



Healthy Youth. Bright Futures. Strong Communities.

# WHAT **BUSINESS LEADERS** CAN DO

**Teen pregnancy is a complex problem that requires a complex solution.** Since 1994, our mission at the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (SC Campaign) has been to improve the health and economic well-being of individuals, communities and the state of South Carolina by preventing teen pregnancy. To achieve our mission, we work with a variety of organizations—public, private, school and community based—in all regions of the state. It takes all of us—parents, teachers, policymakers, faith leaders, health care providers and the business community—to make a difference. As a business leader, you play a key role in South Carolina. Achieving reductions in teen pregnancy rates requires a sustained commitment and investment in young people. In order to accomplish this goal, please consider the following actions→



# HOW YOU CAN HELP



**RECOGNIZE THE AFFECT** teen pregnancy has on lost economic growth, increased federal spending, and increased poverty—all of which affect the quality of the workforce.



- Teen pregnancy is the leading cause of high school drop out.
- Teen mothers are less likely to finish high school and more likely to live in poverty and/or rely on public assistance. In 2010, teen pregnancy associated cost SC taxpayers \$166 million.
- South Carolina has the 16th highest birth rate in the nation among 15-19 year old females.

**SPONSOR A WORKPLACE PROGRAM**, as part of a wellness initiative, to assist parents in addressing teen pregnancy prevention issues within their families.



- Research shows teens who are close with their parents are more likely to consider family values when it comes to sexual decision making, delaying sex, and using birth control if they do have sex.
- Your employees aren't just employees. They are moms, dads, grandparents and guardians. Provide parents in your business with resources to help them talk to their children about healthy relationships.

**BECOME INVOLVED** with community activities to help improve the lives of young people.



- Join a coalition or form partnerships with other businesses and non-profit organizations that can help young people see the connection between academics and future work opportunities.
- Support community organizations that are advancing this issue by providing financial/in-kind support.
- Every South Carolina school district requires a comprehensive health education advisory committee which includes two community representatives who are not school employees; consider getting involved.
- Become a SC Campaign annual sponsor to support our ongoing teen pregnancy prevention efforts. Visit [TeenPregnancySC.org/sponsorships](http://TeenPregnancySC.org/sponsorships) to learn about our sponsorship opportunities.

**UNDERSTAND THE LATEST RESEARCH** and advocate for effective teen pregnancy prevention programs in your community's schools.



- Research shows education that includes information on both abstinence and contraception does reduce teen pregnancy, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases and risky behavior. Teaching teens about birth control does not lead teens to have sex.
- The South Carolina Comprehensive Health Education Act covers many health topics and allows schools to teach about both abstinence and contraception.

**Get Connected. Stay Informed. Make a Difference.**



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