



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL PROGRAM FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING TEENS EXPANDS

The Society for the Protection and Care of Children (SPCC) is now accepting referrals for comprehensive, home-based support for teen parents and their children in the Teen Age Parent Support Services (TAPSS) program.

Rochester, August 3, 2016— Through a generous, three year grant from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation, SPCC will be able to serve annually 60 additional pregnant and/or parenting adolescents who are under 22 years old throughout the City of Rochester and the County of Monroe.

Across the nation, rates of teen pregnancy and parenting continue to decline; however, locally, rates continue to be above the national average. In fact, 333 babies were born to teen mothers (ages 10 to 19) in 2014 in the City of Rochester alone. In September 2019, these children will fill 15 kindergarten classrooms.

It is estimated that the annual cost to taxpayers associated with teen birth in New York State was \$377 million in 2010. Many of the problems due to teen birth are inter-generational. Children of teen parents are more likely to rely on public health care (Medicaid and CHIP), are more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system, and are more likely to earn less income as adults. (Counting it Up, Public Cost of Teen Childbearing in NY in 2010; National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy).

TAPSS partners with teens as they discover the possibilities for their futures as individuals and as parents, nurturing life skills and self-efficacy in the context of trusting and safe relationships. Program participants will receive home based, comprehensive case management and counseling services to support them as they negotiate the challenges of parenting while meeting their own personal developmental needs.

Services will be individualized and developed in a partnership between the teen parent and TAPSS staff and may include: connections to health care for teen parents and their children, Parents as Teachers (child development based parenting education and support), health and developmental screening for children 0-3, referrals to early intervention, support groups and workshops, family events, educational and employment support (including paid internship experiences), referrals and advocacy for basic needs, housing, transportation, daycare, legal issues, and more.

Referrals can be made and questions answered by contacting Bonnie Allen, TAPSS Clinical Supervisor, by phone at 585-325-6101, ext. 204 or email at ballen@spcc-roch.org. More information about SPCC can be found on the agency website, www.spcc-roch.org.

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