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Case Study #1: Challenges in getting teen fathers to come for services

Your organization has recently started a new pilot program for teen fathers. Your organization identifies teen fathers through the State Attorney General's Child Support Division. Teen fathers that are currently paying child support to the Attorney General's Office are invited to participate voluntarily in a series of weekly hour-long support groups over the course of three months. The workshops discuss different topics including parenting skills, relationship issues, health, and career planning. After the first pilot, your organization carried out interviews with all of the participants. The young men reported high levels of satisfaction with the program even though attendance in the pilot was extremely erratic. Young men cited a wide range of reasons for not being able to attend more sessions, including:

- having to work
- lack of child care
- no transportation
- inconvenient meeting times
- too tired
- too far away
- too busy

No particular answer was cited more than others.

Given your experience is working with teen parents, what do you think would be some effective strategies for making it more likely that these young men would attend a father support group on a more regular basis? Why do you believe your strategies would be the most effective?

Case Study #2: Challenges in working with parenting couples

Your organization has traditionally worked with teen mothers. After recognizing the need to work with both parents, your organization recently established a new pilot program for couples. The program is based on an educational curriculum that helps couples develop strategies for co-parenting and seeks to improve couple communication.

Given your experience in working with teen parents, what do you think would be the challenges in implementing this pilot program? In your opinion, are the risks in working with couples worth the potential benefits?

Case Study #3: Lack of clear outcomes for what program wants to achieve

Your organization has been asked by a local school district to provide case management services for its high school students that are teen fathers. In talking with school district officials, it has become clear that the school district does not have a clear idea of what they want to achieve by working with teen fathers and they do not have plans for how they would measure their program's success.

Identify the three most important outcomes that you would want to influence with teen fathers in this project and share what your major strategies would be to achieve this. Why did you choose these particular three outcomes?