, mobilized stakeholders around a shared vision, and increased access to youth-friendly services. While implementation varied, all grantees were required to include four key elements:¹



Deliver EBPs with fidelity in at least three types of settings.



Engage the community around a shared vision to increase the community's ability to prevent teen pregnancy.



Recruit a network of youth-friendly service providers, develop a referral system, and connect youth to needed services.



Ensure programs are provided in safe and supportive environments.

Tulsa Area Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative

The *Tulsa Area Teen Pregnancy Prevention Collaborative (Tulsa Collaborative)* is a TPP grant project implemented collaboratively by three organizations in Tulsa, Oklahoma: Youth Services of Tulsa (YST), the Tulsa Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (Tulsa Campaign) and Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa (CSC).² The *Tulsa Collaborative* brings together service providers community-wide, coordinated across organizations and various federal and local funding sources. The Tulsa Campaign serves as a backbone organization that coordinates partners and resources in an effort to reduce teen pregnancy and improve adolescent sexual health across all of Tulsa County. **This case illustrates 1) multi-agency collaboration to scale up teen pregnancy prevention programs and 2) community engagement that builds on prior efforts.** The *Tulsa Collaborative* began implementing the grant in summer 2015; the case study is based on phone interviews and a site visit conducted in the second grant year.

¹ See the Funding Opportunity Announcement for details: <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/sites/default/files/tier1b-foafile.pdf>.

² The grantee is Youth Services of Tulsa.

Lessons in Scaling Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Efforts

Having a strong backbone organization facilitated all aspects of the project. The Tulsa Campaign was dedicated to establishing and maintaining communication across partners and throughout the community, which facilitated the ability to implement the project smoothly and provided consistent and unified messages to the community. Formed in 2013 to coordinate teen pregnancy prevention activities in the Tulsa area, the Tulsa Campaign had a history of providing capacity building (training, technical assistance) and coordination of efforts across multiple initiatives, agencies, and organizations within greater Tulsa.

Partners helped expand the reach of programming efforts and provide for sustainability in multiple settings. Partners in this grant had been collaborating for a number of years prior to the start of the grant—relying on a mix of funding from private foundations and other federal programs. The *Tulsa Collaborative* was a means for all of the parties to pull together to achieve scale without duplication of services. To this end, the Campaign’s planning and coordination enabled YST and CSC to fill gaps not addressed by other entities, leverage other initiatives, and expand to all schools within their respective service areas (Tulsa Public Schools, Union Public Schools) and selected area clinics. This experience helped set the stage for sustainability of the programming.

Involving multiple sectors of the community in teen pregnancy prevention efforts provided extra support for sustainable, community-level change. In order to fully reach all sectors of the Greater Tulsa community, the *Tulsa Collaborative* formed a Community Advisory Group (CAG) that included members from existing coalitions, and was expanded to include social service agencies, youth-serving community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, LGBTQ-focused community-based organizations, business community and workforce development organizations, school district and school representatives, and health center representatives. The diversity of the group helped make clear the connections between teen pregnancy and other social issues such as education, child well-being, and poverty while reinforcing the message that everyone has a role to play.

Youth played an important role in supporting community change. The *Tulsa Collaborative* created a Youth Leadership Council (YLC) to inform efforts to mobilize the community around teen pregnancy prevention. Youth provided direct input on project activities, and were empowered to create and execute ideas to strengthen support for addressing teen pregnancy. These efforts included public awareness campaigns, workshops at teen clinic open houses, and designing social marketing materials to distribute at school and community events.

The complete case study includes greater detail on the community and organizational context of implementation, the project’s structure, and how the *Tulsa Collaborative* implemented the four key elements.