

**Department of Health Services/Primary Care and Family Health
Maternal Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch
Community Challenge Grants (CCG)**

Program The CCG Program was established through legislation in the 1996 (Budget Act 1996). The CCG Program promotes community-based partnerships for the development and implementation of effective strategies to prevent teenage and unwed pregnancies, and fatherlessness resulting from these pregnancies. It is a community based teen pregnancy prevention program that utilizes a variety of approaches and strategies. The current funding cycle (2005-2010) provides 19.4 million per year in grant funds to 116 lead agencies and their subcontractors throughout California.

The specific goals of the CCG program are to:

- Reduce the number of teenage and unwed pregnancies.
- Promote responsible parenting.
- Promote the role of males in the prevention of teen and unintended pregnancies.
- Increase the number of fathers who support the economic, social and emotional well-being of their children.
- Promote postponing parenthood until one is able to provide for the physical, emotional, social and economic well-being of a child.
- Increase community involvement in building healthy families through awareness of the effects of teen and unintended pregnancies.
- Promote and support the development of self-assured, future-oriented youth capable of navigating through adolescents to responsible adulthood and contributing positively to society.

CCG uses a wide variety of strategies appropriate for their community. Required strategies include: Prevention Education (Comprehensive Sexuality Education or Abstinence-focused Education) and Clinical Linkage Services. Abstinence-focused programs do not have to provide clinical linkage services. Other strategies utilized by projects include: Informational Presentation, Education and Support for Significant Adults, Parents, and other Caregivers of Adolescents; Education and Support for Teen Mothers and Fathers; Male Involvement; Services Learning; Peer Provided Services; Train the Trainer; Mentoring; Community Awareness and Mobilization; Life Skills and Youth Leadership Development.

Start date The CCG was initiated in 1996 with an annual budget of \$20 million per year with authorizing legislation (Chapter 197, Statues of 1996, Sections 18993-18993.9 of the Welfare and Institutions Code). The first funding cycle (1997-1999) funded 114 Grantees.

**Department of Health Services/Primary Care and Family Health
Maternal Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch
Community Challenge Grants (CCG)**

Fund

Source Federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) reimbursement funds from the Department of Social Services. CCG goals support TANF objectives to reduce out of wedlock births to teen and reduce welfare caseloads.

History

Governor Pete Wilson created the Community Challenge Grant Program in FY 1996-97 and used \$20 Million General Fund dollars to fund the program. From 1996 - 2000, the Legislature annually appropriated \$20 million from the General Fund to DHS for competitive grant awards. Since 2000, the Community Challenge Grant Program (CCG) has been funded with federal TANF "bonus" dollars. The first funding cycle (FY 97-99) funded 114 Grantees. The second funding cycle (FY 99-2005) included three extension years and funded 134 Grantees. There are currently 116 Grantees in the FY 2005-2010 funding cycle.

Outcomes and Continuing Need

- In 2005, births to teens ages 15 – 19 years declined to 37.1 per 1,000 live births. In 2000, the rate for that age group was 46.7 per 1,000 live births.
- California's teenage population ages 15-19 is expected to increase from 2.4 million to 3.2 million over the next 10 years. This rapid increase is expected to increase the total number of teen births and reverse the decline in teen birth rates starting in 2006.
- Teen births cost American taxpayers approximately \$7 billion in state and federal money each year.
- In California, teen births result in an annual estimated net cost of \$1.5 billion to taxpayers.
- Older youth were more likely than their younger peers to become sexually active during the program period. Following participation in a TPP program, older youth were more comfortable using condoms and had greater odds of knowing where to access family planning services in their community.
- Low birth weight is more common among infants born to teen mothers, than those born to women in their 20's. Low birth weight babies are 40 times more likely to die within the first month of their lives.
- Teen mothers are less likely to graduate from high school—two out of three mothers never finish high school.
- Children born to women under the age of 20 are 10 times more likely to be poor.
- Nearly 80 percent of all unmarried teen mothers receive public assistance services.
- Two out of three teen moms never finish high school.
- California must continue the teen pregnancy prevention efforts to promote youth development and avoid unintended pregnancies.

**Department of Health Services/Primary Care and Family Health
Maternal Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branch
Community Challenge Grants (CCG)**

Program Evaluation

- CCG programs are delivered in various settings that include schools and community based sites.
- In 2003-2004, CCG Programs served approximately 260,000 participants in direct, face to face interventions.
- Six percent of CCG participants are younger than age 12 and thirteen percent are older than age 25.
- Forty-five percent of program participants are Latino, 22% are Asian/Pacific Islanders; 15% are White Anglos; 10% are African-American; 3% are Native American; and 6% reported their ethnicity as Multi-Ethnic or Other.
- Fifty-four percent of CCG participants are female.
- CCG grantees are required to match their grant funds with contributions from local organizations and business. Many grantees collected more than the required minimum, for a total of \$5.5 million.

Program Accomplishments

- Over the years, CCG has provided age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, curriculum-based comprehensive sex education, including abstinence-focused education.
- Activities that CCG programs provided focus on changing sexual and personal behaviors, knowledge and attitudes of youth, teens and their families.
- CCG has provided youth development activities that provide skill building opportunities for the development of future orientation through self-expression, peer education, youth leadership and community service/service learning.
- CCG has provided individual and group based mentoring, role-modeling and mentor training.
- CCG has provided training and education for parent, and other significant adults to increase communication skills regarding pregnancy prevention and responsible parenting.
- CCG programs have helped increase contraceptive use and helped participants feel comfortable obtaining and using condoms. This is particularly important as 12% of younger adolescents and 55% of older adolescents report that they had already had sexual intercourse by the time they entered a teen pregnancy prevention program, and many were inconsistent in their contraceptive use or were found to be using ineffective methods.
- CCG has been successful in rallying communities behind teen pregnancy prevention and developing opportunities for collaborative efforts.