

Federal Policy Action Center

This page focuses on federal policy. Please visit our [state policy portal](#) for state resources.

Advocacy vs. Educating Policymakers—Understanding the Difference

Grantees can advocate (activities such as asking members to take action on legislation, support a particular program funding level, or vote in a specific way) for federal funding, they just cannot use their federal funds to do so. But, be sure you're familiar with the rules of your organization; some prohibit advocacy.

If you aren't able to advocate, that doesn't mean there is nothing for you to do. You can still do your part to protect the federal programs that are making a difference in your community, by educating members of Congress about the work these programs are doing. Simply sharing information about the great work that the Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program or the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) is supporting in your community is education, not advocacy. For examples of the difference between advocating and educating, see our [sample advocacy letter](#) and [sample education letter](#).

If you are advocating, you will have a policy-related “ask,” such as **“please maintain funding for the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program and the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and beyond.”**

To look up your Representative, [click here](#) and enter your zip code in the box on the top right. To find your Senators, [click here](#).

Evidence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Education

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program and the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) are complementary federal funding streams for teen pregnancy prevention education. They are high quality examples of tiered, evidence-based grant making that use evidence to inform awards as well as continuous improvement. [Click here](#) for the current status of the TPP Program and PREP and what you can do to protect these programs.

Contraception

The Title X Family Planning Program (Title X) and Medicaid are important programs that support low-income women's access to birth control. In addition, the Affordable Care Act strengthened affordable access to contraception by expanding the number of Americans with public or private health insurance and eliminating cost-sharing for contraception. [Click here](#) for the current status of Title X, Medicaid, and no co-pay birth control, and what you can do to protect each one.