
NEXT GENERATION ISSUES

- How to address the invisibility of this population in the schools. How does one generate systemic responses to the needs of these students in light of school-based management. How to create the public will to support efforts for adolescent parents and their young children.
- How to address the educational needs of adolescent parents in school. How to build a broad-based constituency within the schools for alternative instructional methodologies such as open-entry, open-exit, competency-based education in basic subjects in comprehensive high schools.
- How to create stable resources to fund programmatic elements about which much is known: quality child care arrangements for the children of teen parents; support of these various child care arrangements; developmental screens for children in different child care arrangements; and finally, comprehensive case management.
- How to encourage state and community planning for TANF to work more integrally with the schools, given that we know intervening early through schools is more likely to produce positive benefits than waiting until teens have dropped out. What are the strategies that can be used to bring together welfare planners and the schools?
- How to disseminate best practices and strategies for overcoming barriers to expanding the scope and scale of these programs that have been developed by numerous organizations.
- How to strengthen the research base on these programs. Do the programs themselves have to be strengthened prior to the availability of quality data on their outcomes?