



TANF SUMMER PROGRAM PROJECT Youth Services

Polk County Workforce Development Board, Inc. (PWDB) d/b/a CareerSource Polk
600 North Broadway, Suite B
Bartow, Florida 33830

For the period of June 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

PURPOSE

Florida has experienced a significant decline in teen birth rates over the past several decades. The teen birth rate for females ages 15–19 has been decreasing since the 1990s. In 1990, the rate was 69.9 births per 1,000 females, and by 2023 it had declined to 12.8 births per 1,000 females. Despite this progress, teen pregnancy remains a concern at the local level. As of the most recent data available (2023), Polk County's teen birth rate was 18.1 births per 1,000 females ages 15–19 - higher than the Florida state average - and places the county within the second-highest quartile among Florida counties.

In alignment with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, specifically Purpose Three: to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, CareerSource Polk seeks to collaborate with community-based organizations to implement a Pregnancy Prevention Program that supports positive youth outcomes and promotes responsible decision-making among adolescents throughout Polk County.

The objectives of this collaboration are to:

- Support the TANF purpose of preventing and reducing out-of-wedlock pregnancies by engaging youth in structured, supervised summer initiatives that promote educational attainment, future planning, and personal responsibility; and
- Provide allowable supportive and preventative services that strengthen protective factors, increase youth engagement, and reduce risk behaviors associated with teen pregnancy.

CareerSource Polk relies on the Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework as a research-informed, preventative strategy to advance TANF goals. PYD is an intentional, strengths-based approach that engages youth within their families, schools, peer groups, organizations, and communities to promote healthy behaviors and positive life choices. This framework emphasizes skill-building, goal setting, leadership development, and sustained engagement as protective factors that contribute to the reduction of teen pregnancy and other high-risk behaviors.

Recognizing youth strengths and reinforcing positive social behaviors are integral components of every TANF-funded Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program administered by CareerSource Polk. Prevention efforts may be delivered either explicitly or implicitly; however, all activities must support youth in developing short- and long-term educational, career, and life goals. Programming focuses on structured engagement through cultural enrichment, experiential learning, mentorship, and leadership development consistent with TANF-allowable prevention services.

CareerSource Polk is soliciting organizations interested in expanding existing services by offering structured summer youth programming at off-the-shelf pricing to support TANF prevention objectives. Services will be provided to youth ages 13 through 19 residing in Polk County. All TANF funds associated with these activities must be expended by July 31, 2026. The specific services delivered, associated costs, and number of youth served will vary based on partner capacity and availability during the summer program period.

Next Steps

Organizations interested in participating must complete the **Interest Survey by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 21, 2026:**

<https://cspolk.info/tpp2026>

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.