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### **Our Family wins HHS grant to help pregnant, parenting teens**

Tucson social-services agency Our Family has been awarded a \$375,000 Adolescent Family Life Care Demonstration Grant from the Office of Population Affairs of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The grant, announced this week, is part of a nationwide effort to implement and evaluate innovative approaches that ameliorate the effects of too-early childbearing on teens.

Our Family is the lead agency in the local program, a collaborative effort with Teen Outreach Pregnancy Services and Pima Prevention Partnership. Services will include everything from pregnancy testing, prenatal care and childbirth classes, to case management, counseling, life skills and parenting education, and educational and vocational support. In an effort to build a strong support system for these young women and their babies, the program will include services to young fathers-to-be, parents and extended family members as well.

The grant targets pregnant and parenting teens ages 13-17 in Tucson's 85705 ZIP code, which has one of the city's highest rates of teen pregnancy. In 2004, the two school districts in the target area (Flowing Wells and Amphitheater) reported teen birth rates among the highest in the state, with a total of 226 births to students.

Research shows that future educational and economic prospects for teen parents and their children decline significantly compared with teens who do not have a child. Teen pregnancy is closely linked to less-than-optimal health outcomes for mothers and infants, school dropout, lack of job skills, repeat pregnancies, poverty and unstable home environments. Teen mothers are less likely to marry the father of their infant, and children of teen mothers are less likely to have a relationship with their father. The Tucson program is among 30 AFL care demonstration programs funded in FY 2007 by the Office of Population Affairs to combat these effects. The AFL care demonstration grants are for five years, based on funds available.

Our Family makes our community a better place to live, to grow up, and to grow older with a continuum of services to people in every stage of life. Last year, more than 29,000 at-risk children, youth, families, seniors and disabled adults used our services, which include counseling, education, housing, mediation and help for people in crisis. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ourfamilyservices.org](http://www.ourfamilyservices.org) or call (520) 323-1708.

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