

COLORADO GRADUATED DRIVER'S LICENSE & THE TEEN PARENT DRIVER'S EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM



Program Overview

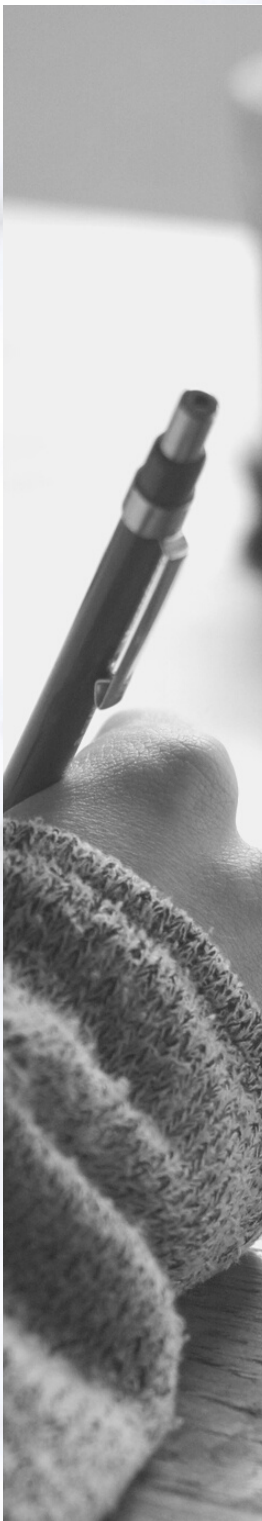
The Colorado Teen Parent Driver's Education Grant Program was established via [HB22-1042 – Teen Parent Driving Instruction Course](#) and provides financial assistance to teen parents to pay for drivers education courses needed to obtain a driver's license or learner's permit and become a safe driver. Grant funding can also be used for supportive services, such as transportation to and from driver's education training and child care needed to facilitate participation in the program.

Background

The program is funded through the Colorado Department of Human Services and can be accessed through the [Colorado Teen Parent Collaborative \(TPC\)](#). The TPC is a unified community of organizations that strives to build capacity and connection for our members and advocate for teen parents and their children. The TPC is a statewide network of over 200 participating organizations and individuals from across Colorado that advocated for the development of this program as a tool to promote self-sufficiency among teen parents and to promote public safety.

Many TPC members have observed the difficulty teen parents have in obtaining a driver's license, as well as related challenges. Those challenges may include the inability to pay for driver's education courses needed to obtain a driver's permit, inability to pay fees associated with a driver's permit or license, and lack of access to a responsible adult who can supervise the required practice drive time hours or sign the affidavit of liability required by the DMV. The inability to obtain a driver's license is a barrier to self-sufficiency in that it can impede teen parents from getting to school, driving to work, and getting their children to child care or medical appointments. Teen parents residing in rural communities with little or no transportation face even greater barriers. Driving is so essential to teen parents' ability to handle their responsibilities that many without a license feel forced to drive illegally. In turn, this can compound barriers to self-sufficiency as driving without a license can result in tickets, fines, and related legal





problems. Further, teen parents who cannot access driver's education or receive instruction from a supervising adult can pose a safety risk to themselves, their children, and the public.

Colorado Graduated Driver's License Requirements

Colorado teens age 15 to 16 need to complete some sort of classroom-based driver's education before they can apply for a driver's permit which includes 30-hours of course training for individuals age 15 - 15.5 years old and 4 hours of course training for those age 15.5 - 16 years old. Once obtained, the permit allows them to practice driving with a parent or other licensed adult. After one year of supervised drive time, they can apply for their driver's license. In addition, teens age 15 through 17 must log 50 hours of supervised practice drive time, including at least 10 hours of nighttime driving.

Grant Program Eligibility & Application Process

The Teen Parent Driver's Education Grant Program is open to any teen parent who is 15 to 19 years old residing in Colorado. Teen parent providers and teen parent-serving organizations can assist interested individuals in completing the application which is accessible on the [TPC website](#).

Providers need to assist teen parents in [locating](#) a driver's education training program in their community and securing other necessary supportive services that are needed to participate. The TPC will review applications within three days of submission and notify providers and the applicant of their award. The TPC will work with providers to facilitate transfer of funds requested through the grant program. Providers must attest to having first-hand knowledge of the applicant's status as a pregnant or parenting teen and must agree to report outcome information to the TPC so the impact of the program can be monitored. Additional information and questions should be direct to the TPC at teenparentcollaborative@gmail.com.

Additional Driver's Education Resources:

Drive it Home – Pointers for Parents

Parents, guardians, or supervising adults can [sign up](#) to receive emails with weekly driving lessons to help teen drivers improve their skills. Lessons can be provided in English or Spanish.