

**URGENT:**  
**MAINTAIN THE ADOLESCENT FAMILY LIFE PROGRAM (AFLP):**  
**PREGNANT /PARENTING TEENS AND THEIR CHILDREN ARE “AT RISK”**

(Funded through California’s Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Branch, Dept. of Public Health)

California’s pregnant and parenting teens and their children are some of our most vulnerable and at risk children. In 2007, **53,393** babies were born to mothers between the ages of 15-19. AFLP was implemented due to research which revealed that:

- Teen parenting comes at a significant cost to states, counties and the nation.
- Teen mothers are less likely to complete High school – **Using San Diego Unified School District’s ADA as an average, we assist San Diego districts in receiving approximately \$9.9 million in ADA due to the AFLP supportive services provided to pregnant and parenting teens so that they stay in school**
- Become dependent on welfare or governmental assistance programs
- Teen parents and their off springs live in poverty
- Teen parents and their off springs are at risk of abuse and neglect, domestic violence depression, sexual assault, homelessness, increased sexually transmitted diseases and poor health.

**AFLP provides comprehensive services with proven outcomes to include:**

- Improved health and wellness of mothers and babies
- Decreased repeat births to teen parents – **less than 3% in San Diego County**
- Increased use of contraceptives
- Increased rate of high school graduation – **85% of those eligible to graduate last year graduated in San Diego County**
- Fewer low-birth weight births when compared to the state average
- Prenatal care rates higher than national average
- Improved access to resources

Additionally, support towards high school graduation, the reduction of child abuse and neglect, and a solid foundation to help with youth development, child development, family development and overall family self-sufficiency is achieved.

It costs \$10.75 million to provide supportive, comprehensive AFLP services to 50,400 pregnant and parenting youth throughout our State of California. According to the Teen Births in California 2008 Spring Update, teen pregnancy prevention and support programs like **AFLP are estimated to save California tax payers 1.5 billion dollars annually**. The benefits of the program clearly outweigh the state cost. Without it, fewer youth will complete high school, abuse and neglect cases will increase, foster care placements will increase, teen pregnancies will increase, the positive results will be lost, and the cost to Counties, the State and Federal Government will increase. Currently, AFLP supports 417 students in attending San Diego Unified School District schools and an additional 613 students in attending schools throughout the County. **If AFLP was eliminated and these students lost the supportive services that help them stay in school, estimated ADA dollars lost to the County would be \$9.9 million!**

As Directors of the AFLP across the state, we urge you to continue to fund this comprehensive, supportive program so that California teens and their babies can continue to thrive and become self-sufficient, tax paying individuals. Your consideration of this request and support of the Adolescent Family Life Program would be appreciated. For more information, please contact Cindy Grossman, AFLP and Cal-Learn Director in San Diego County at 619-235-5002. Quotes from some of our program participants attached.

## **Teen Testimonials and Comments**

A typical AFLP client stated in a letter, "My AFLP Case Manager has helped me so much through all my problems and he helped me reach my goals. My case manager helped me with the Medi-Cal paperwork and he helped me, my mom, and my son by taking us to Children's Hospital after my boyfriend hit me and my son and we needed to be checked out by doctors. My AFLP Case Manager has helped me reach my goals by going to the dentist, get a job, drivers license (which doesn't work because my Driver's Ed Teacher didn't turn in proof that I passed the school Driver's Ed Course), and get a Depo Shot. The problems I have had to deal with and overcome were health coverage, domestic violence by my boyfriend and I've lost him, I have hearing loss and read lips, my siblings have disabilities, and being a teen parent. He has been there for me whenever I needed help."

Another client reports, "The AFLP Program has helped me with diapers, clothes, and advice. My Case Manager has inspired me. She is not only a Case Manager, she is also a friend. My Case Manager has touched my heart and I appreciate her in many ways and for all that she has done for me".

"My AFLP Case Manager has told me to have patience with my daughter and take her to all her appointments".