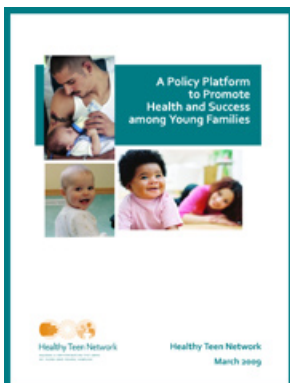


SUGGESTED ACTION STEPS TO IMPLEMENT HEALTHY TEEN NETWORK'S POLICY PLATFORM TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND SUCCESS AMONG YOUNG FAMILIES



Healthy Teen Network recently released *A Policy Platform to Promote Health and Success among Young Families*, a set of federal policy recommendations aimed at establishing or reforming programs and systems that influence whether or not young families may achieve health and success after a teen birth.

Healthy Teen Network appeals to elected and appointed leaders to engage now in the crucial work of ensuring health and success for youth with children. Healthy Teen Network welcomes the support of service providers, child, youth, and family advocacy organizations, concerned individuals, and young people themselves – in making this call to action. Below are suggested action steps to advance the Young Families Policy Platform.

DISSEMINATE THE YOUNG FAMILIES POLICY PLATFORM

Invite your professional colleagues, agency staff/co-workers, and social networks to read *A Policy Platform to Promote Health and Success among Young Families*. A Young Families Policy Platform announcement with the publication link embedded is posted at www.HealthyTeenNetwork.org. Cut and paste the suggested announcement into an electronic message to your own contacts.

URGE CONGRESS TO ADOPT THE YOUNG FAMILIES POLICY PLATFORM

Ask your Members of Congress to introduce legislation and support federal budget requests that implement the Young Families Policy Platform. A Young Families Policy Platform Action Alert with a suggested message and instructions for contacting your Members of Congress is posted at www.HealthyTeenNetwork.org.

REQUEST NEWS MEDIA TO FEATURE YOUNG FAMILIES

Encourage media outlets in your local area to develop feature stories on the opportunities and supports that young families need for their own and their community's health and success. Offer to help reporters identify young families and issue experts for interviews. Alternately, contact the editorial board of your local newspaper and urge them to write an editorial supportive of the Young Families Policy Platform. Use the Young Families Policy Platform News Release, posted at www.HealthyTeenNetwork.org, as a tool for introducing yourself to reporters or editors.

CONVENE A YOUNG FAMILIES POLICY DISCUSSION

Organize an event for your advocacy organization, professional association, youth group, or the community-at-large to learn about the opportunity and support needs of young families and actions that individuals and communities can take to support them. Use *A Policy Platform to Promote Health and Success among Young Families* as a launch pad for the discussion. Healthy Teen Network will make available on its web site in the near future a slide show presentation of the report's key findings and recommendations.

ADVOCATE FOR STATE AND LOCAL POLICY ACTION

Use *A Policy Platform to Promote Health and Success among Young Families* to stimulate ideas for policy action at the state and local levels of government. The report suggests policy gap areas in which state and local action would be welcome in lieu of or in addition to the federal response Healthy Teen Network is recommending. Also, ask state and local officials friendly to young families to communicate to their Congressional counterparts the importance of adopting the Young Families Policy Platform, informally through networking or formally by the passage of resolutions or proclamations or the preparation of official correspondence.



To download the full report, "A Policy Platform to Promote Health and Success among Young Families," visit www.HealthyTeenNetwork.org. For more information, contact (410) 685-0410 or info@healthyteennetwork.org.