The Pregnancy Assistance Fund:

Launching Programs to Support Expectant and Parenting Youth

Webinar Presentation for the
Office of Adolescent Health

February 24, 2016
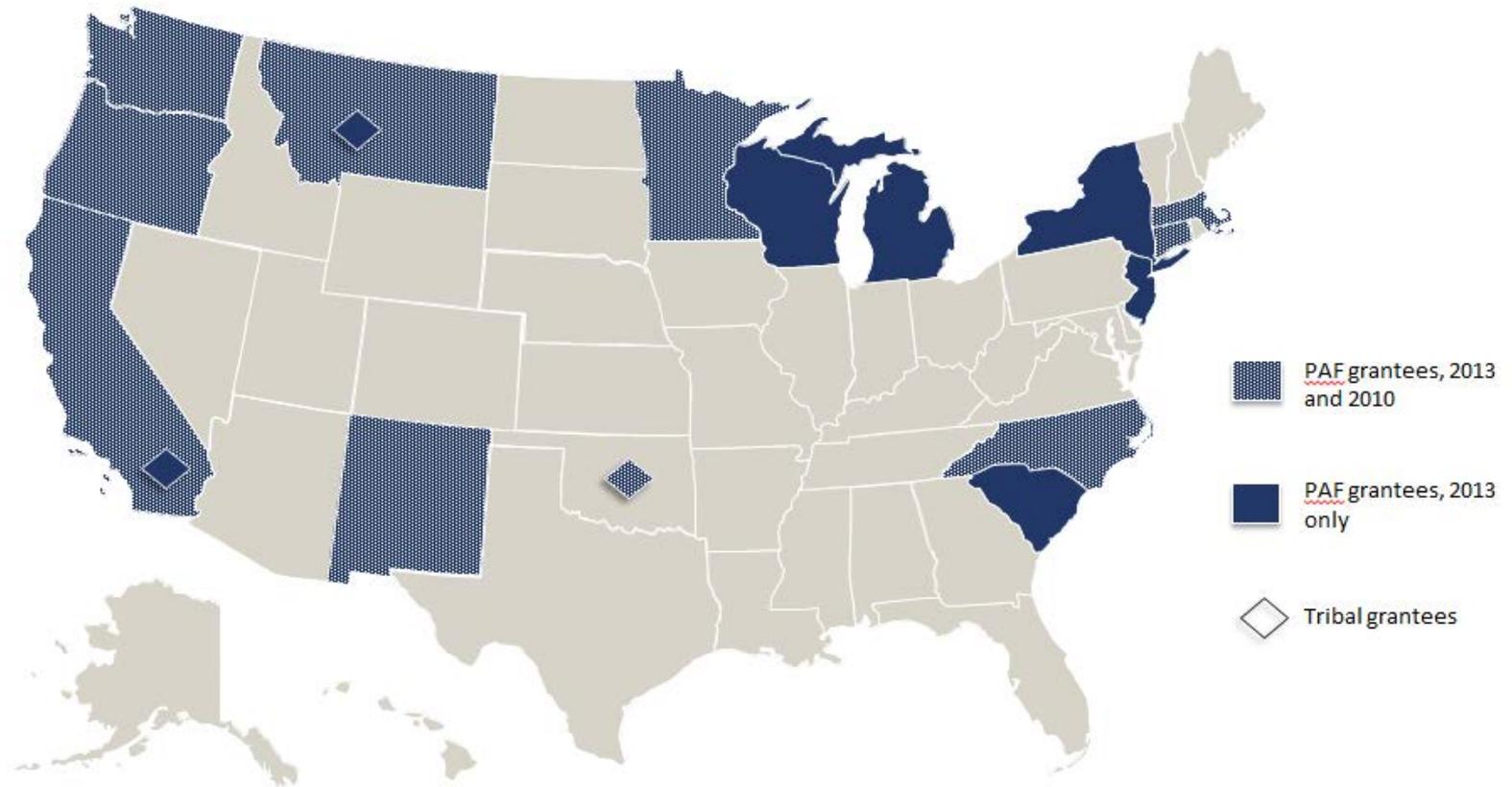
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Overview of the Presentation

- **Background on the Pregnancy Assistance Fund (PAF) cross-grantee study**

- **Grant rationale and objectives**
  - **What do grantees hope to achieve through PAF?**
  - **What factors have influenced their program decisions?**

- **Grant administration**
  - **How are grantees organizing themselves?**
  - **How are they using PAF funds?**

- **Program design and implementation**
  - **What program components are grantees offering?**
  - **Whom do PAF-funded programs serve and where?**

- **Summary, conclusions, and next steps**

Background on the PAF Cross-Grantee Study

- **First major, systematic description of a federal program to support expectant and parenting youth**

- **Part of broader national evaluation for on programs for expectant and parenting youth**

  – **Cross-grantee descriptive study**

  – **Impacts and in-depth implementation studies in three sites**

- **Findings drawn primarily from**

  – **Review of PAF grantee applications (summer 2014)**

  – **Telephone interviews (fall 2014) with grant leaders from 17 current PAF grants**

States and Tribes Receiving 2013 PAF Grants

Legend:
- PAF grantees, 2013 and 2010
- PAF grantees, 2013 only
- Tribal grantees

Grant Rationale and Objectives

- **Grantees agree that expectant and parenting youth are not well served**
  - Even in relatively service-rich environments, existing programs do not explicitly target, and may not reach, expectant or parenting youth
  - Lack of coordination poses challenges for youth who need comprehensive/wraparound services

- **Grantees are using PAF to serve expectant and parenting youth better by**
  - Enhancing the components of an existing program or approach and expanding programming to serve more youth
  - Filling specific service gaps by providing a new service and/or targeting a specific underserved subpopulation
  - Improving coordination among agencies and programs to make wraparound services available and/or to support program sustainability

Overview of Funding Categories

Grant funding category and description	Number of grantees
1: Serving participants in institutions of higher education	4
2: Serving youth in high schools and community centers	15
3: Improving services for victims of intimate partner violence	4
4: Increasing public awareness and education	11

Source: OAH website and Mathematica interviews with PAF program administrators.

Grant Administration

- **PAF grants are administered by small teams (usually 2-4 staff members), working most often in state or tribal health/social service agencies**

- **Grantees are leveraging formal and informal partnerships to reduce barriers to service access, link participants with specific services, and/or support program sustainability**

- **The 3 tribal grantees use PAF funding to provide direct services to youth and families; the 14 others provide services through subawards**

- **Grantees are evenly divided between those allowing provider flexibility in implementing PAF-funded services and those trying to reduce variability in what/how services were provided**
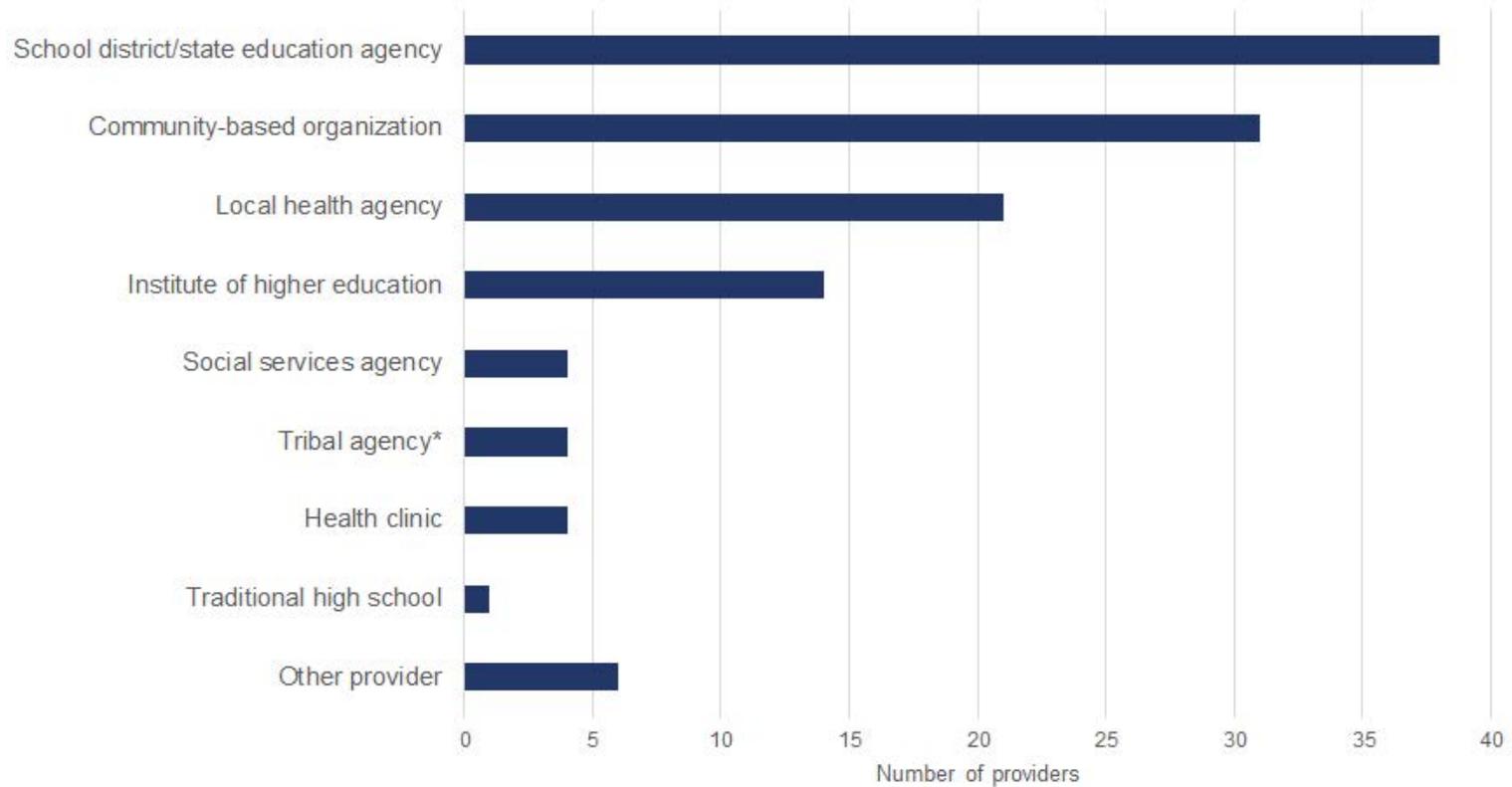
Overview of Lead Agencies

Lead agency	Number of grantees
Health	6
Education	3
Tribal entity	3
Social services	2
Other	3
Total	17

Source: Mathematica interviews with PAF program administrators.

Program Provision Through Subawards

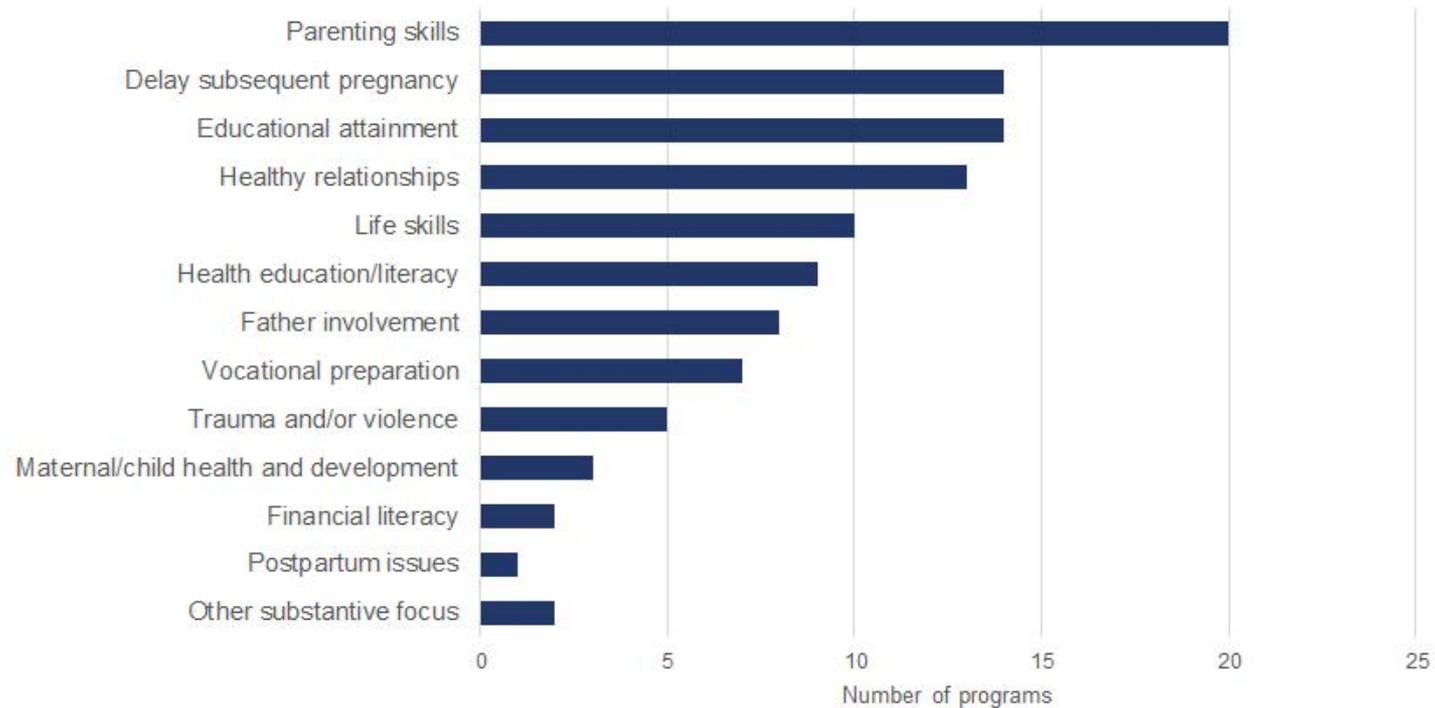|	
Total number of provider subawards across all grantees	120
Range of number of provider subawards	4 – 27
Range of annual provider subaward amounts	$40,000 – $250,000
Average percentage of grant to program providers	69%

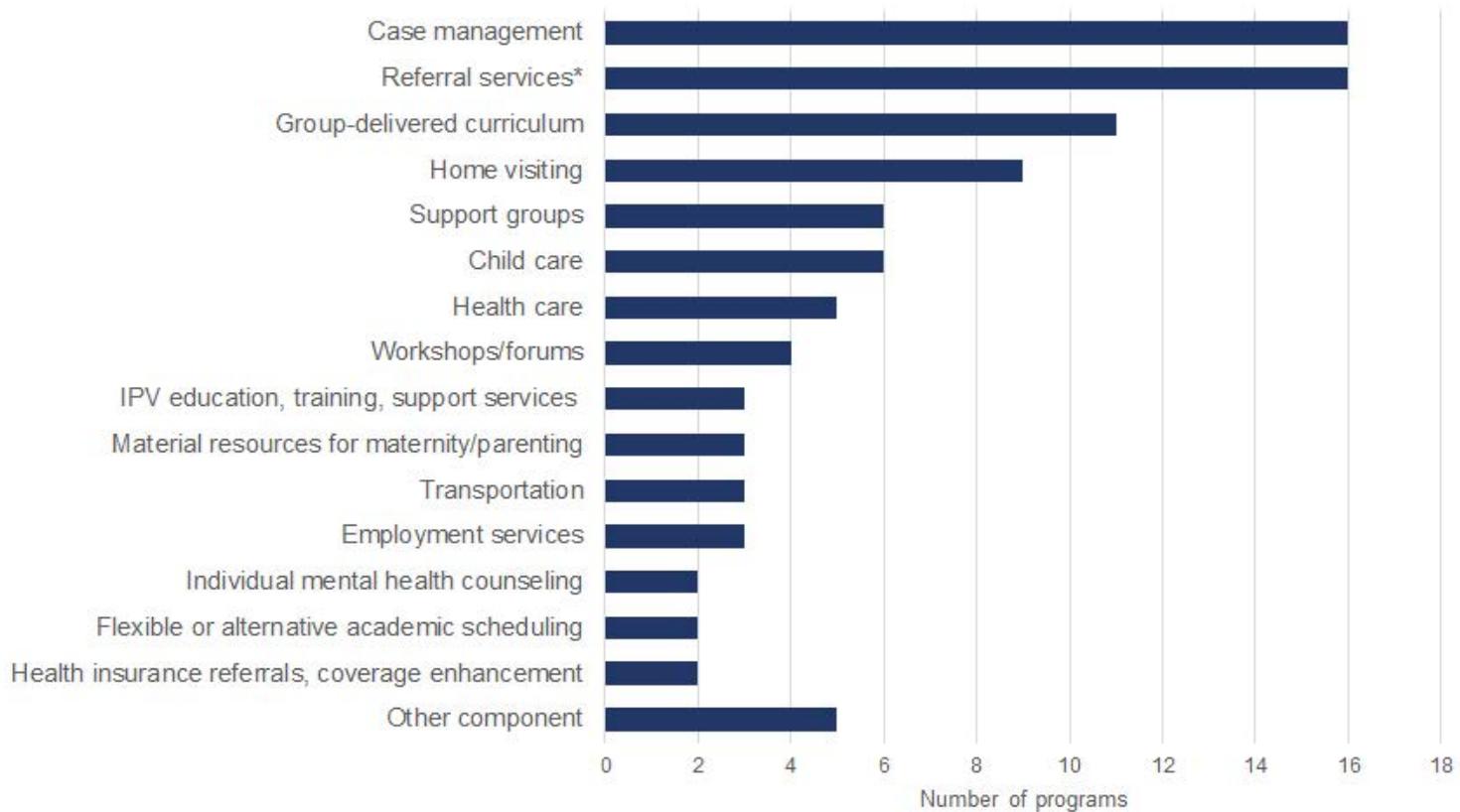# Education Entities Are the Most Common Providers

Program Design and Implementation

- **Grantees offering 24 PAF programs, largely focused on parenting skills (20 programs) and often combining case management and referrals (12 programs)**

- **Most PAF programs do not target a specific subpopulation of expectant and parenting youth**
  - **Grantees expect to serve nearly 30,000 participants (ranging from 240 to 5,050 participants per grantee and averaging 1,725)**

- **Programs are most often implemented in community centers and educational facilities**

- **Multifocal and multicomponent program design may reflect grantees' efforts to build programs in an area where the evidence base is relatively underdeveloped**
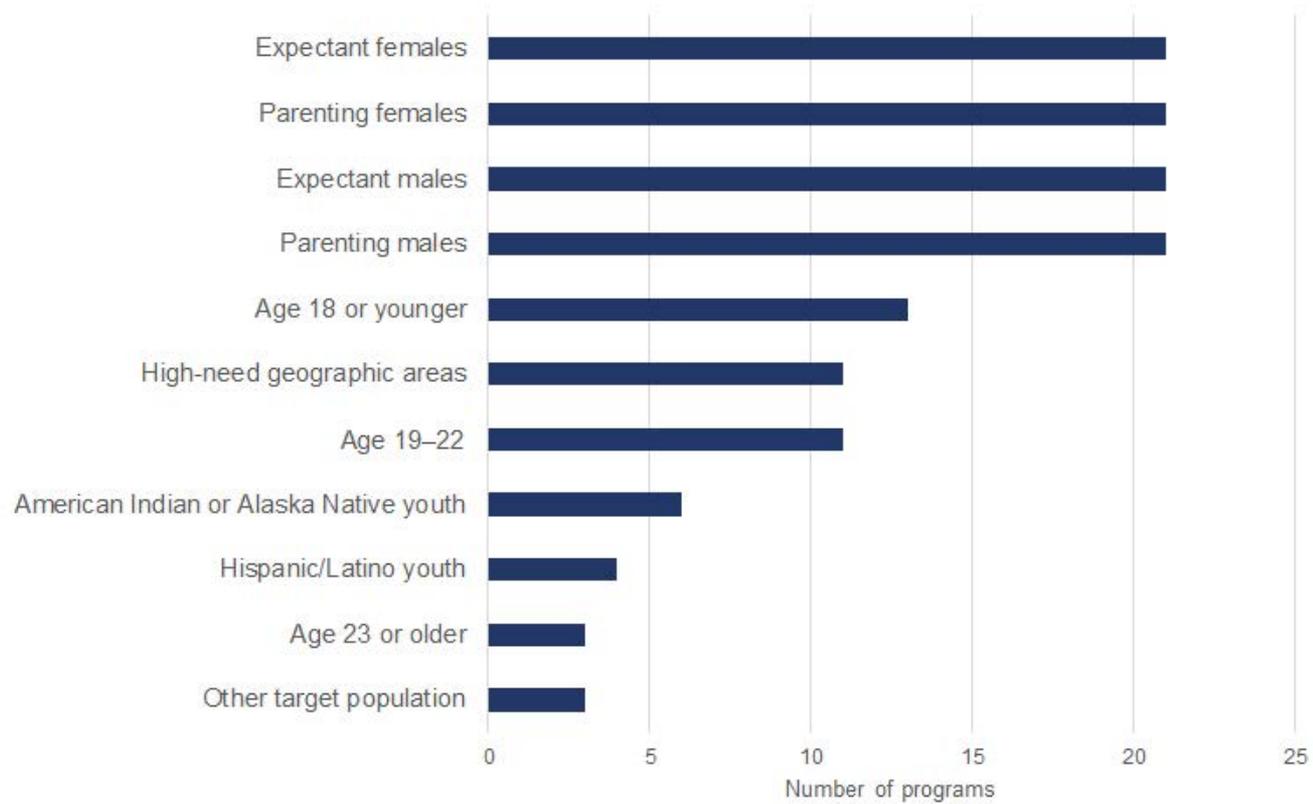
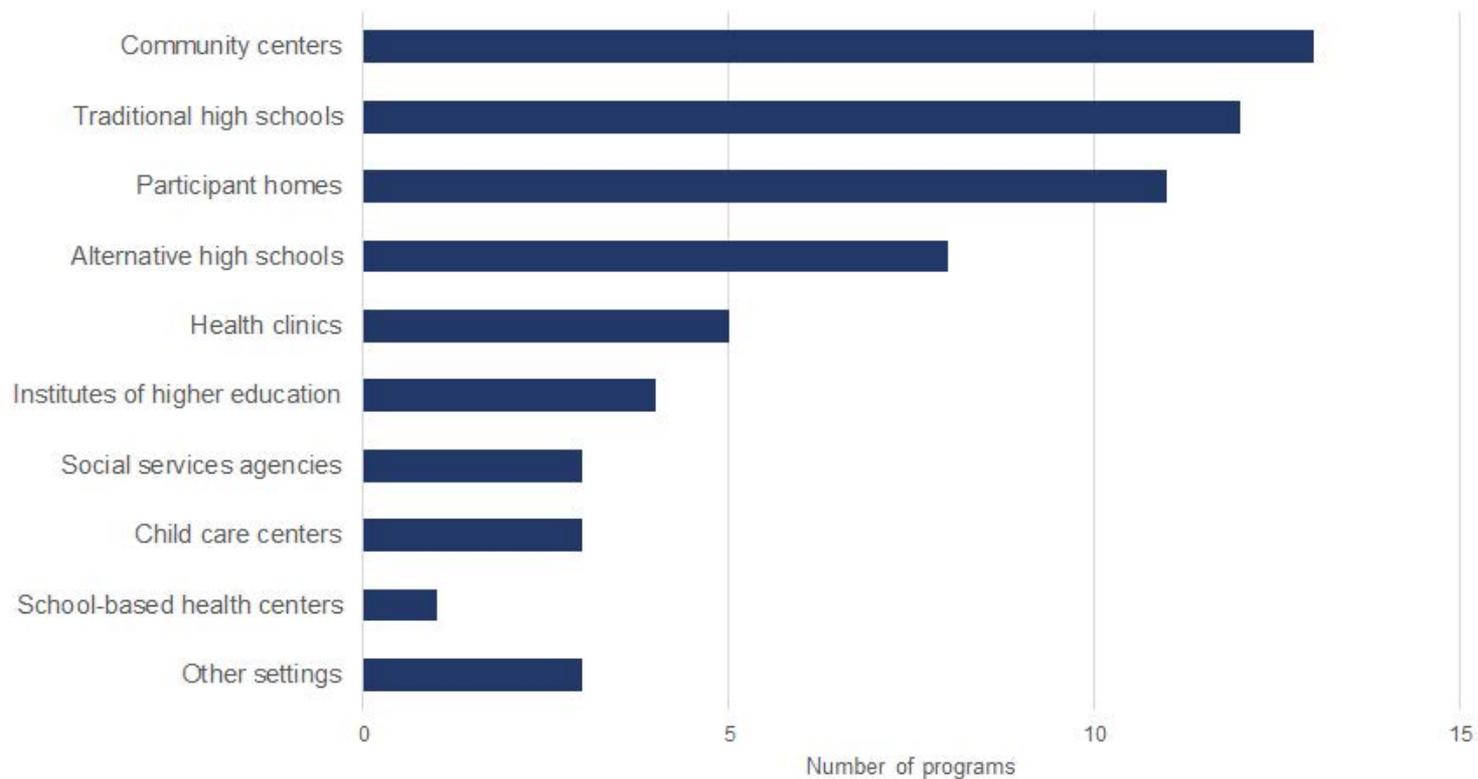# Substantive Focus Reflects OAH Priorities

Most Programs Include Case Management and/or Referrals

Most Programs Do Not Explicitly Target Specific Subpopulations

Programs Are Implemented in Diverse Settings

Community centers

Traditional high schools

Participant homes

Alternative high schools

Health clinics

Institutes of higher education

Social services agencies

Child care centers

School-based health centers

Other settings

Number of programs

Summary and Conclusions

- **PAF grantees have accomplished a great deal in the first year of implementation**

- **Grantees have combined multiple program components**
  - **This highlights the comprehensive needs of expectant and parenting youth**
  - **Approaches typically involve intensive case management and/or referrals**

- **Multifocal and multicomponent approaches require service coordination**

- **Demonstrates need for more research to develop evidence-based programs for serving this high-risk population**

Looking Ahead

- **Grantees ramping up implementation after planning year**

  – **Majority of 30,000 youth will be served in last three years of grant period**

  – **Sustainability plans include: obtaining additional funding, leveraging partnerships, integrating PAF into other programs**

- **Evaluation team will conduct a second set of telephone interviews toward the end of the grant period**

For More Information

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