

The General Assembly finds that adolescent pregnancy is a serious social problem. Adolescent pregnancy permeates all socioeconomic levels. Particularly, adolescent pregnancy problems have serious adverse health, social, educational, psychological, and economic consequences on adolescents and on the community at large. These serious adverse consequences and problems justify the need for a State initiative designed for the development and implementation of community-based comprehensive, multiservice programs which integrate and supplement existing health, education, and social services. This program will assist adolescents to avoid unwanted pregnancies and assist pregnant adolescents and adolescent parents to become productive, independent contributors to family and community life. The costs of providing the health, educational, social, and economic services are likely to reap substantial benefits to society, now, therefore.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article --- Health --- General

SUBTITLE 7. ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY, PARENTING, AND PREGNANCY PREVENTION

13-701.

PART I. DEFINITIONS, GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "ADOLESCENT PARENT" MEANS A MOTHER OR FATHER UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS.

(C) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY, PARENTING, AND PREGNANCY PREVENTION.

(D) "CORE SERVICES" MEANS THOSE SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED BY ALL GRANTEES, INCLUDING:

(1) PREGNANCY TESTING, MATERNITY COUNSELING, AND PATERNITY COUNSELING;

(2) FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES, INCLUDING NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING METHODS;

(3) PRIMARY AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES, INCLUDING PRENATAL AND POSTNATAL CARE;

(4) NUTRITION INFORMATION AND COUNSELING;

(5) SCREENING AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE;