The readiness of a skilled workforce is critical when businesses evaluate relocation and expansion opportunities. Research indicates that teen pregnancy has workforce-related impacts in addition to financial and social consequences.

- **Teen pregnancy and the workforce**
  Teen pregnancy results in substantial losses in workforce productivity because of lack of job skills, absenteeism and tardiness related to child care challenges, higher healthcare costs, including workman’s compensation, and lack of advancement in the workforce.

- **Job training not enough**
  Job training for teen parents is often unsuccessful as these parents are faced with the challenges of raising a child in addition to educating themselves. Lower educational attainment leads to a less productive workforce and less economic growth.

- **Teen pregnancy affects everyone**
  Lower earnings by teen parents means $17 million in lost sales tax revenue in Texas and increased Medicaid costs. Teen pregnancy also leads to higher rates of child abuse and more children in foster care.

- **Teen pregnancy and poverty**
  Texas is one of the worst states in the US for high school dropout. The possession of a high school diploma is the greatest factor between job opportunities and a life in poverty. 60% of teen parents never obtain a high school diploma. Annually, 80,000 Texas teens become parents at the fourth highest rate in the nation and at the highest repeat rate.

- **The cycle continues**
  A less competitive workforce lies in the future as children of teen parents are not prepared for school, do worse in school and are more likely to drop out of high school. Sons of teen mothers are more likely to be incarcerated. Children of teen parents are more likely to become teen parents themselves.

**We can break the cycle of teen pregnancy.**

**Here’s what you can do!**
Evidence-based sexual health education programs prevent teen pregnancy and are cost effective. For every $1 spent on effective sexual health education, $2 is saved.
Support increased access to contraception for teens.
Support programs that encourage parent-child communication.