



Andrea Wilkins &lt;andrea@betheagenda.com&gt;

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**[Test] TPC News and important COVID-19 updates**

2 messages

**Teen Parent Collaborative** <teenparentcollaborative@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 27, 2020 at 4:41 PM

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## The Teen Parent Collaborative

is a unified community of organizations that strives to build capacity and connection for our members and advocate for teen parents and their children.

### COVID-19 and the TPC

Many non-profits, government agencies and other stakeholders at the state and local levels have swiftly come together to coordinate responses to the COVID-19 virus and subsequent sheltering-in-place orders that are happening for most Coloradans. The TPC is working to help manage what this can mean for providers working with and serving Teen Parents. We developed a list of resources to share on our **website**, that we will continue to update as we learn of about more efforts. If you have resources you would like to share with us, please **email us** and we will keep updating.

Of interest to providers, there has been a statewide coordinated effort to address child care in light of the shelter orders. The Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative has been convened to address the needs for child care for families who have members considered to be essential

workers (health care, public safety, emergency workers, etc). To learn more about this effort and how to access care should you need it, please visit **this website**. In addition, state early childhood advocates have been working to mobilize around other types of support. Of note, **the Governor ordered**, and CDHS has provided guidance to county CCAP officials to encourage counties to provide flexibility and waivers around CCAP during this time. **Visit this document** to read more.

We know that this is an extremely difficult time for both teen parents and their families, and for those who are working to support them. There are some Federal responses to this crisis that may impact your organizations, or might provide support directly to teen parent families. In particular, the COVID-19 emergency response funding was passed by Congress, and signed by President Trump today. This bill will provide \$500 for every child in every household, as well as a payment for each individual/head of household. We are working to find out the quickest way to ensure that teen parents are counted and receive this funding. Importantly, teen parents may always be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, which they can receive this year and in normal tax year. The tax deadline has been extended this year because of COVID-19, but resources to support them filing taxes for free, and about the **EITC can be found at this website**.

In the meantime, there are provisions to support small businesses including non-profits and child care centers who may be experiencing a loss of business due to COVID-19. Some of the provisions of note include:

- ***Authorizes recovery rebates of \$1,200 for all Americans with adjusted gross income up to \$75,000 (\$112,500 for head of household) and \$2,400 for married couples with adjusted gross income up to \$150,000 who file a joint return. Amounts increase by \$500 for every child.***
- \$3.5 billion in grants to states through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Program for immediate assistance to child care providers to prevent them from going out of business and to otherwise support child care for families, including for healthcare workers, first responders, and others playing critical roles during this crisis.
- \$750 million for grants to all Head Start programs to help them respond to coronavirus-related needs of children and families,

including making up for lost learning time.

- Both for-profit & non-profit child care businesses with less than 500 employees will be eligible to apply for small business loans of up to \$10 million, of which 8 weeks of monthly payroll, mortgage/rent, and utility payments will be eligible for forgiveness.
- \$685 million has been allocated through the Public Housing Operating Fund, which may be used for activities to support or maintain the health and safety of assisted individuals and families, and activities to support education and child care for impacted families.
- Expands eligibility for entities suffering economic harm due to COVID-19 to access the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), while also giving SBA more flexibility to process and disperse small dollar loans. It would also allow businesses that apply for an EIDL expedited access to capital through an Emergency Grant—an advance of \$10,000 within three days to maintain payroll, provide paid sick leave, and to service other debt obligations. \$10 billion would be provided to support the expanded EIDL program.
- Provides \$265 million for grants to SBA resource partners, including Small Business Development Centers and Women's Business Centers, to offer counseling, training, and related assistance to small businesses affected by COVID-19. \$10 million would be provided for the Minority Business Development Agency to provide these services through Minority Business Centers and Minority Chambers of Commerce.
- Designates \$14.25 billion to states for higher education emergency relief for institutions of higher education to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Funds may be used to defray expenses for institutions of higher education, such as lost revenue, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, and grants to students for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.
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For a good summary about the provisions of the stimulus, visit the summary by the **First Five Years Fund**.

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As of March 14<sup>th</sup>, there were more than 330 bills awaiting final resolution once the legislature reconvenes. Many major legislative priorities, such as paid family and medical leave, have yet to even be introduced. The General Assembly also must finalize the FY 2020-21 state budget and hope to introduce and pass the School Finance Act.

Given the unprecedented nature of the situation stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the General Assembly believed it to be a public health necessity to put the session on hold, though the timeline governing the remainder of the session is unclear. The adjournment went into effect on the 67<sup>th</sup> day of the 120-day session, which was set to conclude on May 6, 2020. The General Assembly has sought legal guidance from the Colorado supreme court as to whether those 120 days must be consecutive, or if they can pick up at a later date and continue with the 68<sup>th</sup> day, once it is deemed safe to convene large groups of people again. There is concern that any legislation passed after May 6 could be subject to legal challenge and declared unconstitutional.

Another possible option would be that the Governor calls a special session, or the General Assembly might do so with approval of two-thirds of the members. Legislators have indicated that they have not had much discussion about what legislative matters would be addressed during a special session, but there is concern that priorities would have to shift. For example, there are early indications from Republicans that they would not agree to take up some of the Democrats' top priorities in a special session, including paid family leave and a public health option.

There is also new concern over the state's economic outlook. COVID-19 has taken an immediate and significant toll on our economy. Legislative Council staff and staff from the Office of State Planning and Budgeting briefed the Joint Budget Committee last week on the March revenue forecast and emphasized that there is no money to support any new programs. This calls into question the viability of pending legislation that has any costs associated with it.

Much work remains to be done. The course of the COVID-19 crisis will determine when that work can resume.



*Pueblo: Dawn Hastings*



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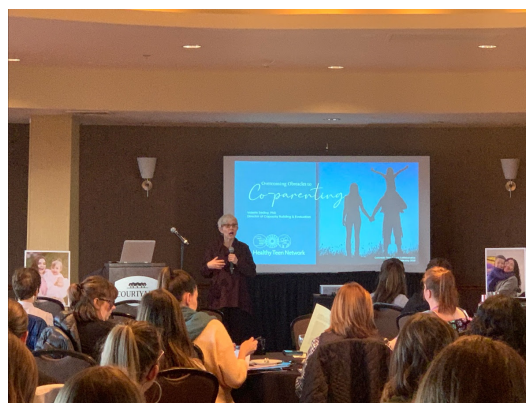
## Introducing our new TPC Liaisons

The TPC is engaged in an effort to build relationships and collaborations with teen parent advocates and providers throughout Colorado. A key part of this effort is working with specific individuals in communities in Southern Colorado, initially, to expand the TPC network to more effectively address the needs of teen parents and their children in all Colorado communities. To that end, the network has recently been joined by Dawn Hastings and Julissa Soto to help us forge deeper connections with the Colorado Springs, Pueblo, and Canon City communities!

**Dawn Hastings** works as a Parent Teacher Educator with the Parents as Teachers program and performs volunteer work mentoring teen moms through YoungLives in Pueblo. Dawn has a passion to empower teen parents to know that they are worthy individuals that can make a difference in this world no matter what their circumstances may be. Dawn was a teen parent herself and was married at 18, having all three of her children by 22. She has a firsthand understanding of the obstacles that young parents face and feels she can be an example of how you can rise up and become who you want to be. Dawn will be serving as the TPC liaison to Pueblo and Fremont counties.

**Julissa Soto** is a leader in public health in Colorado and has served in a number of significant leadership capacities across the state. A former teen parent herself, Julissa is a trailblazer in programming serving Spanish-speaking new immigrants, with more than two decades of nonprofit experience. Her background includes over 19 years of success in leading and managing evidence-based prevention programs serving new immigrants. She immigrated to the United States nearly 21 years ago from central Mexico, so she understands the health needs of Colorado Latinos and the importance of reaching out to them. Julissa will be serving as the TPC liaison to El Paso county.





## 2nd Annual TPC Conference a Great Success

The 2nd Annual Teen Parent Conference was a tremendous success. Just over a hundred teen parent service providers, stakeholders and teen parents gathered at the Cherry Creek Courtyard Marriott on February 29, 2020 to celebrate successes and share best practices, network, and learn from state and national leaders. This year's keynote was delivered by Dr. Valerie Sedivy with the Washington D.C.-based Healthy Teen Network. Valerie shared evidence-based approaches for improving co-parenting for teen parents. Dr. Sarah Watamura from the University of Denver shared evidence about the remarkable resiliency of young brains, even those who have experienced toxic stress, and more on her research about two-generation approaches to services.

Two of the most well received sessions came from the teen moms and dads themselves. During lunch, teen moms shared about the greatest hurdles in their lives and the interventions that helped them the most. And new to our program this year, we had a panel of teen fathers who shared about their own experiences as teen parents and some of their perspective on co-parenting. This popular session was moderated by Rick Ellsmore, Executive director of the Aurora-based teen father-focused non-profit, Glasshearts. The day also included presentations about teen parent legal rights, and best practices in coping with substance abuse in the young parent population. Additionally, Julissa Soto shared her experience as an immigrant teen mother and how it shapes her work with Familia Adelante, a multi-risk prevention intervention designed to support Latino families throughout Colorado. The day was filled with stories resiliency, and with best practices for working with young families. Thank you for joining us this year, the TPC looks forward to hosting you next year.

***You can access the presentation slides [here](#).***



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### COVID-19 and the TPC

A wide range of state and local non-profits, government agencies, and stakeholders have swiftly responded to the COVID-19 virus and subsequent sheltering-in-place orders for the state of Colorado. The TPC is working to interpret what many of these changes may mean for providers who serve teen parents. A list of resources is available on our **website**. We will continue to update it as we learn about more efforts. If you have resources you would like to share with us, please **email us** and we will share all efforts with the TPC membership.

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**\*\*Please note that the bi-weekly TPC Advocacy Committee calls will resume once the General Assembly reconvenes. We will send out notice at that time.\*\***



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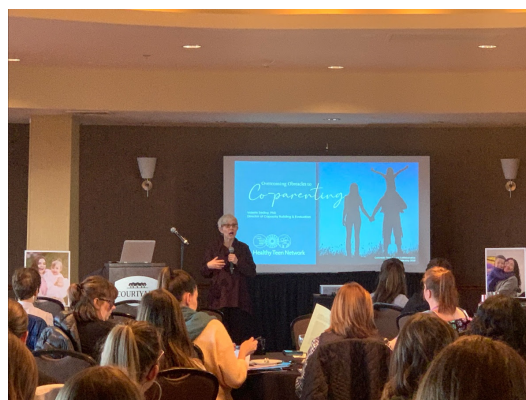
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Finally, we heard from Adam Bickford with Colorado's State Demography office about the US Census and the importance of ensuring that all people get counted. The census is the main way that population is determined and helps the federal government allocate funds for programs. The more accurate count we have, the more funds we receive. For more information, visit [Colorado's census website](#), and join in on Census day, April 1, 2020.

Thank you to all who joined us, the day was filled with stories of resiliency and with best practices for working with young families. We look forward to hosting you next year.

***You can access the presentation slides [here](#).***



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