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MAYOR EMANUEL, CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCE RESTORATION OF FEDERAL FUNDING TO CHICAGO'S TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

President Trump's Department of Health and Human Services forced to restore \$2 million in grant funding to Chicago following a class action lawsuit

Mayor Rahm Emanuel today announced that President Donald Trump's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has been forced to restore \$2 million in federal funding to Chicago's Teen Pregnancy Program as a result of a class-action lawsuit joined by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and 62 other organizations. This funding was abruptly cut by HHS, eliminating funding for the five-year program after only three years; restoration of the funding will help Chicago to continue making historic strides in reducing teen births.

"Chicago will not stand for the Trump administration's unlawful attempts to cut funding for our young people's health," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "I am proud that we stood united, fought back in the courts and won a victory for our youth against the regressive policies of a failed president. We are grateful to Congress for ensuring this critical funding."

This federal funding for the city's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program was suddenly and unexpectedly cut by HHS in July 2017, depriving CDPH of crucial data sources to be able to evaluate the program. While CDPH committed to continuing their important work, they also joined Healthy Futures of Texas, represented by the Public Citizen, a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization, in a class-action lawsuit against the federal government to try to preserve and restore the five-year grants. As a result of a positive decision by the U.S. District Court, all grantees in the class action suit were allowed to file a continuation application for year four of the grant and restored the conditions of the five-year grant as originally awarded.

Chicago has made historic strides in reducing teen births; the teen birth rate has declined for nine consecutive years. In 2015, the most recent year for which data is available, there were 27.5 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years old. This represents nearly a 68 percent drop from the 85.2 rate in 1999. Restoration of this funding allows CDPH to continue to evaluate these critical prevention

programs. Early promising results of Chicago's teen pregnancy prevention initiative include increases in youth knowledge and access to health care services.

"Chicago has achieved historic low teen births and after nine consecutive years of decline, continues to see a downward trajectory," said CDPH Commissioner Julie Morita, M.D. "Restoring this funding is the right thing to do. As a data driven organization we need to evaluate prevention programs or risk reversing the historic gains our young people have made. We are pleased by this decision and will continue to ensure that every teen in Chicago has access to the resources they need to decide if or when to become a parent."

Since Planned Parenthood of Illinois began providing services on behalf of CDPH via a competitive bid process in March 2015, Chicago Healthy Adolescents and Teens (CHAT), Chicago's on-site sexual health education and STI screen program, has provided sexual health education to more than 47,000 youth and sexually transmitted infection screening services to over 25,000 youth in CPS and charter high schools, local colleges, and youth-serving community-based organizations across the city. The operations of this important program are funded separately, and have continued without interruption. In spite of the destabilization caused by HHS' unlawful grant termination, preliminary results from the CHAT evaluation show promising impacts of the program on adolescent health behaviors and knowledge.

"Planned Parenthood is hopeful that with this funding continuation, we'll be able to extend the benefits of this data-driven work to more Chicago youth," said Jennifer Welch, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Illinois.

For more information on sexual health, including pregnancy prevention, visit ChatAboutIt.org

To see other data on maternal, child and adolescent key health indicators and reports, please visit: <http://www.healthychicagobabies.org/data.html>.

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