

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 31, 2023

The Honorable January Contreras
Assistant Secretary
Administration for Children and Families
Department of Health and Human Services
330 C St. SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Assistant Secretary Contreras:

I write to you today in regards to the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) Competitive Grants: New Hampshire, Opportunity Number HHS-2023-ACF-ACYF-AK-0063. I urge you to post this grant as soon as possible and make subsequent awards earlier than currently forecasted.

For nearly a decade, New Hampshire has received federal PREP funding for two education programs operating in counties with higher-than-average teen pregnancy rates, and the results have been outstanding. TLC Family Resource Center in Claremont, NH, and Amoskeag Health in Manchester, NH offer classes covering abstinence, the reproductive process, sexually transmitted diseases and contraception. Since starting classes in 2012, TLC Family Resource Center reports the surrounding Sullivan County area has seen its teen birth rate drop from 20.27 per 1,000 teens to 11.86 in 2021. Similarly, the City of Manchester has reported a nearly 50 percent decrease in teen pregnancy rates from 2010-2020.

Unfortunately, last year the New Hampshire Executive Council, which approves the receipt and expenditure of all federal funds in New Hampshire totaling \$10,000 or more, repeatedly denied PREP funding for TLC Family Resource Center and Amoskeag Health to continue their sex education classes. The result has been that both providers have limited or ceased offering classes to at-risk youth until further clarity on federal funding is provided.

In response to a letter from the entire New Hampshire Congressional Delegation to Secretary Becerra on December 1, 2022, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) forecasted an upcoming notice of funding opportunity for PREP funding specific to New Hampshire providers. While I am grateful for the agency's initial response, that grant remains in forecasting well past its estimated post date of April 14, 2023, with no response from the agency as to when the funding opportunity will be open for applications. Further, the initial estimated award date of August 31, 2023 will leave our providers without federal funding for nearly a year, and worse, hundreds of adolescents without access to comprehensive sex education.

With this in mind, I request a response to the following questions:

1. Will HHS commit to posting PREP Opportunity Number HHS-2023-ACF-ACYF-AK-0063 by June 16, 2023? If not, when specifically will HHS commit to posting this grant opportunity?
2. Will HHS commit to awarding the above grant prior to its forecasted award date of August 31, 2023? If not, when specifically will HHS commit to awarding this funding?

I urge you to post this PREP funding for New Hampshire as soon as possible and do all in your power to expedite awards to providers so they can continue their work educating our youth. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I respectfully request a response by June 16th, 2023.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator