Federal Funding for Evidence-Based Sex Education in Illinois

June 2012

Federal Funds for Sex Education

In 2010, the federal government established two funding opportunities to encourage the implementation of evidence-based comprehensive sexual education programming: the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) and the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP).

The Consolidated Appropriations Acts of 2010 allocated $110 million for fiscal year 2010 to fund sexual education programs for the President’s Teens Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI), which is administered through the Office of Adolescent Health in the Department of Health and Human Services.1 Of this $110 million, $75 million was set aside for replicating programs found to be effective based on the research evidence; these programs are considered “Tier 1” curriculum.1 Twenty-five million dollars were allocated for promising, new or community-wide initiatives (“Tier 2”), and $10 million was for research, evaluation and technical assistance.1

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 designated $75 million per year from 2010 to 2014 to fund the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), which educates “young people with medically accurate and age-appropriate sex education in order to help them reduce their risk of unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other STDs through evidence-based and innovative programs.”1 PREP is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF).1 Of the $75 million allocated for 2010, $55 million was directed to state grants to replicate programs that use or substantially incorporate components of evidence-based programs. An evidence-based program is one that has been rigorously evaluated and shown to change behavior among youth who participated in the program compared to teens who did not go through the program.

Funding in Illinois

The state of Illinois received a total of $5.4 million in TPPI grants, $2.2 million in PREP grants, and $556,000 in PREIS grants.4 Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and Children’s Home & Aid Society of Illinois received funding from the “Tier 1” TPPI funds (Figure 1), meaning both recipients will implement evidence-based programs.4 No programs in Illinois received funding from “Tier 2” TPPI funds. The Illinois Department of Health and Human services received $2.2 million from the PREP state grant funds.4 They have issued an announcement regarding available PREP funds, but subgrantees, have not yet been determined.4 Demoiselle 2 Femme, a nonprofit serving young women and girls on Chicago’s South Side, received $555,701 from PREIS, a subset of PREP.4

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI)

Chicago Public Schools and Children’s Home & Aid received money through the federal TPPI for implementation of Tier 1 programs in FY10.3 Tier 1 indicates that recipients must use one of a list of pre-determined, evidence-based curricula.5 With its funding, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) provides programming to students in 9th grade in 40 schools in the district.4 CPS utilizes Teen Outreach Program (TOP) curriculum, which is a 9-month curriculum that targets youths aged 12-17 and aims to reduce rates of school suspension, school failure, and teen pregnancy. Topics addressed in TOP encompass relationships, peer pressure,
decision-making, values clarification, goal-setting, adolescent development, and health. There is also a 20-hour community service component to this curriculum. The program also includes a condom availability initiative, teen health hotline, community service programming, youth advisory committee, and social media campaign. The program is estimated to reach 9,000 youths per year.

The Children's Home and Aid Society delivers the Children's Aid Society—Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program curriculum via after-school programs at Benjamin E. Mays Elementary Academy, Charles W. Earle Elementary School, and Copernicus Elementary School, serving 180 youths per year. The curriculum targets adolescents in grades 6-12, runs 6 days a week during the academic year and includes a summer component. The program's units include education, job club, family life and sexuality education, mental health, medical and dental services, self-expression, and lifetime individual sports.

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Personal Responsibility Education Program
Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) and Demoiselle 2 Femme (D2F) received money through the federal PREP grant in FY10 (Figure 2). Illinois DHS received money from the PREP grant, which means that recipients must replicate or rely on evidence-based curricula that teaches comprehensive sex education and adulthood preparation subjects. The Illinois DHS has issued an announcement about the available PREP funds but sub-grantees have not yet been determined. D2F received money from the PREIS grant, which means their pregnancy prevention approach is innovative and not constrained by a pre-determined curriculum. D2F is implementing and evaluating a teen pregnancy-prevention model that combines its own 3-D curriculum with seven of the eight modules included in the Tier-1 Making a Difference curriculum. The curriculum includes interactive activities, small group discussions, and skill-building exercises, including role-plays, aimed to increase comfort and efficacy with practicing abstinence. The project serves 800 African-American young women ages 14–18 in eight high schools located on the South Side of Chicago.

Figure 1

TPPI Tier 1
$5,386,910 in FY10

CPS
$3,943,607

Children’s Home & Aid Society
$1,443,303

Figure 2

PREP

IL DHS
$2,231,758 (FY10)
$2,215,473 (FY11)

PREIS recipient Demoiselle 2 Femme
$555,701 (FY10)
$555,701 (FY11)

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References