

Below is a screen shot showing that the National Council for Youth (NCY), of which GSUSA is a member, promotes comprehensive sexuality education, opposes abstinence-only education, and seeks to ensure contraception for children “regardless of their age.” To help you easily find the text we have highlighted it in yellow. [Click here](#) to access this page online.

Delinquency Prevention

- » Runaway and Homeless Youth
- » Meeting the needs of Youth Under TANF
- » After School and Summer Programs
- » **Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention**
- » Youth Employment
- » Youth Community Service and Service Learning
- » Child Care
- » Education for all Children and Youth
- » Healthy Weight, Nutrition and Physical Activity

- Pregnant teenagers and teenage mothers should be encouraged to seek regular medical and nutritional care, to continue in school or to seek vocational training, and to enroll in parenting courses.
- Prospective fathers and teen fathers should assume financial responsibilities.
- Pregnancy prevention programs should be based on positive youth development principles and thus should:
  - build children's self-reliance, self-confidence and awareness of life options; facilitate parent-child, teacher-child, mentor-child activities and communication; promote peer education and leadership in schools and in the community; increase competencies in decision-making, negotiation, assertiveness, and refusal and resistance skills.
- Fear-based approaches to adolescent pregnancy prevention are ineffective and harmful.

#### PUBLIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The federal government should take the following actions related to adolescent pregnancy:

- Provide leadership and incentives to campaigns attempting to reduce adolescent pregnancy through comprehensive approaches that are research-based.
- Expand funding for pregnancy prevention programs that provide medically accurate and realistic information about both abstinence and contraception.
- In light of concerns from the medical and public health communities regarding the effectiveness of abstinence-only programs, **redirect the federal abstinence-only-until-marriage funding to more comprehensive research-based youth development approaches.**
- Provide more evaluation dollars for current programs in an effort to determine what methods are most effective.
- Support and fund scientific research into adolescent sexual behavior.
- Provide leadership and incentives to programs attempting to reduce sexually transmitted infections through comprehensive interventions, including education, counseling, support services and treatment.
- **Ensure access to affordable health care, including contraception, to all regardless of age.**
- **Recognize and support the role of schools in providing comprehensive health, nutrition, and sexuality education.**
- Promote services that support positive social, economic, health and developmental outcomes for teen parents and their children.