

Funding Programs for Young Parents & Families

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[Research highlights](#) the effectiveness of targeted programming to support young families, families with parents younger than 25 and children under the age of five. Young parents jointly navigating adulthood and parenthood [commonly face obstacles](#) such as disruption in education, unemployment, financial instability, lack of access to child care, and lack of parenting experience or familial supports. However, despite these obstacles, they also possess a [unique capacity to learn](#) and a [strong desire to see their children and family thrive](#). This presents an opportunity for human service organizations to employ a targeted approach to disrupt intergenerational poverty via a strong grasp on the needs and perspectives of young families as they may be served across multiple systems. Given these unique circumstances, there is an opportunity to evaluate where these families are served and create comprehensive programming to meet the needs of both parents and children. Funding to support young families with children spans federal, state, and local agencies, and each funding stream comes with distinct statutory and regulatory requirements. System transformation that knits services across program areas requires careful planning, building political will and navigating the administrative barriers and boundaries. Below is a summary of potential federal funding sources and programs that can be used to support programs specifically targeted towards young families. While this list is not exhaustive, it highlights major sources that can serve as a starting point for braiding and blending of funding to create comprehensive programming to serve young families.

[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) »](#)

There are many examples of TANF programs specifically designed for young parents and families. For example, the [Young Parents Program](#) in MA provides education, career preparation and family support services to young families. Because TANF is a flexible block grant and programs supporting young parents are a natural fit within [TANFs four purposes](#), TANF is a noteworthy funding stream.

[Social Services Block Grant \(SSBG\) »](#)

SSBG is a flexible funding for essential social services within specific categories, including “Pregnancy and Parenting Services for Young Parents.” Additionally, TANF funds can be passed through to SSBG for programs supporting families to help young families become self-sufficient.

[Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) »](#)

In addition to providing for basic food assistance, SNAP also provides [employment and training \(E&T\)](#) services, including access to supportive services such as child care and transportation. SNAP E&T could be beneficial to young parents and families who are not TANF eligible. Moreover, many youth aging out of foster care are already connected to SNAP. SNAP E&T programs could provide services aimed at young families and coordinated efforts with TANF programs to support young families transitioning between services due to becoming TANF ineligible.

[John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood \(Chafee\) »](#)

The Chafee program provides funding to prepare current and former foster youth ages 14-25, including those who are pregnant and parenting, to successfully transition to adulthood. This [Children’s Bureau tip sheet](#) explains how funds can be used specifically

to support pregnant and parenting youth, particularly by coordinating with [Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention \(APP\)](#) programs.

[Family First Prevention Services Act Prevention Funds \(FFPSA\) »](#)

FFPSA allows Title IV-E funds under the Social Security Act to be used for preventative services such as mental health and substance use prevention and treatment services as well as in-home parent skill training programs for pregnant and parenting youth. Under FFPSA an array of services may be used to target young parents and families, such as [Parents as Teachers](#), a home visiting program that uses peer support to educate first-time parents on child development and parenting, can be expanded or created.

[Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention \(CBCAP\) Grants »](#)

States receive CBCAP funds for community-based efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect. [Several exemplary programs](#) target the needs of families with young children, but only a few programs target young families. In Everett, WA the Housing Hope [Teen and Young Families program](#) supports mothers aged 16-24 with case management, housing, and specially tailored college courses. Other CBCAP programs could follow Washington's example in developing programs or practices tailored to young parents and families.

[Community Services Block Grant \(CSBG\) »](#)

State and local governments as well as Community Action Agencies (CAAs) can use funds from the CSBG to alleviate poverty for young families. For example, the [BI-County Community Action Programs](#) in MN specifically targets young parents to provide education programs and development opportunities for children. In particular, CAAs

are a valuable resource for young parent programming because they are well known for leveraging multiple programs to support families within communities, such as operating [Head Start centers](#) and [SNAP E&T Programs](#).

[Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) Title I »](#)

WIOA Title I can be used to support programming for out of school youth who are pregnant and parenting. Many WIOA state plans specifically call out young parents, for example [OR's plan](#) provides for summer youth employment and on-the-job training for TANF young parents. In Baltimore, MD there is [intentional partnering between workforce programs](#) and the TANF funded Center for Family Success (formerly the Young Parent Support Center). Additionally, the past Department of Labor [Young Parent Demonstration](#) pilot can be a source of inspiration for potential WIOA programs, particularly those with an emphasis on intensive mentoring services.

[Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Continuum of Care \(CoC\) »](#)

Municipalities using CoC funds can include young parents and families in their requisite community plans as a special population, identifying specific needs, services gaps, and benchmarks for the population. For example, both [Seattle/King County, WA](#) and [Santa Cruz County, CA's](#) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Coordinated Community Plan identify young parents as a special population. Jurisdictions that do so hold themselves accountable for serving young parents and families in addition to creating a clear pathway for providers to serve the population.

[HUD Foster Youth Initiative \(FYI\) »](#)

Pregnant and Parenting youth between the ages of 18-24 who have left or are transitioning from the foster care system are eligible for Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) in the form of Tenant Protection Vouchers (TPVs) as a part of the FYI initiative, a partnership between Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) and Public Child Welfare Agencies (PCWAs). In Alameda County, CA, [Rising Oaks](#) is a transitional housing program that leverages the FYI initiative to provides young families with services including case management, housing, life skills training, therapy, and education and career supports.

[Head Start / Early Head Start »](#)

Head Start and Early Head Start services are available to pregnant women and children ages birth to five and their families. Programs supporting young families can utilize Head Start/Early Head Start programs to establish quality childcare resources for young parents. For example, during the 2015 [Rural Impact Demonstration project](#) ME's Family Futures Downeast (FFD) cohort provided high-quality child care through Head Start centers while parents were in class, and the family received coaching. While FFD did not specifically target young families, a similar model could be used by programs that do.

[Child Care Development Block Grant \(CCDBG\) »](#)

Similar to Head Start, CCDBG can be a meaningful resource to provide young families with quality child care. CCDBG funds provide states with child care subsidy payments for low-income families. [Collaboration is encouraged](#) between state TANF offices and the offices overseeing CCDBG. States like [VT and NC](#), where TANF caseworkers may determine eligibility for child care subsidies and share this information with community child care support agencies, could prioritize identifying young parents and assessing for referral.

[Family and Youth Services Bureau \(FYSB\) »](#)

FYSB is comprised of three individual programs, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program, the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program, and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, that can support innovative services for young families. One such initiative is the [Starting Out Right for Homeless Parenting Youth Program](#) (SOR HPYP), a community and volunteer-based program in AZ where a host caregiver provides a home to pregnant and/or parenting youth and their children.

[Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting \(MIECHV\) »](#)

Home visiting programs by design focus on both the caregiver and their children, making them an ideal support for young families, providing the skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy. As of 2016 [55% of parents served were young parents](#), however some programs exclusively focus on young families as their target population, such as the [IL Pregnant and Parenting Youth in Care Home Visiting \(I-PPYC-HV\) Pilot Project](#). With such programs, there is an opportunity to coordinate services benefiting young families, as well as establishing program practices and policies that support young families.

[Medicaid / Children's Health Insurance Program \(MCD/CHIP\) »](#)

Medicaid and CHIP are two Federal-State health insurance and services programs serving low-income children, youth, and families. [CO, IL, MI, ND, and VA](#) have designed innovative two generation approaches to health coverage to mitigate the impact of maternal depression on childhood development. Replicating such programs to particularly serve young families can ensure that health and wellness are prioritize for young parents and children.



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