

Instructions

Once you have identified potential champions, supporters, or partners in your community, it is important to have a conversation with each about the issue of teen pregnancy. This conversation will help both of you determine the "fit" the potential ally has with your work and, if all seems right, can open the door for you to invite the person's participation. This can be a one-on-one conversation with individuals or a conversation with small groups of individuals, including staff of potential partner organizations.

Use the conversation decision tree below as a guide. There are two key questions ("How do you see the issue of teen pregnancy affecting our community's youth?" and "How important do you believe it is for the community to be working together to address teen pregnancy in our community?"). If you receive an affirmative response on both of these, you have a potentially strong ally! It is a simple conversation that only needs to take a few minutes. Whenever possible, it is a good conversation to have face-to-face because, in community work, relationships are key.

How you open the conversation is a judgment call affected by many things, such as the context, the relationship you have with the person or group, etc. You could, for example, open by sharing your compelling invitation (see the "Crafting a Compelling Invitation" handout) and then ask how the person or group sees teen pregnancy. Or, you could simply introduce yourself, explain that you would like to talk with them about teen pregnancy in your community, and then ask the first question. (You can save your own compelling invitation for later, if you like.)

