



Journal of Marriage and Family

Special Assistance Programs May Help Teen Parents Continue Education

Reducing Need for Paid Work Would Enable Teens to Stay in School

Boulder, Colo. – February 13, 2007 - A lack of monetary and social resources can lead to missed educational and employment opportunities for teen parents. According to a new study in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, a specialized financial aid program, similar to current student loan programs, could assist young parents in continuing their education after childbirth, and provide them with better employment opportunities in the long term. “If provided with adequate material resources, contemporary teenage parents may be able to go quite far in school, despite their initial socioeconomic disadvantage,” says study author Stefanie Mollborn.

Most adults have completed their formal education by age 26. According to Mollborn, if adolescent parents marry and take on the roles of ‘working father’ and ‘stay-at-home mom,’ they are likely to achieve fewer years of education. Mollborn suggests directly providing these young parents and their children with needed resources. “Financial aid packages similar to those offered for higher education may be a way to provide financial resources and money for child care, reducing the need for paid work among teenage parents and enabling them to stay in school.”

The types of assistance likely to be most valuable by young parents are different for men and women. Child care is a particularly important resource for teenage mothers; housing and financial resources are particularly important for men. “Policy makers should see this study as a ray of hope that financial assistance and child care programs may make a lasting difference for teenage parents and their children,” says Mollborn.

This study is published in February issue of *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Media wishing to receive a PDF of this article may contact

journalnews@bos.blackwellpublishing.net.

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