

<b>Initiative:</b>	Healthier Beginnings
<b>Project Name:</b>	Mentoring of MOMs & Dads (Year 3)
<b>Funding Period:</b>	March 1, 2013 – February 28, 2014
<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	Kathleen Richard, LMSW
<b>Project Administration:</b>	Life Choices of North Central Louisiana
<b>Total Funding Approved:</b>	\$ 36,000.00

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## **Program Summary**

The *Mentoring of MOMs* program has been funded by the Foundation for two years. Positive overall results were achieved since inception of the program in 2010 and by the end of the second year 24 clients had been successfully matched. The average age of clients matched was 20 years of age.

One development that has emerged out of the MOMs program involves the need for incorporation of fathers-to-be into the mentoring relationships provided by Life Choices to MOMs clients. Life Choices believes that the services it provides to more than 400 single mothers can be significantly enhanced by a formal Fatherhood Program. For this reason, Life Choices' Year 3 grant funding request includes the addition of a formal male mentoring program titled DADs program.

DADs would expand on the idea of a mentoring relationship that was developed by the MOMs program but that relationship would begin within the formal context of regularly scheduled visits at Life Choices. A part-time male employee would be hired by Life Choices to oversee the DADs program. The structure of the program would consist of 4 to 5 educational style visits with a male peer counselor. The DADs staff program coordinator would work to connect men to other resources (of longer duration) including parenting classes and mentoring. For mentoring, the DADs coordinator will work with the MOMs program coordinator to match at-risk dads with male mentors within the community.