Federal Funding for Sex Education: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI)

June 2012

Introduction
The Consolidated Appropriations Acts of 2010 allocated $110 million for the 2010 fiscal year to fund comprehensive sexual education programs for the President’s Teens Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI). The program is administered through the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) in the Department of Health and Human Services to support medically accurate and age appropriate programs that reduce teenage pregnancy, behavioral risks underlying teenage pregnancy, or other associated risk factors.1,2

Of the $110 million, $75 million was allocated to replicate programs found to be effective based on the research evidence.1 These programs are considered “Tier 1” curriculum. In addition, $25 million was allocated for promising, new or community-wide initiatives (“Tier 2”), and $10 million was designated for research, evaluation and technical assistance.1

Facts on Grants
In fiscal year 2010, the $75 million in Tier 1 grant awards were made to 75 grantees in 32 states and Washington, D.C.1 The awards ranged from $400,000 to $4 million per year for five years. For both Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding, eligible applicants included: non-profit organizations, for-profit organizations, universities, hospitals, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, American Indian/Alaskan Native tribal governments or organizations, and state and local governments, including school districts and departments of education and health.1

Tier 1 Programs
Funding was designated for two broad program types: 1) curriculum-based programs that seek to educate young people about topics such as responsible behavior, relationships, and pregnancy prevention and 2) youth development programs that seek to reduce teenage pregnancy and a variety of risky behaviors through a broad range of approaches.2 However, grantees must replicate one of 31 programs deemed “Tier 1” evidence-based programs.1,3 Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. initially compiled the list following review of over 190 program evaluations and research articles. Studies that met the following four criteria were included in the review and subjected to further assessment on the quality of the research design and the program effects that were measured: (1) Examine the impacts of an intervention using quantitative data and statistical analysis and hypothesis testing; (2) Focus on impacts on at least one measure of sexual risk behavior or its health consequences; (3) Focus on United States youth ages 19 or younger at the start of a program; and (4) Have been conducted or published since 1989.4 Following a second round of review, an updated list of evidence-based programs was made available in April 2012. Resources developed as part of this update include a list of all programs reviewed for potential inclusion, which is available on the website of the Office of Adolescent Health.3
The target population for these programs are youth under age 20, including pre-teens, and specific priority populations based on clearly defined needs supported by data. These may include youth in foster care, immigrants, urban/rural settings, and racial or ethnic groups, particularly populations within a defined geographic area with high teen birth rates.\(^2\)

**Tier 2 Programs**

Tier 2 funding is designated for programs that “develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy.”\(^5\) Tier 2 funding was awarded to 19 grantees in 14 states, totaling $15 million.\(^1\) Grant awards ranged from $400,000 to $1 million. The remaining $9 million from Tier 2 funding was awarded by the CDC in partnership with OAH for community-wide teenage pregnancy prevention programs. Eight state and local organizations were funded to demonstrate the effectiveness of innovative, multi-component, community-wide initiatives and five national organizations were funded to provide assistance and support to the community grantees.\(^1\)

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**References**