



Human Resources Administration
Department of Social Services
Robert Doar, *Commissioner*

HRA Launches New Teen Link Microsite

On Wednesday, December 22, the Human Resources Administration launched a new microsite aimed at problems facing New York City teens. The microsite, called Teen Link, provides information on HRA programs that can help teens succeed and make responsible choices. Teen Link is accessible from HRA's website, and covers issues like teen pregnancy prevention, dating violence, and reproductive health.

Teen Link has a wealth of information on teen pregnancy, and the many reasons it is better to delay having children until you are a financially secure and emotionally stable adult. The microsite includes facts on birth control and on the unforeseen costs and consequences of becoming a teen parent. Teen Link also contains information on No Kidding: Straight Talk About Teen Pregnancy, an HRA program which brings real teen parents to New York City high schools to talk about the hard realities of raising a child, and encourage NYC teens to be responsible and put off having children until they are adults. No Kidding's peer mentors also talk about their experiences and thoughts in short video diaries on Teen Link.

Another problem the site deals with is teen dating violence. Dating violence is a form of domestic violence taking place between two people who are dating, not within a family. It is all too common for teenagers, who don't always know what a healthy relationship should be, to end up with an abusive partner, which could lead to repeated patterns of domestic abuse. Teen Link contains a lot of information on this serious issue, including warning signs, information for parents, and how to get help. Teen Link also connects teens with HRA's Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP), which seeks to stop domestic violence before it starts by educating teens on what a healthy relationship is, and reminding them they deserve one.

Teen Link also has useful information on the Family Planning Benefit Program (FPBP), a public health insurance plan that covers contraceptives, pregnancy tests, and other family planning services. Qualification for FPBP is based on income and some other factors, but even if you don't qualify for Medicaid or Family Health Plus, you may still qualify for FPBP.

