

Increasing Postsecondary Educational Attainment among Young Parents in & Aging out of Care: Applying Healthy Teen Network's *Young Parents Logic Model*

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Why It Matters

Young people in and aging out of foster care experience higher rates of early parenthood and lower rates of postsecondary educational attainment than their peers. Postsecondary education can potentially change the life course trajectories of young parents in and aging out of foster care, and hence, the life course trajectories of their children. However, little attention has been paid to what it would take to increase postsecondary educational attainment among this population.

What We Did

Increasing postsecondary educational attainment among young parents in and aging out of foster care requires knowledge about interventions already being implemented with this population or similar populations. More broadly, our search of peer-reviewed literature, technical reports, and the internet did not uncover any interventions designed specifically to increase postsecondary educational attainment among young parents in or aging out care. However, it did reveal multiple programs, several of which we highlight, aimed at promoting educational attainment among both young parents in the general population and young people in and aging out of foster care.

Although the programs we highlight were not developed with the Young Parent Logic Model in mind, they are generally aligned with a social-ecological perspective in that they address factors at multiple levels (i.e., individual, relationship, community, and societal). They also address several of the eight determinants most relevant to postsecondary educational attainment among young parents in and aging out of foster care. These programs or components of these programs could potentially help young parents in or aging out of foster care access postsecondary education, succeed in school, and graduate with a degree.

HEALTHY TEEN NETWORK'S YOUNG PARENTS LOGIC MODEL

The *Young Parents Logic Model*, which is grounded in a socioecological perspective, provides a useful framework for thinking about how to increase postsecondary educational attainment among young parents in or aging out of foster care. It identifies behaviors that are essential to achieving that goal and highlights the determinants that influence those behaviors.

Using the model can help identify the policy and practices changes that are needed to ensure that young parents in and aging out of foster care are encouraged to pursue postsecondary education, connected to the educational institutions they attend, and have access to the services and supports they need to succeed.



RESHAPING

What It Means

Increasing postsecondary educational attainment among parents in and aging out of foster care will require changes in both policy and practice.



Positive messages about the benefits of postsecondary education

It is important for young parents in or aging out of foster care to receive clear messages about the benefits of postsecondary education and information about their postsecondary educational options.



Development of and motivation to pursue long-term educational and professional goals

Young parents in or aging out of foster care should also be encouraged to develop and pursue postsecondary educational goals.



Supportive relationships with individuals who support educational attainment

Young parents in or aging out of foster care need people in their lives who support their goals for postsecondary educational attainment and will advocate on their behalf.



Development of positive connection to and engagement with educational institutions

Student parents in or aging out of foster care need to feel connected to the educational institutions they attend through pre-college or campus support programs for students who have experienced foster care.



Access to and use of community-based, school-based, or other social services

Postsecondary educational institutions can offer services and supports to promote the success of students who are parents and partner with public agencies or community-based organizations that provide such resources to parents and their children.



Living in safe environments free of violence

Student parents in or aging out of foster care need safe, stable, and affordable housing, either on campus or in the community, for themselves and their children



Maintenance of physical and mental health and well-being

Postsecondary educational institutions should provide student parents with access to parenting classes, parent support groups, contraception, and mental health services.



Consistent, equitable enforcement of Title IX policies and appropriate accommodations

Student parents who are in or aging out of foster care and faculty and staff should be educated about the protections afforded by Title IX.

Read more in the full article: <https://bit.ly/3z11vWt>