

A Funding Proposal for Second Chance Homes in Montana

- **What is a Second Chance Home?** The Teen Parent Provisions of the 1996 Welfare Reform states that minor teen mothers are required to live at home or in an alternate adult-supervised living arrangement in order to receive TANF cash assistance.
- The law defines **Second Chance Homes** as “supportive and supervised living arrangements where teens are required to learn parenting skills, including child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition” and other skills “to promote long-term economic independence and the well-being of children.” (CLASP)
- When alternatives such as **Second Chance Homes** are currently not available, teen mothers could be forced to choose between inappropriate living arrangements and losing their cash assistance. (HUD 9/2001)
- In a memorandum to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of HUD on August 11, 2000 President Clinton directed both agencies to work together to create awareness about the **Second Chance Home** model, highlight the States’ responsibility to provide access to adult-supervised living arrangements, provide best practices for program design and provide information about funding sources for the creation or expansion of **Second Chance Homes**.
- Mountain Home Montana has been providing a **Second Chance Home** in Missoula since 2000 receiving 35% of its funding through a competitive federal HUD homeless grant; over 65% of the program is funded by foundation grants, private donations and fundraising.
- Mountain Home received ninety-nine (99) referrals from across the state in 2005, compared to 73 in 2004.
- The communities of Kalispell, Great Falls and Billings have reported increased numbers of teenage mothers seeking services, but have no housing programs specifically for teen mothers.
- Funds must be allocated for **Second Chance Homes** before more homes can be duplicated.
- The cost of operating a **Second Chance Home** in Montana is \$250,000.
- The state of Georgia allocated \$2.4 million for **Second Chance Homes** in 2001 from TANF Block Grant monies.
- The state of Montana has allocated \$0 for **Second Chance Homes**.
- State legislatures may allocate Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds for Second Chance Homes. Like TANF, state maintenance-of-effort (MOE) funds and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) are flexible, and largely under states’ discretion in terms of how they are spent. States and communities may also explore other sources of funding from HHS and HUD. (HUD 9/2001)

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CHILDREN & FAMILIES, HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES
INTERIM COMMITTEE
MARCH 30, 2006 MEETING
EXHIBIT 7

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Facts About Teen Pregnancy

Even though teen pregnancy rates have seen a gradual decline over the past decade, teens having children before they are emotionally and financially ready continues to create many challenges.

- ✓ In Montana, 2 out of 10 young women become pregnant at least once before age 20, but for young Native American women that number is 5 out of 10.
 - ✓ Eighty percent of these pregnancies are unintended and 82% are to unmarried teens.
 - ✓ Youth who have been in foster care have a higher rate of teenage pregnancy.
 - ✓ Teen mothers make up 12% of the births in Montana, slightly higher than the national average, but their children represent one quarter of high cost infants born.
 - ✓ There is an average of 100 births to teen mothers 19 and younger in Missoula County per year (1996-2000, Montana DPHHS).
 - ✓ 1,756 teen pregnancies reported in Montana in 2000, 20 were to teens under 15.
 - ✓ Teen pregnancy costs the federal government \$40 billion per year.
 - ✓ The average cost to Montana taxpayers in 1996 for a mother and child on TANF, food stamps, Medicaid and WIC for one year is \$12,156.
 - ✓ Nearly 80% of teen mothers end up on welfare.
 - ✓ Only 1/3 of teen mothers receive a high school diploma.
 - ✓ 39% of teen mothers will have a second pregnancy within 1 year, compared to 0% for teen mothers at Mountain Home from 2000-2003.
 - ✓ Children of teen parents are more likely to:
 - *have lower birth weight
 - *perform poorly in school
 - *experience abuse or neglect
 - *sons of teen parents are 3 times more likely to end up in prison
 - *daughters of teen parents are 22% more likely to become teen mothers
- (The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Guttmacher Institute, Kids Count Data Book, Children's Defense Fund)

Limited early findings indicate that residents of Second Chance Homes have fewer repeat pregnancies, better high school/GED completion rates, stronger life skills, increased self-sufficiency, and healthier babies. (HUD website 2000)

Pay now or pay later.



Mission Statement:

Mountain Home is committed to providing a safe, loving home where teen mothers can discover their strengths and their children can experience the joys of childhood.

www.mountainhomemt.org

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Aboard Air Force One)

For Immediate Release

August 12, 2000

August 11, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: Second Chance Homes for Teen Parents

My Administration has made it a key priority to promote personal responsibility, prevent teenage pregnancy, and to provide young people with the educational and employment opportunities necessary to break the cycle of dependency. We know the devastating effects on young people when they become parents too soon -- nearly 80 percent of single teen mothers end up on welfare and only one-third receive a high school diploma or GED. We also know the impact that this has on their children, who are 40 percent more likely to have low birth weights; need 20 percent more health care; and are at greater risk of abuse and neglect. More-over, girls of teen mothers are a third more likely to become teen mothers themselves and boys of teen mothers are nearly 3 times more likely to be incarcerated than boys of mothers who delayed childbearing.

Under my Administration, I have taken bold steps to promote responsibility and prevent teen pregnancy by taking executive action to require young mothers to stay in school or risk losing welfare payments, enacting welfare reform in 1996, strengthening child support enforcement, and launching a National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. We know that these efforts are having an impact: teen birth rates have dropped for the eighth year in a row, falling by 20 percent since their most recent peak in 1991 to the lowest levels since we began collecting these data 60 years ago. But we also know that there are still far too many children having children, and we must do more.

To build on this progress and to reach out to teen mothers at risk of a repeat pregnancy, my FY 2001 budget includes a provision to invest \$25 million in the creation and expansion of "second chance homes." It is critical that we help teen parents who cannot live with their own parents or other relatives gain access to supportive, adult-supervised living arrangements -- second chance homes -- that offer parenting skills, job counseling, education, and other referrals to help reduce the chance of repeat pregnancies and improve the prospects for young mothers and their children. Where appropriate, these programs should also reach out to involve young fathers in responsible parenting, and to help reconnect these teens with their own parents. An early evaluation of the Second Chance Homes program in Massachusetts has demonstrated that second chance homes can reduce the number of repeat pregnancies. Moreover, this study showed that mothers served by second chance homes were more likely to become self-sufficient, complete high school, and to keep their children's immunizations up to date. With approximately 100,000 repeat pregnancies each year, we must do all that we can to help improve the prospects for teen parents and their children.

Therefore, I direct the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development to work together to implement the following actions:

- (1) Within 60 days, issue guidance to nonprofit organizations (both faith-based and other community-based organizations) and State and local governments to create awareness about the second chance home model, highlight States' responsibility to provide access to adult-supervised living arrangements for minor parents who cannot live at home, provide best practices concerning program design, and provide user-friendly information about existing funding sources for both facilities and services costs, for the creation or expansion of second chance homes;
- (2) Create a joint technical assistance effort to help communities interested in establishing or expanding second chance homes;
- (3) Use all available legal authority to provide organizations interested in establishing second chance homes access to foreclosed, underutilized, and surplus real estate or facilities at the maximum allowable discount. The Department of Housing and Urban Development should also explore opportunities to increase the availability of Supportive Housing Program funds to second chance homes for teen parents; and
- (4) Clarify that teen parents in second chance homes may be eligible for low-income housing vouchers and encourage second chance home operators to accept housing voucher holders into their programs.

The swift and collaborative implementation of these actions is vital to achieving our goal of helping teen parents take responsibility for their lives and their children's futures.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

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