



## **Request for Funding from DuPage County Community Services To Support the Parents Pantry and Child Passenger Safety Education and Car Seat Program**

Since 1985, Teen Parent Connection has provided high-quality, evidence-informed programming to support the unique needs of adolescent parents in DuPage County. Serving youth ages 12–22 and their children, our continuum of care—from pregnancy through the child’s fifth birthday—has proven to strengthen family functioning, increase access to essential resources, improve parenting skills, and promote healthy child development. Teen Parent Connection participants experience improved outcomes in early childhood development, health, and maternal well-being compared to national averages for teen parents. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, approximately 450–500 babies are born each year in DuPage County to young parents between the ages of 12 and 22. By supporting and equipping these families, Teen Parent Connection not only protects the health and well-being of vulnerable children—it strengthens our community across generations.

### **Parents Pantry**

One of the cornerstone supports available to participating families is the Parents Pantry, an incentive-based resource offering free access to essential care items including:

- Diapers and wipes (the most requested items)
- Infant formula and baby food
- Personal hygiene and household care products
- Baby gear, clothing, and seasonal items

Parents earn “baby bucks” by attending Teen Parent Connection programs, which they can redeem in the Pantry. This model not only promotes engagement but also offers dignity and autonomy in meeting their children's needs.

In 2025, 1 in 2 U.S. families report struggling to afford diapers—a basic necessity not covered by SNAP or WIC. Without an adequate supply, young parents may delay changing diapers, potentially leading to skin irritation, rashes, or sores that require medical attention. In addition to health risks for the child, diaper need has been linked to increased parenting stress and maternal depression. Without clean diapers, children may also be excluded from daycare and early childhood programs, creating barriers for parents seeking to attend school or work.

Teen Parent Connection works to remove these barriers by providing consistent access to diapers and other essentials through the Parents Pantry. While much of the pantry stock is donated, gaps remain—particularly in costly or specialized items such as hypoallergenic formula, seasonal gear, or medically necessary baby supplies. With the support of this grant, Teen Parent Connection will ensure that at least 200 young families continue to receive timely, equitable access to these essentials through both on-site visits and coordinated delivery by our home-visiting team.

## **Child Passenger Safety Education & Car Seat Program**

Motor vehicle injuries remain a leading cause of death for children in the U.S.—and correct use of car seats reduces the risk of fatal injury by up to 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2024). Yet, studies show nearly half of all car seats are installed or used incorrectly, placing children at serious risk.

Teen Parent Connection launched its Child Passenger Safety Education Program in 2017. What began with one certified technician has now grown into a team of nine certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, trained and equipped to serve families throughout DuPage County.

With support from DuPage County Community Services, we provided education, safety checks, and car seat installation assistance to over 70 families in 2024. In 2025, aim to serve the same number of families, improving safety outcomes for infants and young children traveling in motor vehicles.

Educational materials and instruction are available in both English and Spanish. Language Access Resource Center (LARC) provides translation support for other languages when needed.

### **Program Activities Include:**

- Maintaining certification and ongoing training for all CPS Technicians
- Certifying additional direct service staff as CPS Technicians
- Offering education and demonstration sessions to all TPC participant families
- Hosting community-based Car Seat Safety Fairs in partnership with local police departments
- Integrating CPS education into parenting groups and childbirth education sessions
- Distributing multilingual handouts and resources on car seat safety
- Providing car seats to families following a complete education session with a certified technician
- Expanding community outreach to offer education and car seats to eligible DuPage County families through CSBG-supported programming

To ensure we're making a lasting impact, we assess whether participants not only hear the information we provide -- but truly understand it -- and feel confident applying it to protect their child. Pre- and post-session surveys measure knowledge gained and confidence in using car seats correctly. These insights help us strengthen instruction and support continuous quality improvement.

### **Request for Funding**

Teen Parent Connection respectfully requests renewed funding in the amount of \$40,000 from DuPage County Community Services for the 2025 grant year. Funds will support the continued operation of both the Parents Pantry and the Child Passenger Safety Education & Car Seat Program, including the purchase of essential items, staff certification, educational materials, outreach efforts, and evaluation.

Projected Number to Be Served in 2025:

- Parents Pantry: 200 young families
- Car Seat Safety Program: 70 families

We welcome not only your financial support, but also your partnership in helping connect families to additional services available through DuPage County's Community Services Block Grant programs.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our mission to build strong, healthy families in DuPage County.

With appreciation,

Becky Beilfuss

Executive Director

Teen Parent Connection

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Request Submitted: July 17, 2025

DuPage County CSBG Grant Fund Application

Proposed Budget for January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

A final budget not exceeding the approved amount will be submitted no later than January 15, 2026, per Title IV of the Service Block Grant guidelines.

**Teen Parent Connection  
2026 CSBG Grant Proposal  
Amended Financial Summary**

<b><i>Grant Request:</i></b>	<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>
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<b>Budget</b>	
Training for new staff	\$ 250.00
Recertification (7 @\$100 each)	\$ 700.00
Car seats (70@ \$175 each)	\$ 12,250.00
Offsite storage rental	\$ 2,000.00
Parents' Pantry supplies	\$ 1,000.00
Staff time	\$ 23,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 40,000.00</b>