

Girl Scouts of Western New York, alongside Planned Parenthood, serves on the *Pathways to Progress* (Pathways) advisory committee<sup>1</sup>. The Pathways project promotes<sup>2</sup> comprehensive sex-ed, including Western New York Planned Parenthood's sex-ed program. Pathways also praises problematic resources such as teensource.org<sup>3</sup>, where kids can get information about "hookups", find abortion clinics, and inform girls of their rights to confidential and affordable abortion services. Western New York Women's Foundation currently promotes<sup>4</sup> the Pathway program and report via its homepage.

### Cited References

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf_finalreport.pdf) page 5 - Girl Scouts of Western New York and Planned Parenthood serve on advisory committee for Pathways to Progress

www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf\_finalreport.pdf

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<sup>2</sup>[http://www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf_finalreport.pdf) see page 24 – Pathways to Progress report endorses comprehensive sex ed including Planned Parenthood’s sex education program:

www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf\_finalreport.pdf

### LEVERAGE POINT #3

## BROADEN ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION, TARGETING AT-RISK DISTRICTS

#### STATUS

The factors behind teen pregnancy are complex and multi-faceted. Cultural norms regarding early pregnancy differ across communities. A teen girl’s role models - her friends, her mother - may be or have been teen moms. If she is failing in school and sees no escape from poverty, motherhood might seem her most hopeful course in life. If she is in an abusive relationship, a pregnancy might not have been her choice.

Sex education, particularly when reinforced at home and in the community, remains one of the most practical and effective tools for preventing teen pregnancy. Broadly defined, comprehensive sex education addresses abstinence and age-appropriate, medically accurate information about contraception, while also covering relationships and peer pressure.

However, sex education remains a politically contentious issue across the U.S. Although more than two out of three parents polled in a national study say the federal government should support more comprehensive sex education programs, there is no consensus on how sex education should be taught.<sup>14</sup>

NYS is among 17 states that require only instruction about HIV or STIs (NYS requires only HIV instruction).<sup>15</sup> NYS does provide a broad curriculum framework for sex education, but it provides limited guidelines. Many school districts partner with community agencies to provide comprehensive sex education, while others leverage abstinence-only sex education programs. In contrast to its sex education policy, New York is progressive in the rights it affords to minors for consenting to confidential sexual health care, including contraception and STI testing and treatment.

#### WNY SUPPORT LANDSCAPE

Committed advocates and service providers across the region have been working hard to reach girls at risk for teen pregnancy. Planned Parenthood of Western New York’s education programs include teen theater on responsible sexuality, gender-specific forums for discussing sex and relationships and parent education programs. The group also provides comprehensive sex education curriculum training to community organizations, including schools, and has taken a lead role in pushing for open regional dialogue on prevention and state policy reform. Planned Parenthood also supports a coalition of pregnancy prevention groups in WNY. Other services in WNY include Buffalo Adolescent Pregnancy & Prevention, Family & Children’s Services of Niagara, Prevention Focus and Catholic Charities of Buffalo. Experts cite challenges in reaching teens, particularly in Niagara County and rural areas, due to limited resources and partners to assist in delivering services.

Several resources are available in WNY to support teen moms in school. Buffalo Public Schools’ Project A.C.T. links pregnant and parenting teens with community supports and school services for career planning, prenatal care, child-rearing support and home instruction. Numerous other agencies, from public to faith-based, provide parenting support, home visitation, health services and support groups tailored for pregnant and parenting teens across WNY.



*“We hear all the time from our clients - ‘I didn’t know I could get pregnant.’ And it’s getting younger and younger.”*

Launched in 2001, [TeenSource.org](http://TeenSource.org) is a state-sponsored interactive educational resource designed to provide teens with sexual health information, from how to talk to parents about sex to teen rights. The Web site offers testimonials, videos, blogs, information

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf_finalreport.pdf) see page 24 - Pathways to Progress report praises concerning resources like teensource.org

[www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.wnywomensfoundation.org/documents/wf_finalreport.pdf)

...get pregnant.' And it's getting younger and younger."

others leverage abstinence-only sex education programs. In contrast to its sex education policy, New York is progressive in the rights it affords to minors for consenting to confidential sexual health care, including contraception and STI testing and treatment.

Those teens who become young mothers still need to stay in school and prepare for careers and post-secondary education. With the odds against them, intensive programs are needed to keep pregnant and teen moms in school. They range from parenting education and career counseling to medical care and support groups.

— Launched in 2001, **TeenSource.org** is a state-sponsored interactive educational resource designed to provide teens with **sexual health** information, from how to talk to parents about sex to teen rights. The Web site offers testimonials, videos, blogs, information on free and low-cost clinical services, and links to information on youth-oriented health and social services. In 2009, a text messaging program, Hookup 365247, was added to anonymously provide youth with accurate and relevant sexual health information.  
**www.teensource.org**

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teensource.org

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California Condom Access Project

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Enough Was Enough: Ending the Abuse

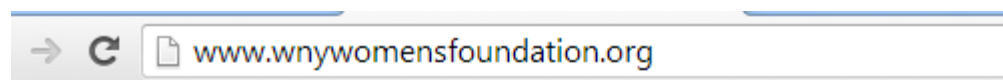
by TeenSource Blogger posted Thursday, August 22, 2013 - 12:00

"I never thought it would happen to me." It sounds like a cliché thing to say but it's true! I never

WATCH NOW: ALL ABOUT CONDOM ACCESS PROJECT

Condom Access Project Tutorial - Te

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## Make an Impact

### [Read our recent 2012 Annual Report!](#)

#### **Announcing Impact Grants**

The WNY Women's Foundation is proud to expand our involvement in the community this Fall through Impact Grants. These grants will be funded with a gender lens and focus on one (1) of our three current strategic areas based on our Pathways to Progress report.

[Read More](#)

[Read our Pathways to Progress Report](#)

## Events

### **Pathway to Progress Speaker Series**

*featuring*

Senator Kirstin Gillibrand

has been POSTPONED

[Read More](#)

#### **Save the Date!**

#### [10th Annual Fall in Fashion](#)

Friday, November 1, 2013

11 A.M.

The Buffalo Club