



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, 2025 – July 31, 2025

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

PURPOSE

Florida has been experiencing a decline in teen birth rates for several decades. Specifically, the teen birth rate for females aged 15 to 19 has been decreasing since the 1990s. In 1990, the rate was 69.9 births per 1,000 females, and by 2023, it had dropped to 12.8 births per 1,000 females. Despite declines in the teen birth rate, teen pregnancy remains a problem. As of 2023, Polk County ranks **29th highest** out of 67 Florida counties in terms of teen pregnancies. The county has a teen birth rate of **20 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19**. 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, 2025. 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 Interest Survey (linked below) by 12 noon on Tuesday, April 15, 2025:

<https://cspolk.info/tppp2025>

Disclaimer: This notification and any statements made by us should not be interpreted as a promise or guarantee of funding for your current program. Our services depend on the availability of funds.

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.

CareerSource Polk is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this website may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.