

APPROVED

House Bill Number 1534:

**A Plan of Action to Address the Prevention of
Unplanned Pregnancies Among
Older Unmarried Teens on Arkansas College
and University Campuses**

Submitted to the Legislature by:

**Dr. Brett Powell
Director
Arkansas Department of Higher
Education**

House Bill No. 1534 Project Group Members

House Bill No. 1534 Working Group was formed to provide input and help to write this report. The group was composed of the following individuals:

Co-Chair: Angela Lasiter, *Arkansas Department of Higher Education*

Co-Chair: Dr. Roger Guevara, *Southern Arkansas University*

Representative Deborah Ferguson, *Arkansas House of Representatives*

Representative Robin Lundstrom, *Arkansas House of Representatives*

Senator Linda Chesterfield, *Arkansas Senate*

Representative Monte Hodges, *Arkansas House of Representatives*

Ann Clemmer, *Arkansas Department of Higher Education*

Dr. Karon Rosa, *Career Pathways/Arkansas Department of Higher Education*

Ashley Huddleston, *UAMS, Young Child Wellness Specialist with LAUNCH*

Dr. Margaret Ellibee, *President of Pulaski Technical Community College*

Kathleen Courtney, *Arkansas Department of Education*

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Collin Callaway, *Arkansas Community Colleges*

Kristy Davis, *Arkansas Tech University*

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Marie Sandusky, *University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

Bunny Everett, *National Park College*

Pam Capps, *Arkansas State University Mid-South Community College*

Anna Strong, *Arkansas Children's Hospital*

Dr. Tionna Jenkins, *Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation*

Tina McCord, *Zuni Learning Tree*

Mary Leath, *Community Health Centers of Arkansas, Inc.*

Amy Hudson, *Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas*

Madeleine Parrish, *Senior, University of Central Arkansas*

Overview

House Bill No. 1534, passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Asa Hutchinson during the 2015 Legislative Session, directs the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop a plan of action to address the prevention of unintended pregnancies among older unmarried teens on our college and university campuses.

Oftentimes, students who have an unplanned pregnancy while in school face difficulties and obstacles in continuing their education. Examples of this include balancing the time it requires to take care of a family with time required for school and possibly the time required at a job, costs associated with raising a family in addition to costs of higher education, and other challenges that are associated with simply raising a family. By not earning some sort of educational credential in addition to a high school diploma, these individuals often face hardships throughout life, both economically and socially.

The report, *Education Pays 2013: The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society*, published by the College Board, examines the value of a postsecondary credential to individuals and to society at large. The College Board is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. The report notes that individuals with associate and baccalaureate degrees earn higher salaries, are more likely to be employed, and pay more taxes than individuals with only high school diplomas. College education also leads to lower rates of poverty, healthier lifestyles, and more active, engaged citizens.

Specifically, the College Board reports that individuals with an associate degree earn 27 percent, or \$9,400 annually on average, more than those with just a high school diploma. Persons with a baccalaureate degree earn 59 percent, or \$21,100, more. In addition, the poverty rate for individuals with an associate degree is 8 percent, while the rate for individuals with baccalaureate degrees is 5 percent as compared to 14 percent for those with only a high school diploma.

The lifelong benefits of a college education are clear. For students who experience an unplanned pregnancy, earning a degree to reap these benefits is especially difficult. The challenge of balancing school, work, and family obligations can be overwhelming and often lead to students dropping out of college. In fact, the American Association of Community Colleges publication, *Make It Personal: How Pregnancy Planning and Prevention Help Students Complete College*, reports that “unplanned births account for nearly one in ten community college dropouts among female students, and 7 percent of dropouts among community college students overall.”

According to the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas recorded 4,642 pregnancies among teenage residents ages 15-19 in 2013. Of those pregnancies, 3,410 were among young women ages 18 and 19.

During the summer of 2015, the HB 1534 Working Group was formed with individuals from the community colleges, universities, Women’s Foundation of Arkansas, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Human Services, Arkansas Department of Education, and Arkansas Department of Higher Education to begin the process of developing a plan.

Lynnette Watts with Women's Foundation of Arkansas and Angela Lasiter with Arkansas Department of Higher Education served as co-chairs of the House Bill 1534 Working Group.

The group was presented with the findings from an inventory of what services are currently being offered to community college and university students, including the availability of health clinic options. In late June, a survey was drafted and sent to each community college and university within Arkansas. A few weeks later, responses had been received from those institutions. A summary of the responses is found in Exhibit A at the end of this report.

As the group began its work, members felt it was necessary to define the student population on community college and university campuses. While 18 and 19 year old students are identified as "older teens" in House Bill No. 1534, it is important to understand that these students identify themselves, and expect to be recognized by others, as young adults. It is also important to note that some college students are married. Recognizing that an unplanned pregnancy can derail the education of a student regardless of age or marital status, the recommendations below address the issue of unintended pregnancy among all college students.

House Bill No. 1534 identified eight issues relating to older teen pregnancies. Below are responses to each of these topics. We hope that you find this information valuable.

Issues Identified in HB 1534:

a. Incorporation of unplanned pregnancy prevention information for students into student orientation and student advisors' unit plan.

The Working Group has reviewed free resources created by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy that are available to community colleges and universities. The non-profit group has created online lessons entitled "Preventing Unplanned Pregnancy and Completing College" that could be used in a number of settings. These lessons have been used successfully by colleges around the country, including Hinds Community College in Mississippi, and have reached more than 20,000 students to date. An evaluation conducted at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, Georgia Perimeter College, Miami Dade College, and Palo Alto College in Texas showed significant positive results.

Programs such as these could be used by our community colleges and universities in both orientation sessions and student success courses to help educate students on the impact of unplanned pregnancies and their future. Such programs should use best-practices identified by recognized experts in presenting age-appropriate pregnancy prevention and healthy relationship-building programs for young adults, some of whom may be married.

During our working group sessions, we highlighted five areas that should be considered for an orientation program:

1. Pregnancy prevention
2. Interactive and engaging online availability
3. Connect students to services
4. Include discussion on responsible behaviors
5. Program would cover family planning and contraception

b. Integrate information that is recognized as medically accurate by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists about the prevention of unplanned pregnancy into academic courses if and when appropriate, including without limitation abstinence education.

Colleges and universities must meet standards of accreditation which require academic course content to be determined by faculty. If resources become available, Arkansas Department of Higher Education could work with Zuni Learning Tree to develop an online resource center of statistical data, scholarly articles and other materials on the prevention of unplanned pregnancy that could be used by faculty in various disciplines to complement the curriculum as they deem appropriate.

Incorporating unplanned pregnancy prevention into some curricula will serve two purposes. First, it will allow students to learn in the subject area of the class. Example courses may include Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, Health Concerns of Women, Business Management, Communications, Counseling/Advising, Health and Wellness, Kinesiology, Philosophy, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology. Secondly, it will help educate students on making smart decisions related to pregnancy prevention. The instructor will be responsible for implementation. It can be as extensive as revising the course or as simple as adding a few new activities or projects. Schools could make it mandatory or if not, professors could offer bonus points or rewards for going through the program.

Six community colleges in Arizona, Georgia, Maryland, Minnesota, and Texas participated in Make It Personal: College Completion with the American Association of Community Colleges. Through this project, faculty created curriculum-based strategies in a variety of disciplines to help students prevent unplanned pregnancy and complete their college goals. Faculty members who incorporated unplanned pregnancy into their courses have found that discussing this topic increases student engagement, supports learning, and meets academic course objectives.

c. Identification of opportunities to raise awareness and provide resources about the prevention of unplanned pregnancies across the student population.

Outside of the classroom, community colleges and universities have many opportunities to educate their students on the issues of unplanned pregnancy. A media campaign could be created to help pass along information via social media, campus newspapers, and campus TV/radio programs.

Other possible avenues for presentations about pregnancy prevention are college and/or residence hall orientation sessions, campus town hall events, meetings of student organizations such as honor societies, fraternities and sororities, professional and service clubs and athletic teams.

The Arkansas Department of Health is another option to help students. This agency has the ability to work with community college and university students regarding affordable healthcare options, health clinic access, and Title X resources.

- d. Identify opportunities for current students to reach out to younger teens to serve as mentors or role models of successful behaviors and healthy choices, including opportunities for outreach during summer vacation or during traditional after-school hours for grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12).**

There are many campus organizations devoted to community service as well as service learning programs on campus. Examples of these include honor societies, fraternities and sororities, religious organizations, professional clubs, and athletic teams. These groups can be encouraged to partner with local non-profit organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brothers Big Sisters or even K-12 schools to mentor students, not just on the importance of avoiding unplanned pregnancies, but other important aspects of life (self-esteem, staying in school, avoiding legal trouble, etc.) that will benefit everyone.

- e. Identify private or federal grants available to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancy and promote student success, including any partnerships necessary to compete for such grants.** Refer to Exhibit B.

- f. Collaboration with the Department of Health or federally qualified health centers to promote access to care.**

When there is no on-campus health clinic that offer reproductive health services and establishing one is not feasible, an essential primary care safety network can be built, made of Arkansas Health Department county public health units and federally qualified health centers to provide access to counseling/advising and health services for reducing unplanned pregnancies. Arkansas Department of Health has 92 local health units, at least one in each county that provides reproductive health services. There are 12 Community Health Centers with a total of 102 sites across Arkansas. Services are often available within a reasonable distance from colleges and universities. Development of Memorandums of Understanding to define the relationship between the college or university and the health provider, along with the role and responsibilities of each, is recommended to increase efficient and reliable access.

- g. Identify child care, transportation, financial aid and other challenges specific to existing single parents.**

Arkansas' Single Parent Scholarship Fund

Career Pathways – All Career Pathways students (average age of 31) are custodial parents, with 90% being female. Childcare and transportation are two of the direct student support services offered to students enrolled in the program. Most students would not be able to attend without these added support services.

- h. Identify a method to measure effectiveness.**

Develop a quantitative survey that can be specifically designed to measure change, impact and effectiveness over a period of time in key domains such as health care services, educational support, and regional resources.

i. Identify other topics or issues relating to the prevention and reduction of unplanned pregnancies among older teens.

On-campus health clinics and counseling/advising services are important in helping reduce unplanned pregnancies. Arkansas public four year universities have on-campus health clinics. However, based on survey responses, most community colleges provide health services through geographically nearby health centers. Until significant funding is available for these community colleges to establish on-campus healthcare facilities, more formalized relationships between these schools and nearby health centers is needed so that student's health care needs are addressed and the school can develop messaging for students as to where to go for services, times, what is needed, etc.

Counseling/advising can also play an important role in a college student's transition into higher education. Currently, many but not all universities and community colleges offer these services to their students. By placing a greater emphasis on counseling/advising at all of our institutions, students will have greater access to professionals that will help them make good choices.

Another option to consider is "tele-health" facilities. Many of our colleges and universities have the technology infrastructure in place on campus, and if tele-health services should become available, they could serve many students in the most rural parts of Arkansas in an affordable and efficient manner.

Summary

The Arkansas Department of Higher Education and all of our colleges and universities take seriously the issue of unplanned pregnancy among college students. They recognize that parenting students face numerous barriers to completion of their degrees. Colleges and universities already have many programs in place to address this problem. It is our intent to encourage all of our institutions to aggressively expand educational programs that help students become better informed about the prevention of unplanned pregnancy and related health matters. We believe that by working alongside other agencies and entities across Arkansas that we can, in fact, help to reduce the number of our students who unintentionally become pregnant and help those who are parents face fewer barriers to completion of their degrees.

Next Steps

The HB 1534 Working Group feels that it is important to engage students about this issue to determine their perceptions of the services provided and also discover the ideas and suggestions they may have on how to better educate them on the issue of unplanned pregnancies among older, unmarried teens.

We did not have enough time to survey students in a broad based manner and include their suggestions in a comprehensive report by the November 3 deadline. Therefore, it is our intent to reach out to a select student population at each community college and university campus. Findings will be shared with the Legislature upon completion of the survey.

Exhibit A: Summary of HB 1534 Survey Responses

Questions to Student Services

1. Does the college offer orientation for incoming students?
 - Yes- 20
 - No- 1
2. If yes, is orientation required?
 - Yes – 15
 - No – 4
 - No response - 2
3. Do you incorporate information about pregnancy and pregnancy prevention in student orientation sessions?
 - Yes – 1
 - No – 20
4. Does the college offer student success/first year experience courses?
 - Yes- 20
 - No- 1
5. If yes, are students required to take this course?
 - Yes- 19
 - No- 2
6. If yes, when is it required?
 - First semester - 14
 - Second semester - 4
 - Other - 3
7. Do you incorporate information about pregnancy and pregnancy prevention in student success courses?
 - Yes – 2
 - No – 19
8. If you answered yes above, how is pregnancy prevention incorporated into orientation or student success courses?
 - Wellness Jeopardy, Sex Ed Boot Camp, Health and Wellness in Student Services
9. Describe any programs, services and activities you offer to educate students about pregnancy and pregnancy prevention. Please provide links to any online information or materials about these programs.
 - If participating in Career Pathways, childcare assistance is provided;
 - If they qualify for Arkansas Better Chance Program, assistance is given.
10. Is the topic of unplanned pregnancies incorporated into academic courses?
 - Yes- 6
 - No- 5
 - Do Not Know – 10

- 10a. If yes, how?
- Part of nursing curriculum, some Allied Health Programs and College of Medicine or Nursing.
11. Are counseling/advising services available to students on campus
- Yes- 18
 - No- 3
12. Does the institution offer counseling/advising services through an off-campus service provider?
- Yes- 4
 - No- 17
13. If no, does the institution provide referrals and/or information on off-campus counseling/advising service providers?
- Yes- 19
 - No- 2
14. Do you track the number of students who ask about pregnancy and pregnancy prevention or who seek pregnancy counseling/advising?
- Yes- 4
 - No- 14
 - No response- 3
15. Do you offer access to child care for students who have children?
- Yes- 8
 - No- 13
16. If you offer access to child care, is there a discounted rate for students compared to other users of the child care facility?
- If the parents qualify for Career Pathways, there is a discounted rate.
17. Do you offer assistance with transportation for students who are single parents?
- Yes- 8
 - No- 13
- Please describe: if parents qualify for Career Pathways, gas cards are given.
18. Do you offer financial aid specific to single parents?
- Yes-9
 - No- 12
19. Do you offer assistance for other challenges specific to students who are single parents?
- Yes- 8
 - No- 11
 - No response- 2

*If yes, please describe.

- Mother's nursing rooms, Career Pathways offers services through nontraditional website and tutoring.

20. Are you aware of any student-led organizations on your campus offering programs related to pregnancy and pregnancy prevention?

- Yes- 5
- No- 16

*If yes, please describe.

- Greek activities; please see university example outlined in below appendix.

21. Do you provide students with information about where they can access contraception?

- Yes- 5
- No- 16

22. Please describe any programs on your campus where college students reach out to younger teens to serve as mentors and/or role models of successful behaviors and healthy choices, including opportunities for outreach during the summer vacation or during tradition K-12 after-school hours?

- Upward Bound
- Age to Age Mentoring
- GEAR UP mentors
- Greeks
- Education Renewal Zone (ERZ) staff mentoring high school students

23. Does your college have residence halls?

- Yes- 11
- No- 10

24. Which strategies or tools to help students prevent unplanned pregnancy would you be interested in learning more about? Select as many as you would like.

- Online tools for first-year experience or college success- 9
- Incorporating the topic into academic courses- 7
- Working through student groups such as student government or others- 1
- Activities for residence halls- 3
- All- 10

Health Clinics Questions

1. Do you provide health services at your institution?
 - Yes- 11
 - No- 8
 - No response- 2

2. List the types of healthcare professionals providing services on campus (select all that apply).
 - MD- 2
 - NP- 5
 - RN- 9
 - LPN- 5

3. Describe the clinic operating hours for health services.
 - 5 days/week- 9
 - Once a month- 1
 - No response- 11

4. Health services are available to:
 - Students- 5
 - Students/Faculty/Staff- 5
 - Staff- 1
 - No response- 10

5. Describe how health services are funded:
 - Students fees- 4
 - Local county health clinic- 1
 - College/university- 4
 - Student's insurance- 2

6. Are students or their insurance providers billed for services?
 - Yes, but only lab work- 2
 - No- 5
 - No response- 14

7. Are health services available on campus to students who are enrolled at a location other than the main campus?
 - Yes- 7
 - No- 2
 - Not applicable- 8
 - No response- 4

8. Does the institution offer a student health insurance plan for purchase?
 - Yes- 3

- No- 15
 - No response- 3
9. Beyond campus, how far is the closest Health Department or federally qualified health center where students can access health care services, including pregnancy prevention services, i.e. contraception?
- 5 miles or less- 14
 - 5-10 miles – 4
 - 10-15 miles- 0
 - 15-20 miles- 1
 - No response- 2
10. Do you currently refer students to these locations for health services not offered on campus?
- Yes-16
 - No-2
 - No response- 3
11. Do these health agencies ever come onto your campus?
- Yes- 9
 - No- 9
 - No response- 3

*Funding and Other Assistance will be needed in many different ways. More information is needed as this moves forward.

Exhibit B: Federal Grants

USDA: RDBCP-DHCS-2015

Delta Health Care Service Grant Program

Department of Agriculture – Business and Cooperative Programs

Explanation: The Delta Health Care Services Grant Program is designed to provide financial assistance to address the continued unmet health needs in the Delta Region through cooperation among health care professionals, Institutions of higher education, research institutions, and other entities in the Delta Regions.

Expected Number of Awards: 10

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No

Posted Date: Sep 8, 2015 Creation Date: Sep 8, 2015

Original closing Date for Applications: Dec 2, 2015

Current Closing Date for Application: Dec 2, 2015

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$5,312,610

Award Ceiling: \$500,000

Award Floor: \$50,000

DHHS: PA-14-177

Healthy Habits: Timing for Developing Sustainable Healthy Behaviors in Children and Adolescents (R01)

Department of Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health

Description: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) seeks to encourage applications that employ innovative research to identify mechanisms of influence and/or promote positive sustainable health behavior(s) in children and youth (birth to age 21). Applications to promote positive health behavior(s) should target social and cultural factors, including, but not limited to: schools, families, communities, population, food industry, age-appropriate learning tools and games, social media, social networking, technology and mass media. Topics to be addressed in this announcement include: effective, sustainable processes for influencing young people to make healthy behavior choices; identification of the appropriate stage of influence for learning sustainable lifelong health behaviors; the role of technology and new media in promoting healthy behavior; identification of factors that support healthy behavior development in vulnerable populations, identification of barriers to healthy behaviors; and, identification of mechanisms and mediators that are common to the development of a range of habitual health behaviors. Given the many factors involved in developing sustainable health behaviors, applications from multidisciplinary teams are strongly encouraged. The goal of this FOA is promote research that identifies and enhances processes that promote sustainable positive behavior or changes social and cultural norms that influence health and future health behaviors.

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: No

Posted Date: Apr 16, 2014 Creation Date: Apr 17, 2014

Original closing Date for Applications: May 7, 2017

Current Closing Date for Application: May 7, 2017

Estimated Total Program Funding:

Award Ceiling:

Award Floor:

DHHS: PA-14-176

Healthy Habits: Timing for Developing Sustainable Healthy Behaviors in Children and Adolescents (R01)

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Expected Number of Awards:

Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement: None

Posted Date: Apr 16, 2014 Creation Date: Apr 17, 2014

Original closing Date for Applications: May 7, 2017

Current Closing Date for Application: May 7, 2017

Estimated Total Program Funding:

Award Ceiling: \$200,000

Award Floor:

Other Funding Possibilities:

- AEGON Transamerica Foundation
- American Electric Power Foundation
- Arkansas Community Foundation, Inc.
- Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas
- Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation
- Caterpillar Foundation
- Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, Inc.
- Foundation for the Mid South
- H. A. and Mary K. Chapman Charitable Trust
- Horace C. Cabe Foundation
- La-Z-Boy Foundation
- Marguerite Casey Foundation
- Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Inc.
- Newell Rubbermaid Inc. Corporate Giving Program
- Schuler Family Foundation
- Southern Partners Fund
- Sunderland Foundation
- SunTrust Foundation

- The Assisi Foundation of Memphis, Inc.
- The Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund
- The Claude and Betty Harris Foundation, Inc.
- The Grable Foundation
- The Kerr Foundation Inc.
- The Kroger Co. Foundation
- The Murphy Foundation
- The Wal-Mart Foundation, Inc.
- The Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
- Trinity Foundation
- Union Pacific Foundation
- Willard and Pat Walker Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Exhibit C: State Grant
Service Area Competition, Department of Health and Human Services

Deadline: 09/28/2015

Purpose: The purpose of the SAC funding opportunity is to ensure continued access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care services for communities and vulnerable populations served by the Health Center Program.

Eligibility Criteria: The applicant must request funding to support the operation of a health center that provides required comprehensive primary, preventive, and enabling health care services, either directly or through established arrangements, without regard to ability to pay. Number of awards, 104. Total estimated funding is \$152,000,000. No match requirement

Contact: Beth Hartmayer at 301-594-4300

Email: bphcsac@hrsa.gov

Exhibit D: Community Grants

Lalor Foundation; <http://lalorfound.org/>

Deadline: November 1

The Lalor Foundation is accepting applications from programs designed to educate young women about human reproduction in order to broaden and enhance their options in life.

Through the Anna Lalor Burdick Program, the foundation seeks to empower young women through education about healthy reproduction in order to broaden and enhance their options in life. The program focuses on young women who have inadequate access to information regarding sexual and reproductive health, including comprehensive and unbiased information on contraception and pregnancy termination.

Grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded in support of programs for young women, particularly those who are disadvantaged by poverty, discrimination, geographic isolation, lack of specific sex education, hostile public policy, or other factors leading to inadequate reproductive health. Areas of interest include

programs that include a comprehensive approach to sexual and reproductive health education; novel ideas, including innovative methods of delivering information; and programs that incorporate advocacy or policy change, consistent with IRS 501(c)(3) status.

To be eligible, applicants must be tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code and be defined as not a private foundation under Section 509(a) of the code.

Walmart Foundation; <http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/state-giving>

One of their funding priorities is state-based community engagement. It might be a way to start piloting something in one of the colleges/community colleges in Arkansas.