

TANF & Pregnancy Prevention: State Spotlights

Under TANF purpose three, states implement programs to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.¹ States have taken various approaches to pregnancy prevention, from offering family planning services to sexual risk education, youth mentoring, and home visiting programs. Here, we spotlight some of these approaches in Georgia, Minnesota, and Oklahoma. For additional information on the TANF program and its legislative framework, please refer to the Office of Family Assistance's TANF Laws and Regulations page.

Georgia's Adolescent Health and Youth Development program

Georgia's Adolescent Health and Youth Development (AHYD) program aims to prevent teenage pregnancy, HIV, and STDs while promoting long-term health and well-being.² These services are available to women of reproductive age at, or below, 200 percent of the federal poverty level and women in need based on a sliding fee system. At 13 county health departments and local public health districts, the AHYD program works to prevent and reduce repeat adolescent pregnancies in counties with high rates of school dropouts, STDs, and teen pregnancy.³ AHYD employs several strategies using a positive youth development model centered around addressing unintended pregnancy and STD/HIV prevention, though its comprehensive approach also aims to reduce other risky behavior, including—

- Implementation of evidence-based curricula for teen pregnancy and STD/HIV prevention
- Providing youth development opportunities for adolescent health topics and skills
- Instituting public awareness events addressing adolescent health issues
- Providing training opportunities for youth-serving professionals, parents, community members, and youth⁴

The AHYD program also works with the Georgia Women's Health Family Planning Program to coordinate family planning services with county health departments. These services focus on resisting coercive attempts to engage in sexual activities and abstinence education. At the Women's Health Family Planning Program, TANF dollars contribute to contraceptive and clinic supplies, outreach and marketing, pregnancy testing, and activities for teens.⁵

Minnesota Family Investment Program

In Minnesota, statutory purpose three is woven into their TANF cash assistance and employment program, the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). MFIP works with community partners to

¹ About TANF. (2024). Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children & Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://acf.gov/ofa/programs/tanf/about>

² Adolescent Health and Youth Development. (2025). Georgia Department of Public Health. <https://dph.georgia.gov/chronic-disease-prevention/adolescent-health-and-youth-development>

³ Georgia State Plan: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. (2023). Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services. <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/document/document/georgia-tanf-state-plan-renewal-fy2023/download>

⁴ Adolescent Health and Youth Development Program Fiscal Year 2023 Final Evaluation Report. (2023).

⁵ Georgia State Plan: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. (2023). Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services.



provide resources and support to low-income expecting parents and families with children, particularly MFIP cash assistance recipients.⁶

As part of this work, MFIP contracts with the Minnesota Department of Health to offer family home visits for teen parents, funded entirely by TANF dollars. The family home visiting program aims to improve pregnancy outcomes and family health, promote child development, support secure attachment, and ensure parents have the necessary support to complete their education. Through this program, nurses offer support for parenting skills and connections to external resources (e.g., employment supports), to encourage families to move towards self-sufficiency.⁷

The program measures success in three main areas: educational attainment, employment status and earnings, and churn from MFIP. Minnesota places a particular emphasis on educational attainment for teen parents and home visiting nurses frequently connect teen parents to the Minnesota Youth Program, which offers short-term coaching on employment and soft skills to help youth build key workplace skills, from technology to science, engineering, and math and interaction with others.⁸

As MFIP Program Manager Pamela McCauley noted, “We can’t solve all the problems, but we can try to solve as many as we can... teen pregnancy prevention is an area of opportunity for states to better serve youth.”

Oklahoma’s TANF Investment Strategy

In 2023, Oklahoma launched the \$38-million-dollar TANF Investment Strategy to provide youth support around the state.⁹ Thirteen nonprofit organizations were given three years to use funding to support youth programs and receive technical assistance. While these organizations work to support all the TANF goals, some incorporate pregnancy prevention as key services—

- **Amplify** was launched in 2020 as a rebrand of the Tulsa Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. Their mission is to “advance youth sexual health and well-being through education, collaboration, and advocacy.”¹⁰
- **The Dibble Institute**¹¹ program focuses on empowering youth to build and sustain healthy relationships. The institute uses curricula like *Relationship Smarts PLUS 5.0* to deliver content on positive life skills, healthy relationships, dating violence prevention, and sexual risk avoidance.¹²
- **Youth Services of Tulsa** focuses on supporting youth based on the needs of families and their community throughout their program offerings (e.g., counseling, housing services, health

⁶ *TANF Grant Guidelines*. (2023). Minnesota Department of Health. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/communities/fhv/tanfgrantguide.pdf>. Pamela McCauley, personal communication, April 24, 2025.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Pamela McCauley, personal communication, April 24, 2025.

⁹ Oklahoma Human Services announces new TANF investments into youth support programs. (2023). Oklahoma Human Services. <https://oklahoma.gov/okdhs/newsroom/2023/april/comm04272023.html>

¹⁰ Amplify Tulsa—Teen Pregnancy, Safe Sex, Relationships, and Consent. (n.d.). Amplify. Retrieved April 24, 2025, from <https://amplifytulsa.org/>

¹¹ Results: 4,206 TPS students received sex education in 2021 – 2022; 57.7% Decrease in Tulsa County teen birth rate from 2009 – 2020; 782 Certifications were earned from participants in Amplify 2022 trainings

¹² Relationship Smarts PLUS. (n.d.). The Dibble Institute. Retrieved April 24, 2025, from <https://dibbleinstitute.org/our-programs/relationship-smarts-plus/>



services). Their Sexual Health Awareness program helps youth avoid high-risk behaviors and prevent pregnancy and STDs using abstinence-based curriculum for younger adolescents and more comprehensive training for older youth.¹³

The programs in the TANF Investment Strategy initiative work to support the four statutory purposes of TANF, including pregnancy prevention, basic needs of families, and economic independence, as well as offering mentorship, resources, and educational opportunities to support youth in developing healthy relationships and life skills.

PeerTA. Sponsored by the Office of Family Assistance (OFA), PeerTA provides individual and group technical assistance and other supports to help Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) implement best practices and ensure compliance with TANF statutory purposes. PeerTA is led by MEF Associates and The Adjacent Possible.

¹³ Programs. (n.d.). Youth Services Tulsa. Retrieved April 24, 2025, from <https://www.vst.org/programs>