

## Implementing a Statewide Home Visitation Program for Teen Parents



Pam Plummer,  
Director  
*The Parent Center*  
5905 Forest Place  
Little Rock, AR 72207

501-666-6833

pplummer@cfyf.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Arkansas

- one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the United States (ranked 46<sup>th</sup>);
- high poverty rates; and,
- lower incidences of prenatal care.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Centers for Youth and Families' home visiting program began with Arkansas Children's Trust Fund grant.**

**Expanded program with an Adolescent Family Life (AFL) grant to establish the THRIVE program model and replicate statewide.**



Mission is to empower teens in Arkansas to provide a healthy, nurturing environment for their children, create positive family relationships and develop personal, educational and vocational skills for a more productive life.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The THRIVE program model provides:**

- Home visitation using the *Born to Learn* curriculum;
- Assistance in identifying and obtaining other services as needed, including WIC, Medicaid, housing assistance, and mental health services;
- Assistance in finding and using a medical home for preventive and emergency health care ;
- Transportation;
- Assistance and support for completing education and/or employment goals;
- Assistance when transitioning to independent living;
- Group meetings using the *Nurturing Program*;
- Crisis intervention, and more.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Program Objectives

**Teen Parent Objectives:**

- Graduate from high school or receive their GED.
- Delay an additional pregnancy.
- Increased understanding of child development.
- Increased understanding and use of social supports.
- If pregnant, receive prenatal care.
- Improved family relationships.

**Child Objectives:**

- Is full term and healthy weight.
- Receives well baby check-ups.
- Is up to date on immunizations  
Receives developmental screenings .
- (ASQ-3) and referrals as indicated.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**In 2005, two Arkansas AFL grantees, Centers for Youth and Families (Little Rock) and Healthy Connections, Inc. (Mena) created a partnership to propose a unique program.**

**With additional AFL funding we developed State Technical Assistance Resources (S.T.A.R.).**

**S.T.A.R. reaches out to organizations in both rural and urban communities.**

**S.T.A.R. provides intensive technical assistance to help sites provide much needed services to pregnant and parenting teens - teens that would otherwise not receive services!**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## KEY STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM STATEWIDE

Select organizations to provide services that are in and familiar with the community to be served.

Work closely with organization at the beginning to determine what their needs are – all sites will have different needs.

For example, identifying and obtaining program funds; recruitment, staff training, and documentation.

Assist them in developing a resource manual to determine closest referral sources for wrap around services for families.

As needs are identified, provide technical assistance and training required.

Provide ongoing, continuous support.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Additional Key Factors

### Partnership with Arkansas Children's Trust Fund

Identifies agencies in Arkansas communities that are interested in developing new pregnant and parenting teen home visiting programs, provides funds for new programs, promotes home visiting in Arkansas by serving on State Legislative Task Force and much more.

Experience with home visiting in both rural and urban locations.

Strong collaborations with other programs and funding sources throughout the state.

Positive reputation in local communities and state.

### Positive outcomes from previous programming.

Reduced subsequent pregnancies (year average under 7% ); AAPI-2 indicated promising trends in parent/child nurturing; increased immunization rates (98% plus); and more.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

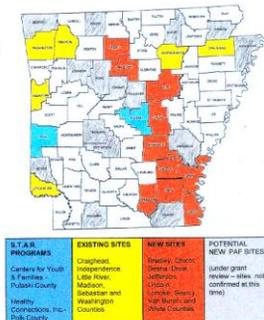
---

---

---

---

In the past five years, S.T.A.R. has helped establish new THRIVE programs in ten Arkansas counties and provided technical assistance to existing home visiting programs in six counties. In the next year, at least ten additional counties will be able to provide services to pregnant/parenting teens through the Pregnancy Assistance Fund.




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## CHALLENGES

Rural sites having fewer resources;

Hiring qualified staff;

Monitoring fidelity to program when applicable; and

Traveling distance to different sites –  
*in Arkansas this past year, we have had tornadoes,  
flooding, and ice storms!*

Funding (always!)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**In four years, S.T.A.R. programs has served:**

**800+ teen moms;**

**700+ teen dads;**

**1,000+ infants and children and**

**2,500+ other family members.**

**In the next year alone, we anticipate  
serving more than **1,000** teen moms,  
**800** teen dads; and **1,000** infants and  
children in Arkansas.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---