



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Jan. 15, 2016

Department of Public Health

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## **Health Department Receives \$300,000 Grant For Adolescent Parenting Program Services**

FAYETTEVILLE – The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has awarded the Cumberland County Department of Public Health a \$300,000 grant for the Adolescent Parenting Program to help provide services for teenagers who are pregnant or are parents.

The Adolescent Parenting Program (APP) serves pregnant or parenting teens who are 19 years of age or younger at the time of enrollment. The goals of the program are to increase self-sufficiency; delay a subsequent pregnancy; increase graduation rates from high school or completion of GED; improve welfare and school readiness outcome for children of teen parents; increase incidence of positive parenting to support cognitive development and mental health of their children; increase children's physical well-being by establishing the child's medical home and creating a safe home environment.

The Health Department will be awarded \$75,000 annually for four years, beginning June 1, 2016 through May 31, 2017. Funding for Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives are contingent upon the availability of funds as determined by the North Carolina General Assembly.

The APP requires recipients to be enrolled in school or an equivalent educational program. Pregnant adolescents may be enrolled at any stage of their pregnancy and may remain in the program until they graduate from high school or complete a GED.

The APP is a secondary teen pregnancy prevention program intended to help prevent a second or higher order pregnancy. The program is administered by Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, Women and Children's Health Section, Women's Health Branch, and the Family Planning and Reproductive Health Unit.

The program is coordinated by a full-time staff member with an average caseload of between 15 and 25 participants annually, includes evidence-based home visiting and peer group education sessions. A full-time staff member would be added to the health department. Cumberland County was targeted for funding based on its five-year average teen pregnancy rate of 63.6 from 2009-2013, which ranked 12th highest in the state.

*If you would like more information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health's programs and services, health-related data, or community resources, please call 910-433-3600, speak with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at [co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#](http://co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#). Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at [co.cumberland.nc.us/health/commentsform.aspx](http://co.cumberland.nc.us/health/commentsform.aspx). The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. Fayetteville.*

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