



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 effectively responded to the changing needs of young families in and around DuPage County, delivering parenting education and support services to adolescent parents, ages 12-22. The continuum of care we offer, from pregnancy to age five, is carefully designed to address the unique challenges adolescent parents and their children face. Our specialized programs positively impact parental knowledge and behavior, decrease stress, improve family functioning, and increase access to resources. Compared to the national averages for teen parents, TPC participants experience improved child health outcomes, increased capacity to meet the needs of their children, increased social and emotional support, and decreased risk of abuse and neglect. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, nearly 500 babies are born to young parents – (ages 12 to 22 years old) in DuPage County each year. Teen Parent Connection helps empower these parents to lead self-sufficient lives, building a strong and stable foundation for baby's healthy growth and development. By investing in teen parents today, TPC safeguards the future of two generations: parent and child.

One of the programs Teen Parent Connection offers is our Parents' Pantry. The Pantry offers a reliable source of essential care items for parents and children who participate in our parenting programs. Our Pantry model is "incentive-based," meaning that young parents earn "baby bucks" while attending programs. Parents can "spend" their baby bucks in the Pantry in exchange for diapers, formula, food, clothing, personal hygiene products, and other essential baby supplies and equipment. The most sought-after items in the Pantry are diapers and baby wipes. These products are expensive to buy in stores and are not accessible through government assistance programs. Without clean diapers, babies cannot participate in early childhood programs or daycare, creating a barrier for young parents who need to work and/or attend school. In addition, lack of clean diapers for young children creates potential health issues for the child – as well as public health issues for the community. Our participants visit the Parents' Pantry during regular pantry hours, but because we are aware that many of our families struggle with transportation issues, they also have the option to have diapers and other pantry items delivered to them during weekly home visits from a Family Support Worker. Although much of our pantry stock is donated, there are times when participant needs outpaced

contributions, or are unique to their special situations – such as a need for medication, special baby formula, hypo-allergenic products, etc. This grant support we are requesting would help fund the purchase of essential supplies and operating costs for the Parents' Pantry. Projected number to be served by the Parents Pantry in the 2024 grant period: 250 young families.

Grant funds would also be utilized to operate Teen Parent Connection's Car Seat Safety Education program – which was first piloted in 2017, with one staff member completing the Illinois Child Passenger Safety Technicians certification and performing car seat installation and use demonstrations with 18 participant families. Today, Teen Parent Connection has a team of seven members who have completed training and certification as car seat technicians. In 2023, with the support of this grant our technicians will have provided car seat education, safety checks, and expert installation for approximately 70 families who reside in DuPage County. Projected number of families to be served in the 2024 grant period: 65-70 families.

This organization is well prepared to continue this level of service to the community. Our educational materials and curriculum have been developed in both English and Spanish. Additionally, the team created a survey tool to measure increases in parents' knowledge and confidence in their ability to correctly install a car seat and safely transport their child. Results are collected and analyzed quarterly as a part of our continuous quality improvement plan.

Activities for Teen Parent Connection's Car Seat Safety Education program include:

- TPC who are already certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians will complete all continuing education and other activities as required for re-certification under Illinois state guidelines.
- One TPC staff will complete the Illinois Child Passenger Safety Technician certification as funding allows, with the goal of all direct service staff becoming certified.
- All TPC participant families will be offered the opportunity to complete an education and demonstration session with a TPC Child Passenger Safety Technician.
- TPC will host Car Seat Safety Fairs during the program year, in partnership with local police departments and other safety programs.
- TPC staff who are certified as Child Passenger Safety Technicians will present Car Seat Safety Education curriculum at all TPC parenting group sites and childbirth education classes during the program year.

- TPC staff will talk to participant families about their child's car seat safety and will provide them with Car Seat Safety Education handouts and other resources.
- Participant families who identify a need for a new car seat for their child will complete a session with a TPC Child Passenger Safety Technician and/or attend an education session to qualify for a new car seat.
- As in previous years, Teen Parent Connection will continue to partner with several local police departments to participate in our Car Seat Safety Fairs - and work to expand these partnerships in the over the course of the grant year.
- Teen Parent Connection will expand its reach into the community by offering child passenger safety education and car seats to other DuPage County families who meet the eligibility requirements of the Community Services Block Grant.

Teen Parent Connection is committed to the health and safety of children, and we feel that the organization and staff is well prepared to continue to manage the Car Seat Safety Education program for DuPage County. In addition to our request for funding to support the program, we would welcome any additional resources that DuPage County Community Services could provide to help families become aware of – and access other services to meet the needs of their family more adequately.

Request for Funding: Teen Parent Connection requests renewed funding of \$40,000 to help the continuation of our work with both the Parents Pantry, and the Car Seat Safety Program. *See budget and funding sources attachment.

DuPage County CSBG Grant Fund Application Proposed Budget for January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

*A Final Budget, not exceeding the approved amount, will be submitted no later than January 15, 2024, in accordance with Title IV of the Service Block Grant. No categories may be added or subtracted from those proposed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Becky Beilfuss

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 Request submitted August 7, 2023

**TEEN PARENT CONNECTION
PANTRY & CAR SEAT PROGRAM EXPENSES FY24**

	FY24 Budget
Salaries & Wages	\$ 63,068
Taxes	\$ 4,825
Benefits	\$ 4,000
Program Consultants	\$ 567
Other Consultants	\$ 967
Food	\$ 120
Supplies	\$ 282
Insurance	\$ 672
Maintenance	\$ 2,238
Local Transportation	\$ 40
Loan Interest Expense	\$ 402
Building Rent/Pod	\$ 4,800
Telephone	\$ 795
Subscriptions & Memberships	\$ 101
Postage	\$ 20
Outside Printing	\$ 128
Other Expenses	\$ 341
Equipment Rental	\$ 199
Training/Conferences	\$ 443
Pantry Supplies (diapers, wipes, baby food, other supplies)	\$ 5,000
Scholarships	\$ 3,000
TOTAL	\$ 92,008

**Teen Parent Connection
2024 CSBG Grant Proposal
Financial Summary**

Grant Request:	\$ 40,000
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Budget	
Training for new staff	\$ 250
Recertification (7 @\$100 each)	\$ 700
Car seats (70@ \$175 each)	\$ 12,250
Offsite storage rental	\$ 2,000
Parents' Pantry supplies	\$ 2,800
Staff time	\$ 22,000
Total	\$ 40,000

Other Sources of Program Funding	
Naperville Rotary	\$ 4,000
Wheaton Rotary	\$ 2,000
Naperville Rotary Sunshine	\$ 1,000
Alfred Bersted Foundation	\$ 5,000
United Way DuPage Area	\$ 5,000
DuPage Foundation	\$ 5,000
Community Memorial Foundation	\$ 5,000
Jordan Family Foundation	\$ 2,000
Individual Donations	\$ 23,000
Total	\$ 52,000