



# OAH TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM: SPOTLIGHTING SUCCESS

## Better Family Life, Inc.: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program



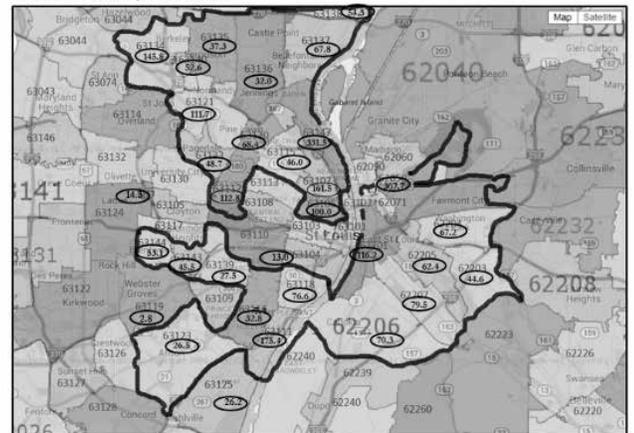
In July 2015, the HHS Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) awarded 84 Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program grants, which are expected to reach 1.2 million youth over the course of the five-year project. Some of the grantee organizations, including Better Family Life Inc., had been previously funded by OAH and are now building on earlier successes by expanding efforts to reach more youth in more settings with a holistic teen pregnancy prevention approach.

The Better Family Life Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (BFL TPPP) began in FY2010 with funding from OAH. During the initial project they implemented evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programming in 22 zip codes in St. Louis, Missouri reaching 12,545 youth over five years. BFL TPPP has expanded their work with additional funding in 2015 and will reach almost twice the number of youth in six additional zip codes (totaling 28 zip codes) in St. Louis.

- In 2015, Better Family Life, Inc. was awarded a \$6.2 million, five-year grant from the HHS Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program for the Better Family Life Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (BFL TPPP).
- BFL TPPP will reach a grand total of nearly 20,000 middle and high school students in 28 zip codes in the Metropolitan St. Louis region by 2020.
- BFL implements three evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs in middle schools, high schools, and after-school settings: *Making Proud Choices!*, *Promoting Health among Teens! Abstinence Only*, and *Sisters Saving Sisters*.



St. Louis Metropolitan Area



**Figure 1: Disparity of Teen Births in Community Compared to Surrounding Zip Codes**  
The 28 zip code community to be served, outlined above, in the counties of Saint Louis City (a county), St. Louis County and St. Clair County, had a combined 2013 TBR of 73.8, more than 2.5 times the national average of 26.6. The community is set apart from the bordering zip code areas in the same three counties whose TBRs, if averaged, would be less than 10.

\* In the above caption, TBR stands for Teen Birth Rate which is 73.8 out of 1,000  
Above: BFL's focus area for the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan area  
Left: Youth Empowerment Rally Tour "Getting Down to Business"

## About the Better Family Life Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

BFL works in poor, urban communities in St. Louis where youth are regularly exposed to trauma, violence, and drugs. BFL staff work with youth dealing with sexual violence, suicide, and family health issues all while trying to manage the daily stresses of normal adolescent development. BFL TPPP helps youth by providing a safe place and a trusted adult to discuss their struggles and to learn about making positive, proud choices about their lives and relationships.

BFL TPPP partners with 22 public and private schools in St. Clair County, St. Louis City, and St. Louis County to provide community-based teen pregnancy prevention services. This includes providing evidence-based, medically accurate teen pregnancy prevention programs, assessing for and connecting youth to trauma-informed care, and providing referrals to youth-friendly health care services in the St. Louis Region.

By 2020, BFL TPPP expects to see positive results in the community they serve including reduced rates and disparities in the following outcomes:

- Teen pregnancies;
- Teen births;
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs).



BFL Youth Leadership Council community mobilization

### Grantee Contact Information:

#### Miranda Jones

Vice President of Youth Family and Clinical Services  
314-454-0622, 717  
[mjones@betterfamilylife.org](mailto:mjones@betterfamilylife.org)

#### Erica Driver

Director of Youth, Family Services and Compliance  
314-454-0622, 718  
[edriver@betterfamilylife.org](mailto:edriver@betterfamilylife.org)  
<http://betterfamilylife.org/>

*\*Most recent data available*



BFL Youth Leadership Council speaks to OAH Staff



Youth engaged in Making Proud Choices class

### Why it Matters

The OAH TPP Program and the BFL TPPP are important investments in reducing the rates of teen pregnancy in this country. The BFL TPPP:

- **Provides services in communities with the greatest needs.** As compared to other regions of similar size, the metropolitan St. Louis region is in the top 10 for high rates of crime, violence, drugs, and STDs. Additionally, the teen birth rate in communities served by BFL TPPP is more than double the state and national rate.
- **Instills hope in an environment with widespread violence and disparities.** The BFL TPPP not only provides evidence-based programming, but they are talking with (as opposed to *at*) youth about what they can do to save their lives, improve their community, and create a better family life in general.
- **Serves as a key partner in other citywide initiatives.** The BFL TPPP is a key component in the St. Louis area's Strong Cities, Strong Community (SC2) Initiative to reduce disparities in community and health outcomes.

### BFL TPPP By the Numbers

- National Teen Birth Rate (2014): 24.2 per 1,000 females age 15-19;
- Missouri Teen Birth Rate (2014): 27.2 per 1,000 females age 15-19;
- St. Louis City Teen Birth Rate (2013\*): 46.5 per 1,000 females age 15-19;
- Community Teen Birth Rate where Better Family Life reaches (2014): 42.3 per 1,000 females age 15-19.

### About the Office of Adolescent Health TPP Program

The OAH Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program is a national, evidence-based program that funds diverse organizations working to prevent teen pregnancy across the United States. OAH invests in the implementation of programs identified as evidence-based by the HHS Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review, and provides funding to develop and evaluate new and innovative approaches to prevent teen pregnancy.