

Adolescent Parents/Reproductive Care**28-1-6****Policy**

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) shall provide funding for a youth in care who is the custodial parent of a minor child.

All services and opportunities that will assist the youth to become a healthy, responsible parent shall be made available within DCF budget appropriations.

Adolescent Parent Program and Funding

When a birth has been confirmed and paternity has been legally established, the child's information shall be entered and linked to the youth in care in the electronic record.

The Transitional Support Social Worker (TSS) shall ensure that a committed youth under the age of 18 who is the custodial parent of a minor child is enrolled in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through the Department of Social Services (DSS). The youth may also be eligible for Temporary Family Assistance (TFA). TSS shall assist youth 18 and over in enrolling in this program.

Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) provides:

- licensed day care so the youth may attend high school
- medical coverage
- financial payments for the minor child.

Youth ages 18 or older who are Community Housing Assistance Program (CHAP), Community Housing Employment Enrichment Resource (CHEER) and Young Adult Services and Support (YASS) participants and are the custodial parent of a child shall receive financial assistance from DCF.

DCF payments shall include funds for:

- the youth's living needs
- the minor child (at \$250.00 per month per child if not already included in a program rate)
- licensed day care if needed.

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Adolescent Parents/Reproductive Care**28-1-6****Provisions
for
Child(ren)
of DCF
Adolescents**

DCF shall be responsible for any day care expenses incurred by the youth for work-related purposes. If written notification is received from DSS that day care funds through that agency are exhausted, DCF shall pay for the cost of a licensed day care provider.

Medical coverage for the minor child shall be provided by DSS. The TSS shall document in the computer system the requests for, and provision of financial assistance and equipment.

**Reproduc-
tive Health**

Youth served by DCF shall have access to a full array of reproductive health services. DCF shall follow the Centers for Disease Control's, American Academy of Pediatrics' and American College of Obstetrics' recommendations for regular health care services including providing youth with information about the importance of delaying the initiation of sexual activity and about contraceptive options. DCF shall follow the established guidelines for meeting the reproductive health care needs for adolescents in care.

Youth ages 12 and up shall receive health guidance annually regarding responsible sexual behaviors, including abstinence. The array of birth control options (including but not limited to IUDs, birth control pills and condoms) and methods to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs) shall be made available along with instructions on how to use them effectively.

All sexually active females shall be offered a yearly routine gynecologic examination, including associated testing. The TSS shall make the referral to a gynecologist, family planning clinic or OB/GYN clinic as needed or requested by the youth. The TSS shall ensure that well child visits are completed in the case record.

DCF shall identify young parents for additional interventions focusing on delaying additional pregnancies.