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### *Approved Funding Summary*

<b>Initiative:</b>	Healthier Beginnings
<b>Project Name:</b>	Mentoring of Moms (MOMS) & Dads Program - Year 8
<b>Funding Period:</b>	February 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019
<b>Date of Funding:</b>	February 1, 2017
<b>Project Coordinator:</b>	Kathleen Richard, LMSW
<b>Project Administration:</b>	Life Choices of North Central Louisiana
<b>Total Funding Approved:</b>	\$ 61,000.00

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### **Program Summary**

The Mentoring of Moms (MOMs) Program has been funded by the Foundation since 2010. In 2013, the program was expanded to include the mentoring of fathers-to-be (DADs Program). In its first year as The Mentoring of Moms & Dads Program, a Fatherhood Program (DADs) Coordinator and a MOMs Program Coordinator were hired. There were 13 mentor-to-mom matches and 2 husband/wife to dad/mom (couple) matches. Since 2013, the program has continued to grow with successful matches involving the MOMs program, as well as the DADs program.

Life Choices also has a partnership arrangement with the Family Counseling Center at The Methodist Children's Home to offer professional counseling to both Life Choices' mentors & mentees.

For Year 8, Life Choices will continue its expansion to at-risk dads & its utilization of the Family Counseling Center, and the following goals have been established.

- Increase number of matches to 25 active cases by January 31, 2019, 4 of which to include men (dad/mom matches with husband/wife mentors).
- Offer structured pregnancy services to 125 young men by January 31, 2018.

- Increase the rate of full-term birth rates among MOMs clients.
- Decrease the rate of low-birth weight babies among MOMs clients.
- Encourage mother-to-be to seek adequate prenatal care and participate in proper nutrition.
- Understand the unique needs of the young mother-to-be and father-to-be (and baby), and help guide them to positive solutions and community referrals for meeting those needs.
- Increase understanding of doctor's orders and follow through.
- Set realistic and obtainable goals, including education and employment for both parents. Help him/her begin to achieve those goals.
- Reduce multiple births to young mothers.
- Encourage marriage in the appropriate situations.
- Increase participation for mentees in the classes offered by Life Choices and other community partners.
- Encourage accountability in mentees by teaching responsibility with mentors.