

Student Parent Support Initiative

2023 FACT SHEET

ABOUT

The Minnesota Student Parent Support Initiative would provide much-needed support to entities and institutions that assist college-age pregnant and current parenting students. As a new competitive grant program, to be administered in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, eligible colleges and universities may apply for funds to develop and implement services and programs that would support the unique needs of parenting students across the state.

The proposed initiative will bridge the opportunity gap by increasing access to crucial resources and services, ensuring that children have a healthy start and families have access to affordable and quality child care and early education; access to mental health supports; and stable housing. By helping stabilize their needs in college, this initiative sets the foundation for overall future success.

FUNDING

PROPOSED APPROPRIATION

\$6.9M FY24 | **\$6.4M FY25** | **\$5.9M FY26+**

FIRST YEAR INITIATIVES (FY24)

\$5M - Grant funding for 15 institutions

\$1.6M - Startup cost to create or expand campus-based child care programs

BACKGROUND

New initiative seeking funding;
First proposed in 2021 Legislative Session

IMPACT

By supporting parenting students, Minnesota invests in greater economic stability through:

- ✓ Student parents' future participation in the workforce
- ✓ Increased income taxes
- ✓ Savings in public assistance programs



MN single mothers with an Associate's Degree are

48%

less likely to live in poverty than a high school graduate



\$21K Savings in Public Assistance Spending



\$82K Additional Contributions to State Income Taxes



MN single mothers with a Bachelor's Degree are

75%

less likely to live in poverty than a high school graduate



\$36K Savings in Public Assistance Spending



\$217K Additional Contributions to State Income Taxes

THE NEED

ELIMINATING BARRIERS

Student parents face multiple barriers to college enrollment, persistence, and completion. These barriers include, but are not limited to, constraints with time and money, lack of child care resources and academic support, diminished motivation or may feel excluded from traditional campus support services.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, re-enrollment rates of students with children dropped dramatically. Additionally, for students who reported having dependents on their FAFSA, applications are down 13 percent over previous years.

The best way to ensure a child is successful in college is to help their parent succeed. Parental education is linked to upward mobility in their children through increased lifetime earnings, improved reading and mathematics skills, improved health, increased college enrollment, persistence, and completion, in addition to decreased incarceration, teenage pregnancy, and poverty rates. The proposed initiative will work with institutions to provide pregnant students and students of young children information and support regarding available and new resources to help them succeed.

EXAMPLES OF RESOURCES AND SERVICES:

- One-on-one support with a program staff member
- Mental, physical, and chemical health
- Well-child visits
- Parent education workshop
- Child development - Parenting and child development educational services
- Student-parent support groups
- Postsecondary education financial aid resources or application assistance
- Academic advising
- Child care - Creating/expanding on-campus child care; partnering with community providers
- Emergency funds, food support (e.g., food stamps, food shelves), and transportation services
- Material support (e.g., clothing, furniture)
- Social activities (e.g., community or campus family and child-friendly activities)