

Adolescent Parent Program

DCF shall provide funding for a youth in care who is the custodial parent of a minor child. DCF recognizes the importance of providing specific and targeted services to youth who become pregnant or who are parents while in care. Services will begin immediately following a pregnancy disclosure and will include medical care (physical and behavioral health counseling). DCF will ensure that all children born to youth who are in and remain in care are provided with services and supports that will allow them to live in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment. Payments for minor children shall not be included in the calculation of the youth's net income.

DCF shall provide DCF committed adolescents who are CHAP, CHEER or SWETP participants, and are the custodial parents of a minor child, with essential parenting equipment that cannot be secured through Covenant to Care or other donor sources. Examples of items include, but are not limited to, crib and mattress, stroller, car seat and diaper bag. Additional major equipment items may be purchased for the adolescent parent if there is a demonstrated need (e.g., special medical equipment, playpen, backpack carrier.) Adolescent parents shall be encouraged to utilize resources such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC) or Covenant to Care to help defray other expenses. The Transitional Specialist will assist the youth with developing a list of necessary start-up items and the costs. The Transitional Specialist shall obtain approval for the cost of baby start-up items from the Social Work Supervisor and Program Supervisor.

The Transitional Specialist shall document in the computer system the requests for, and provision of, financial assistance and equipment. Parenting supports and resources are listed on the V.I.T.A.L. Resources site. Please contact the Transitional Supports and Success Division for assistance if need be.