



## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

# *An Overview of Programs Providing Services to Low-Income Teen Parents*

**Thursday, August 2, 2012 ❖ 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time**

### **Presenters:**

- ♦ **Jennifer Johnson and Kara Wente**, Ohio Learning, Earning and Parenting Program ♦
- ♦ **Danette Lawrence and Henry Jones**, D.C. Parent Assessment Program ♦

**Lisa Washington-Thomas**, Moderator, Office of Family Assistance,  
Administration for Children and Families

**Welcome! The session will start momentarily.**

## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

### Webinar Learning Objectives:

- Highlight the program design and implementation of two programs serving low-income teen parents;
- Provide information to TANF organizations on program models for serving low-income teen parents;
- Discuss key partnerships and strategies for developing partnerships; and
- Share strategies for overcoming challenges and barriers to service delivery.



## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

### Moderator: Lisa Washington-Thomas

#### Agenda:

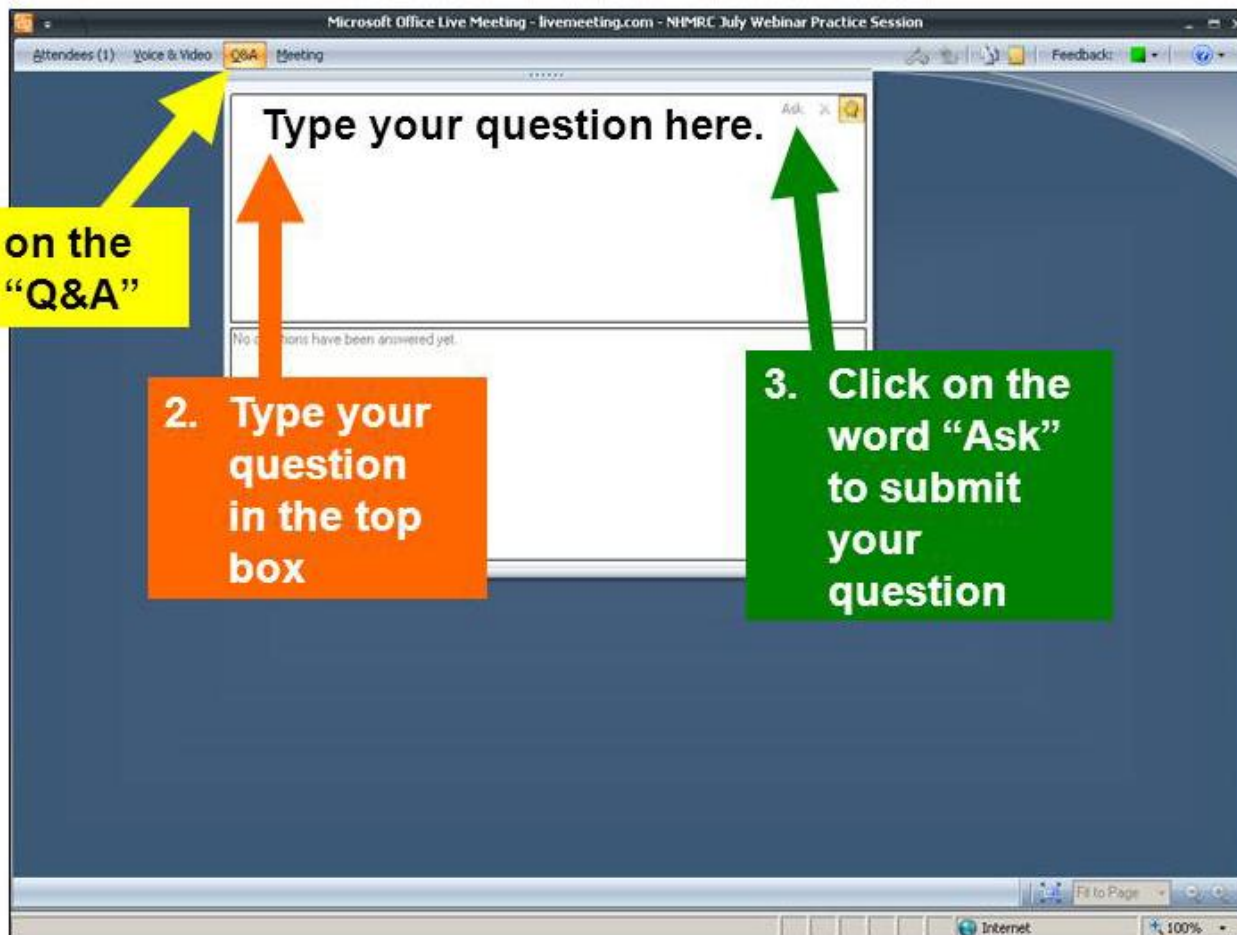
- 1:00 – 1:05 p.m. Webinar Overview (Lisa Washington-Thomas, Welfare Peer TA Network, Office of Family Assistance)
- 1:05 – 1:10 p.m. Overview of Minnesota Technical Assistance Request  
Introduction of Presenter 1 (Lisa Washington-Thomas, Welfare Peer TA Network, Office of Family Assistance)
- 1:10 – 1:35 p.m. Jennifer Johnson and Kara Wentz, Ohio Learning, Earning and Parenting Program (Ohio LEAP)
- 1:35 p.m. Introduction of Presenter 2 (Lisa Washington-Thomas, Welfare Peer TA Network, Office of Family Assistance)
- 1:35 – 2:00 p.m. Danette Lawrence and Henry Jones, D.C. Parent Assessment Program
- 2:00 – 2:20 p.m. Question and Answer Session and Poll (Welfare Peer TA Team)
- 2:20 p.m. Closing Remarks (Lisa Washington-Thomas, Welfare Peer TA Network, Office of Family Assistance)

## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar How Do I Ask a Question?

1. Click on the word "Q&A"

2. Type your question in the top box

3. Click on the word "Ask" to submit your question



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Office Live Meeting window titled "Microsoft Office Live Meeting - livemeeting.com - NHMRC July Webinar Practice Session". The window has a "Q&A" tab selected. The main content area contains a text input field with the placeholder text "Type your question here." and a small "Ask" button to its right. Below the input field, it says "No questions have been answered yet." Three callout boxes with arrows point to the "Q&A" tab, the input field, and the "Ask" button respectively.

## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

# Overview: Minnesota TA Request

Lisa Washington-Thomas, Technical Assistance Branch  
Chief, Office of Family Assistance

*Services for Low-Income Teen Parents Cross-Site Analysis*  
can be downloaded from Welfare Peer TA Network Web site at:  
<http://peerta.acf.hhs.gov>

State of Ohio

# **LEAP (Learning, Earning, and Parenting) Program**

# Ohio Overview

- State Supervised/County Administered
- 88 County Department of Job and Family Services
- May 2012 Ohio Works First caseload:
  - Assistance Groups: 76,358
  - Recipients: 159,034
    - Children: 122,266
    - Adults: 36,768
- LEAP Caseload: approximately 1,800 participants

# LEAP Overview

- Learning, Earning, and Parenting (LEAP) program has been in existence since 1988 and was established with the help of the Ohio General Assembly at the state level.
- The purpose of the LEAP program is to encourage teens to complete school.



# LEAP Overview

- Target population includes pregnant and parenting teens under 19 years of age.
- Because Ohio is a state supervised, county administered state the county agencies are responsible for identifying and assigning individuals to the program.

# LEAP Overview

- The Learning, Earning, and Parenting (LEAP) program under authority of the Ohio Revised Code Sections 5107.14  
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/5107.14>
- 5107.30 (<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/5107.30>) and through the authority of Ohio Administrative Code rule 5101:1-23-50.  
<http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/5101%3A1-23-50>

# Applying for benefits

- Ohio has a combined application for Medicaid, Cash and Food Assistance. Applications may be submitted online, in person, or through the mail.
- Interviews with a case manager may be done face-to-face or by telephone.
- Once an applicant is determined eligible for Ohio Works First and it is determined they are a candidate for the LEAP program, they will attend their initial assessment.

# Eligibility for LEAP

- Teen custodial parents; or
- Pregnant teens under the age of nineteen who have not obtained a high school diploma or the equivalent

## Living Arrangements:

Teens could live on their own or with their parents, other caretaker relatives, legal guardians or legal custodians.

# LEAP initial assessment

- Teen parent must attend LEAP assessment and orientation interview.
- Assessment interview includes:
  - Discussion of LEAP program goals
  - Review of bonuses and penalties
  - Types of educational opportunities available
  - Types of supportive services available
  - Rights and responsibilities of participant
  - Determination of whether teen meets an exemption from participation

# Ongoing LEAP case management

- The county agency assigns a case manager to the LEAP program participant and their family to assist the participant in promoting personal responsibility and in gaining self-sufficiency skills in order to reduce and/or eliminate dependency on cash assistance.
- The LEAP participant is seen by the case manager at least once a year, preferably when the teen is scheduled to enroll in school for the next year.
- At that time, school progress is reviewed as well as addressing any new barriers to continued attendance. No additional training is provided specifically for the LEAP program.

# LEAP Bonuses

- The program is based on completion at each level:
  - Enrollment bonus (\$100),
    - Issued the month they enroll in school
  - Monthly attendance bonuses (\$62),
    - Based on attendance reports
  - Grade completion bonuses (\$100),
    - Issued upon verification of grade completion
  - Graduation bonus (\$500),
    - Issued in the month the school verifies the school completion.

# LEAP Penalties

- Failure to appear for initial interview with LEAP case manager, failure to enroll in school, or withdraw from school
- Teen parent is removed from the OWF benefit amount, does not affect the benefit amount of the child(ren).
  - Teen under 18-ineligible until they comply
  - Teen who is 18-referred for work activity participation



# LEAP Penalties

- The teen parent may have attended school in a month, they did not have good attendance for that month, and did not have good cause for the attendance failures.
  - OWF grant amount is reduced by \$62

# Contact information

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# Department of Human Services Teen Parent Assessment Program



## Department of Human Services: Teen Parent Assessment Program

The Teen Parent Assessment Program (TPAP) was established in 1998 and over the last 14 years has provided service to nearly 4,000 Teen Parents in the District of Columbia. TPAP partners with the DHS Economic Security Administration, DC Public Schools, and a number of other community-based organizations to help teen parents, who receive Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, move towards self-sufficiency. TPAP staff consist of one case manager and two social workers.

TPAP provides case management service to teen parents ranging in age from 14 through 21 years old. For those teen parents under the age of 18, a Living Arrangement Assessment is conducted to ensure that they are residing with a responsible adult. Upon completion of the Living Arrangement Assessment, the teen parent develops an Individual Responsibility Plan.

Case management services consist of referrals to educational services (GED, High School Diploma, Alternative Educational Programs), assistance with obtaining their daycare vouchers, counseling services, parenting classes, abstinence programs, teen pregnancy and prevention programs, and other community-based services that the teen deems necessary to aide them in moving towards self-sufficiency.

The other services provided by TPAP include working on reducing teen pregnancy in the District by sponsoring and conducting workshops in local schools and community based organizations that are geared towards prevention, abstinence, self-esteem building, social skills building, how to communicate effectively, and building healthy positive relationships. TPAP also conducts financial literacy workshops (Reality Stores) in schools and community-based agencies, to help youth in the community prepare for successful and financially stable futures.



**Did you know...**

**According to the most recent data\* available (2011), the teen pregnancy rate in Washington, DC is now 59.1 pregnancies per 1,000 girls 15 to 19 years old. DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy reports that while the 2009 rate shows a welcome 3.7 percent decline from 2008, the rate also means that 1,032 babies were born to teens in the same age group. Credit for the decline in teen pregnancies goes to adolescents themselves with the support of parents, many local teen pregnancy prevention advocates, community-based organizations, schools, and churches.**

**\*The District of Columbia State Center for Health Statistics is the source of teen pregnancy data. Due to reporting schedules, the teen pregnancy rate typically lags 2-3 years behind real time.**

# The Teen Parent Assessment Program: A Success Story

My reality check comes when I look at other pregnant girls who are not being productive with their lives. It makes me so grateful for programs like TPAP that make it possible for me to overcome the obstacles and make the best out of my situation. I am grateful for my case manager who always checks on me and makes sure my baby and I are okay. TPAP is a very helpful and encouraging program for young females.”~Markeita



# Celebrating Parenthood



**Willie Comer**  
TPAP Case Manager



**Delores Junious,**  
TPAP Social worker

*Mr. Smith is a 19 year old who became a teen father at 17 years of age, and the custodial parent when the baby's mother literally left the child on Jeremy's doorstep on FATHERS DAY! The case was referred to the Teen Parent Assessment Program through an intra-agency collaboration with the DC Child and Family Services Differential Response Unit. He has been up to the challenge and taken responsibility ever since.*

*Jeremy was honored this past year by The White House Initiative on Fatherhood, as a "CHAMPION of Change!" Plans are in motion to have he and his son further recognized at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, with President Obama.*

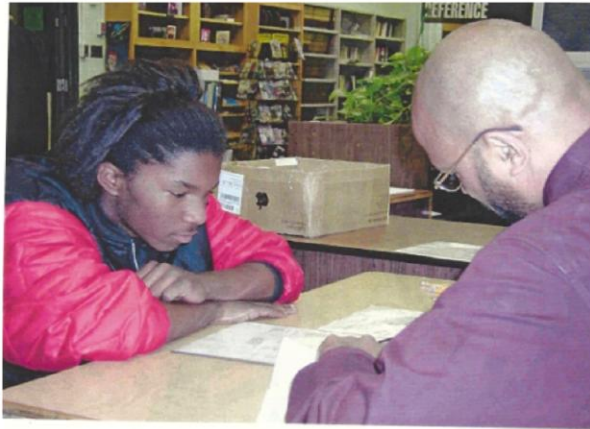
*After a few academic setbacks, he is due to graduate from Spingarn SHS in DC in 2013 and has aspirations to go to college to play Football. He was the starting running back last year on his high school team. The Teen Parent Assessment Program Social Worker Henry Jones, has provided extensive case management services and counseling to this young father, to empower him in his continued emotional development*



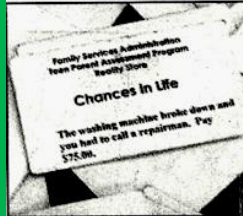
**The Teen Parent Assessment Program:  
A Success Story**



# TPAP REALITY STORE



## Southeast students learn fiscal responsibilities at 'Reality Store'



The Chances in Life card illustrates the unexpected expenses that pop up to frustrate keeping a budget.

By Denise Barnes  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Dozens of students in Southeast got a dose of reality as they learned what it's like to be a hardworking adult with bills to pay.

More than 40 eighth graders at John Philip Sousa Middle School on Wednesday learned how to save, invest and spend their hard-earned dollars during a half-day workshop called the "Reality Store."

They got a chance to see whether their net income and monthly expenses would allow them to live the type of lifestyle they want.

"The 'Reality Store' is a life skills experience," said Martina Nicholson,

a program specialist with the D.C. Department of Human Services/Family Services Administration's Teen Parent Assessment Project, which sponsored the workshop.

The Teen Parent Assessment Project is designed to help teenage parents move toward self-sufficiency, Ms. Nicholson said. The program's outreach efforts provide D.C. youths with workshops that focus on pregnancy prevention, personal responsibility, accountability, life skills, self-esteem and character building.

"Although, the students are playing the game of life, I want them to make very real choices because by doing so, it will give them a glimpse into what they are capable of accomplishing in their lives, if they just stop, think, plan and make good decisions," Ms. Nicholson said. "I always tell them that most people don't plan to fail. It's just that they fail to plan."

After completing a short questionnaire that indicated their future



Quamisha Davis, 14, began the process with Willie T. Corner Jr., a case worker for the family services agency. The exercise included more than 40 eighth-grade students.

lifestyles and occupations, students stopped at a booth that represented a bank to find out how much money they would earn per year.

Using a checkbook register, they proceeded to the Reality Store and stopped at different stations, each representing the challenges of adult life: child care, health insurance, buying groceries, clothes and transportation, and decorating and maintaining a home.

At each station, the students learned just how much they could afford.

DHS staff and other professionals, who sat at each station, counseled the students and urged them to avoid becoming pregnant and to stay in school so they could be successful.

If they ran out of money before they completed their trip through the Reality Store, the students would go back and reconsider their de-

see STORE, page B4

# Teen Father Workshop

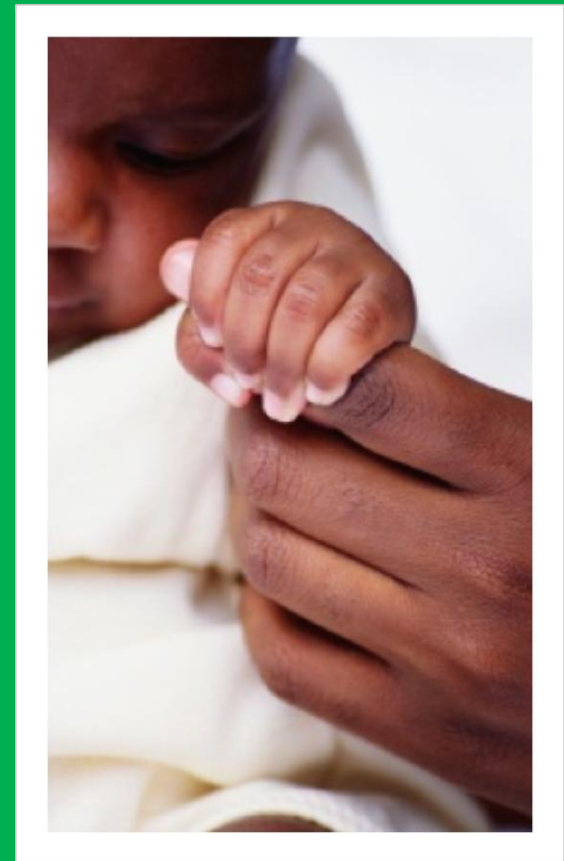


# TPAP GRADUATES



# Community Partners

- ▣ New Heights Program
- ▣ Covenant House of Washington
- ▣ Citywide Consortium of Collaborative
- ▣ Men Can Stop Rape
- ▣ DCPS and DC Public Charter Schools
- ▣ DC Rape Crisis Center, Inc.
- ▣ Mayors Fatherhood Initiative
- ▣ Salvation Army Turning Point Transitional Housing Program
- ▣ Dept of Mental Health
- ▣ IMA Child Care Division
- ▣ Healthy Babies Project
- ▣ Wendt Center for Loss and Healing
- ▣ National Council of Negro Women, Inc
- ▣ MEE (Motivational Entertainment Education)
- ▣ Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington
- ▣ Child and Family Services Division
- ▣ DC Dept of Employment Services
- ▣ Washington Hospital Center Teen Parent Alliance Program
- ▣ Catholic Charities, Inc
- ▣ Ceasefire, Inc.
- ▣ DC Department of Parks, Planning, and Recreation
- ▣ Department of Employment Services



# Department of Human Services

## Teen Parent Assessment Program

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Teen Parent Assessment Program

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
ADMINISTRATION FOR  
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

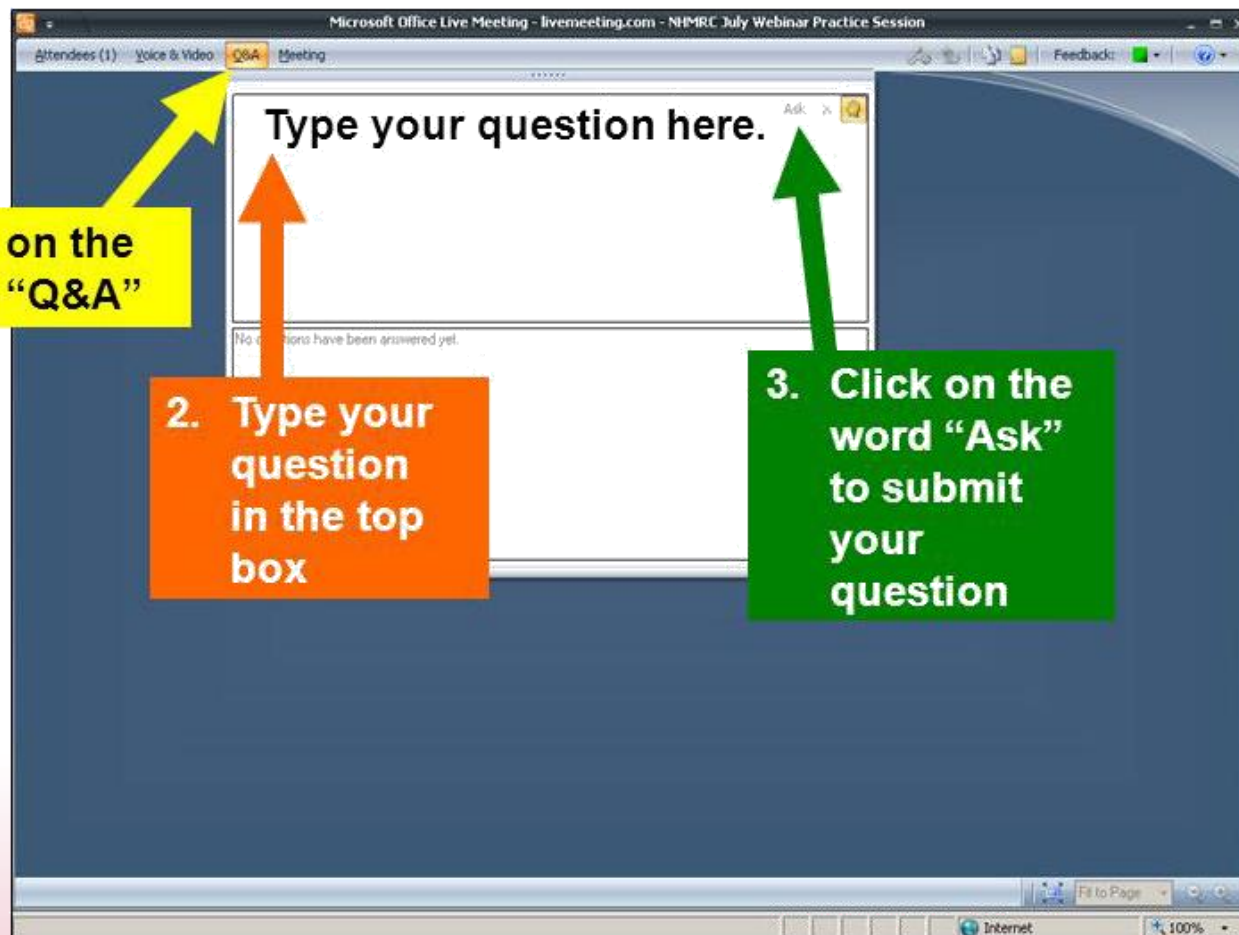
# Question and Answer Session

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Attendees (1) Voice & Video Q&A Meeting Feedback: [Green]

Type your question here. Ask

No questions have been answered yet.

## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

### Thank You for Participating in Our Poll.

We'd like to hear from you regarding future Webinar topics. Please submit your ideas by e-mail to [peerta@icfi.com](mailto:peerta@icfi.com).

Please help us to expand our network and reach a greater number of people by directing interested colleagues from your local and State networks and agencies to [www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov).





## Welfare Peer TA Network Webinar

**THANK YOU** for attending the Webinar!

A transcript and audio recording will be available in 5-10 days on the Welfare Peer TA Network Web site at [www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.peerta.acf.hhs.gov).

Please be sure to register for additional upcoming Webinars through the Welfare Peer TA Network Web site.

