



OAH PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE FUND PROGRAM: SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES

Using a Multifaceted Approach to Serve Teen Fathers

New Hampshire Department of Education— *The E³ Teen Fatherhood Program*

In August 2015, the HHS Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) awarded the [New Hampshire Department of Education](#) a multi-year Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) Program grant to support teen fathers and their families.

The *E³ Teen Fatherhood Program* aims to increase the likelihood that teen fathers will develop skills and knowledge to lead successful lives and to fully engage in the parenting of their child(ren). To this end, the *E³* program approach is to improve education, employment, and family engagement for teen fathers and to build a sustainable network of stakeholders and partners to serve the unique needs of teen fathers in New Hampshire.

Why It Matters

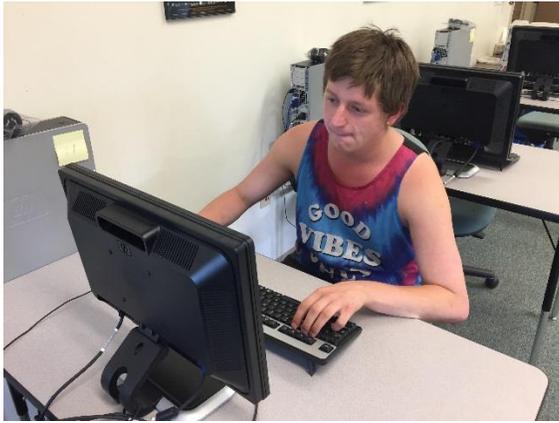
- Teen fathers' involvement with their child(ren) has a positive impact in the child's social and academic development.¹
- Young mothers who feel supported by their partners have better health behaviors during pregnancy and after the birth of their child(ren).^{2,3}
- Supporting expectant and parenting young families, including young fathers, helps improve educational attainment, reduce poverty, and increase opportunity.

An Innovative Design

The *E³ Teen Fatherhood Program* is unique in that teen fathers move through the program as individuals rather than as a cohort, and services are tailored for them based on their individual needs and goals. The *E³ Teen Fatherhood Program* focuses on three “E” areas simultaneously to provide support for teen fathers and their families – education (e.g., graduating high school, pursuing college), employment (e.g., obtaining skilled employment), and engagement with their children (e.g., parenting skills). The program fosters and creates a collaborative network of partners and stakeholders throughout the state that help participants attain their goals.

In terms of **education**, the *E³* program gives participants the opportunity to finish high school and assists them in pursuing higher education. Partner organizations work together to support teen fathers in attaining a high school diploma or high school equivalence test (HiSET). The program's main partners include the New Hampshire Department of Education Bureau of Adult Education, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) Department of Human Development and Family Studies, and CSI Charter School. UNH supports teen fathers through the Institute of Higher Education Bridge Program to help individuals explore options for possible entry into higher education once they have received their high school diploma or HiSET credential.

Through the **employment** component, an *E³* Education Consultant collaborates with partner organizations such as Granite State Independent Living and ApprenticeshipUSA to assist participants in obtaining skilled employment at a living wage. Teen fathers are matched with employment, training, and extended learning opportunities based on their individual goals. They also receive skills training for developing resumes, writing cover letters, and interviewing.



E³ Teen Fatherhood Program participant, Christian Cummings, taking his HiSET exam

The *E³ Teen Fatherhood Program* also aims to promote deeper father-child relationships through the **engagement** component. The program offers a variety of options to increase the participant's knowledge, skills, and capacity to participate in their children's lives in a meaningful way. For instance, if a teen father is interested in taking a parenting class, they can do so online, in-person, or they can contact 211, a resource line where they can find information about available resources closest to them. To provide this engagement component, the *E³ Teen Fatherhood Program* has partnered with resource centers, educational institutions, and community centers with sites across the state, including The Upper Room Family Resource Center, Granite United Way 211, UNH Department of Human Development and Family Studies, and The Extended Learning Center, Inc.

Establishing a robust network of stakeholders and service providers has been pivotal in implementing the *E³* program. The program relies on its multiple partners across the state to implement the program, rather than carrying out activities and providing services in one specific location. The New Hampshire Department of Education ensures that all involved partners are committed to the goal of the program and the population they are serving. To continue fostering collaborative partnerships, the grantee is developing a communication strategy to address gaps in services.

With the guidance and support of experienced evaluators, the New Hampshire Department of Education will continue to engage partners to expand services for participants and monitor factors that could facilitate or hinder outcomes for teen fathers.

Grantee Contact Information

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About the Office of Adolescent Health Pregnancy Assistance Fund Program

The Office of Adolescent Health Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) Program awards grants to states and tribal entities to provide expectant and parenting teens, women, fathers, and their families with a seamless network of supportive services. PAF Program funds are used to help these populations complete high school or postsecondary degrees and gain access to health care, child care, family housing, and other critical supports. The funds are also used to improve services for pregnant women who are victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

¹ Howard, K. S., Lefever, J. E. B., Borkowski, J. G., & Whitman, T. L. (2006). Fathers' influence in the lives of children with adolescent mothers. *Journal of Family Psychology, 20*(3), 468-476

² Martin, L. T., McNamara, M. J., Milot, A. S., Halle, T., & Hair, E. C. (2007). The effects of father involvement during pregnancy on receipt of prenatal care and maternal smoking. *Maternal and Child Health Journal, 11*(6), 595-602

³ Kalil, A., Zioli, K. M., & Coley, R. L. (2005). Perceptions of father involvement patterns in teenage-mother families: Predictors and links to mothers' psychological adjustment. *Family Relations, 54*(2), 197-211