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TALKING POINTS WHEN ADVOCATING FOR PRESERVATION OF CAL-LEARN

THE ASK

Restore \$45,000,000 in funding for the Cal-LEARN, which is a vital program that provides support to teen parents and their children, and helps prevent second pregnancies.

TALKING POINTS

- Cal-LEARN plays a large role in preventing second pregnancies and repeat births to teen parents, through intensive case management and support with completing high school and promoting school readiness for their children. The cuts proposed would effectively decimate the program, eliminating most services and reducing the number of teens that can be served.
- 2010 Outcome reporting from the statewide LODESTAR data system shows that the school status at the most recent follow-up for participating clients was a graduation rate of **73.5%** - *above the statewide average*.
- Reducing the high school drop-out rate is beneficial for all Californians, because it creates a more prepared workforce, helps to reduce crime rates, reduces the need for public assistance (as high school graduates are able to get better jobs that pay more than high school drop-outs), and raises children out of poverty.
- Cal-LEARN helps teen parents finish high school by providing assistance with transportation, developmental child care, and school materials, and through case management that helps with goal-setting and follow-through.
- 32% of births to older teens and 15% of births to younger teens are second or higher order births; these teens have already had at least one child. Among participants of the Cal-LEARN program, this percentage of repeat births to teens in Cal Learn in 2010 was **4.1%**, *far below the national average*.
- *Cutting \$45 million from Cal-LEARN will ensure that those teens eligible for Cal –LEARN will be drop-outs, will be locked out of the workplace, and their children will be yet another generation not be ready for Pre-K and success in K through 12.*