



TANF SUMMER PROGRAM PROJECT
Youth Services
Polk County Workforce Development Board, Inc. (PWDB)
DBA CareerSource Polk
600 North Broadway, Suite B
Bartow, Florida 33830
For the period of June 1, 2022 – July 31, 2022

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

PURPOSE

Despite declines in the teen birth rate over the last 20 years, teen pregnancy remains a problem. With a rate of 7.2 per 1,000 births, Polk is ranked **22nd highest** out of 67 Florida counties in birth to teens under age 18. To address this problem CareerSource Polk would like to collaborate with community organizations to implement a Pregnancy Prevention program designed to prevent and reduce the rates of teen pregnancy throughout Polk. The purpose of this collaboration is to accomplish the following goals:

- Support the TANF purpose of reducing the number of out-of-wedlock pregnancies through summer youth initiatives; and
- To provide supportive services to prevent teen pregnancy.

CareerSource Polk relies on the theory of Positive Youth Development as a valuable tool in reducing unwanted pregnancies among the teen population. Positive Youth Development is an intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances youth's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths (Office of Adolescent Health, HHS).

Recognizing youth strengths and encouraging positive social behaviors is an integral part of every Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program funded by CareerSource Polk. The prevention message may or may not be delivered implicitly; the focus is on encouraging planning for a future for the youth that is cultural enrichment, experiential learning, and leadership development.

CareerSource Polk is interested in soliciting organizations that would like to expand their current programs by offering summer youth programs to the community at off-the-shelf pricing to support our efforts. The anticipated funding available for these efforts is to be spent by July 31, 2022. We would like to provide these services in Polk County to youth ages 13 through 19. The services provided, the costs for those services, and the number of youths to be served, will vary based on the responses received from our partners and their availability to serve additional youth in their summer programs.

Next Steps: Complete the survey questionnaire below by 12 noon on May 16, 2022:

<https://bit.ly/2022YouthSvcs-InterestSurvey>

Disclaimer: Nothing in this Notification and nothing in our statements to you should be construed as a promise or guarantee of funds for your current program. Our services are contingent upon available funding.

If you should have any questions please contact: **Joylette Stevens**, Vice President of Operations at 863-508-1600 ext. 1111 or joylette.stevens@careersourcepolk.com.

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