

WEBSITE RECOMMENDATIONS

Girls, Incorporated
www.girlsinc.org

Girls, Inc. is a national nonprofit youth organization dedicated to inspiring all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. With roots dating to 1864, Girls, Inc. has provided vital educational programs to millions of American girls of all economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds, but especially to those from high risk, underserved areas. With 100 local chapters in as many cities, they design and help implement innovative programs that assist girls in confronting subtle societal messages about their value and potential, and prepare them to lead successful, independent, and fulfilling lives. Their recent E-book, [The Super Girl Dilemma](#), provides important insight into the lives of today's girls and features firsthand accounts of the extreme pressures they face. Their site also provides information on a wide range of girl-centered topics such as alcoholism, body image, and self-esteem. A special section "Just For Girls" contains games quizzes, and book suggestions.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
www.plannedparenthood.org

Founded in 1916, Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading sexual/reproductive health care advocate and provider with 111 affiliates and over 860 health centers nationwide. They believe that everyone has the right to choose when or whether to have a child, that every child should be loved, and that women should be in charge of their own destinies. Local affiliates from across the country supply sexual/reproductive health care and information, including contraception and, in some areas, abortion services. Their website provides simple and comprehensive links such as sexuality, abortion, emergency contraception, and STIs/STDs for quick answers to tough questions.

Healthy Teen Network
www.healthyteenetwork.org

Healthy Teen Network is a national organization founded in 1979 and based in Washington D.C. It comprises individuals, students and organizations from across the country whom are devoted to making a difference in the lives of teens and young families. Their focus is on adolescent health and well-being with an emphasis on teen pregnancy, pregnancy prevention, and parenting. The website offers numerous resources and links providing helpful information on adolescent health topics ranging from sex education and relationships to youth development and family involvement. Several advocacy research guides can also be found online for people looking to make a difference in the lives of teens and young families in their own communities. One example is the Comprehensive Sexual Education research guide.

PFLAG: Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
www.pflag.org

PFLAG is a national non profit organization established in 1973. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, and their families and friends. It offers support in coping with an adverse society; education to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. It provides opportunities to discuss sexual orientation and gender identity, and to help create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. PFLAG.org is a comprehensive site providing useful links to find local chapters as well as various educational resources, including scholarship programs. These resources include answers to frequently asked questions; personal stories; tips on how to create safe space for a loved one to "come out"; tools for responding to harassment and bullying in schools; and lobbying programs that teach everyday citizens to become agents of change in their own communities.

Abstinence Clearinghouse

www.abstinenceclearinghouse.org

The Abstinence Clearinghouse is a non-profit educational organization established in 1997 that promotes the value and practice of sexual abstinence until marriage through the distribution of age-appropriate, factual and medically referenced materials. It was founded in 1997 to provide a central location where character, relationship, abstinence programs, curricula, speakers, and materials could be accessed. It serves agencies and individuals on national, state and local levels. The Clearinghouse provides an online comprehensive resource library consisting of articles, commentaries, studies, statistics, and news releases, covering topics such as abstinence, STDs, contraceptives, and marriage.

Children's Defense Fund

www.childrensdefense.org

The Children's Defense Fund grew out of the Civil Rights Movement under the leadership of Marian Wright Edelman. It has become the nation's strongest voice for children and families since its founding in 1973. The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) studies the lives of American children and the challenges they face. Their Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a "Healthy Start" (through healthcare), a "Head Start" (through pre-kindergarten education), a "Fair Start" (by addressing the issues low-income families face), a "Safe Start" (through safe childcare so parents can work), and a "Moral Start" (through faith-based advocates for the well-being of children). They have local offices in nine states from California to Louisiana. Their website provides links to featured publications, such as "*Katrina's Children: Still Waiting*" and "*The State of America's Children*."

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

www.teenpregnancy.org

The National Campaign, founded in 1996, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan initiative supported almost entirely by private donations. Their mission is to promote values, behavior, and policies that reduce both teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy among young adults. They are working to change the way the public views teen pregnancy, to help parents, and educate policymakers in order to reduce teen pregnancy. Their website provides information on teen pregnancy rates in different states, foster care, marriage, youth development and The National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (which is the first Wednesday in May).

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

www.naacp.org

The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. The NAACP was founded in 1909 by a multiracial group of activists. Initially, they called themselves the National Negro Committee. Since then the organization has started programs in economic development, education, health, civic engagement, criminal justice and youth development. Their Youth and College Division, created in 1936, helps young adults become activists in their own cause as well as the world around them. They facilitate a Back to School/Stay in School program to financially and socially support education from elementary to high school levels. The Youth Entrepreneurial Institute is committed to providing young people with the necessary skills to become full stakeholders in the economic and social revitalization of their community. The organization's website provides information on various activism and charitable opportunities, employment opportunities and scholarships.

The Kaiser Family Foundation
www.kff.org

A leader in health policy and communications, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the U.S., with a growing role in global health. Unlike grant-making foundations, Kaiser develops and runs its own research and communications programs, sometimes in partnership with other non-profit research organizations or major media companies. They serve as a non-partisan source of facts, information, and analysis for policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the public. They are currently focusing on HIV/AIDS, with an emphasis on reaching young people. Their website features up-to-date research information regarding HIV/AIDS in different minority groups and in different parts of the world. It is also a source for information on Medicaid, Medicare, prescription drugs, minority health, and women's health.

Annie E. Casey Foundation
www.aecf.org

Founded in 1948, the primary mission of the Annie E. Casey Foundation is to foster public policy, human-service reforms, and community support systems that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants that help states, cities, and neighborhoods fashion more innovative, cost-effective responses to these needs. They facilitate several programs to help children and their families, such as the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, which helps foster kids with education, employment, housing, healthcare and most importantly, permanent adult support. Their website contains a Knowledge Center with information regarding Child Welfare, Economic Security, Education, Health, and Juvenile Justice.

National Institute on Media and the Family
www.mediawise.org

Since 1996, the National Institute on Media and the Family has worked to help parents and communities "watch what our kids watch." The National Institute on Media and the Family is the world's leading and most respected research-based organization on the positive and harmful effects of media on children and youth. The National Institute on Media and the Family is an independent, nonpartisan, nonsectarian, and nonprofit organization that is based on research, education, and advocacy. The Institute is an international resource for information and training tools that parents and professionals need to make informed and proactive media choices. Their website is a resource for information on video games, television, internet, music, and internet predators. It contains quizzes, activities, and valuable information to help parents make informed decisions about their children's exposure to the media.

National Organization for Women
www.now.org

The National Organization for Women (NOW) is the largest organization of feminist activists in the United States. NOW has 500,000 contributing members and 550 chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Since its founding in 1966, NOW's goal has been to take action to bring about equality for all women. NOW works to eliminate discrimination and harassment in the workplace, schools, the justice system, and all other sectors of society; secure abortion, birth control and reproductive rights for all women; end all forms of violence against women; eradicate racism, sexism and homophobia; and promote equality and justice in our society. Their website provides up to date information on "Current Alerts" which concern women's rights. They provide easy access to important issues and ways to get involved in activism.

Organizational synopses were excerpted from the information on the specific websites cited.