



Positive Alternatives



What happened?

Through passage of the Health and Human Services bill, Governor Dayton and the legislature provided \$1 million a year in additional funding to the Positive Alternatives grant program. This will allow the Minnesota Department of Health to expand community efforts to promote healthy pregnancy outcomes and assist pregnant and parenting women in developing and maintaining family stability and self-sufficiency.

Why is this helpful for Minnesotans?

Pregnancy can be a challenging time for a woman and her family. Community assistance and support can help a woman find prenatal care early and refer her to appropriate assistance programs. It can also help her in being healthy during pregnancy and learning necessary skills to care for a new baby. These factors can significantly influence the outcome of a woman's pregnancy and lead to healthy, successful babies and families.

Background

The Positive Alternatives program was established by the Minnesota legislature in 2005. Grantees are required to provide assistance with services that encourage and help women in carrying their pregnancies to term and caring for their babies after birth or in making an adoption plan. Necessary services include medical care, nutritional services, housing assistance, adoption services, education and employment assistance, child care assistance, parenting education and support services. Currently \$2,357,000 a year is available to 35 grantees located throughout the state, providing services from 44 sites. Almost 11,000 pregnant or parenting women received over 49,000 separate services.

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DATE: 5/27/2015