Healthy Marriage Education Project
“Keys to a Healthy Marriage Curriculum”

Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.
1415 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122
A decline in marriage in the United States over the past 40 years has been accompanied by a rise in the number of serious social problems.
How Big is the Problem?

- One-third of all births are to unmarried couples.
- Less than half of all teens live with their married biological parents.
How Does Marriage Improve Child Poverty?

- Only 7% of children born to married parents who remain married live in poverty.
- 51% who reside with a never-married mother live in poverty.
- Nearly 80% of all children suffering long-term poverty come from divorced, or never-married, homes.
- 74% of welfare benefits are spent on single, or divorced, families.
What Are the Racial Differences?

• A major factor in the higher rates of Black child poverty is the fact that Black children are almost three times more likely to live in single-parent families.

• Most of the difference in Black child poverty can be explained by the lower rate of marriage among Blacks.

• When white and Black families are married, they experience a similar rate of child poverty (approximately 8%).
Do Adults Benefit from Marriage?

- Married mothers are half as likely to be victims of domestic violence when compared with moms who have never married.
- 43.5% of married individuals report being very happy compared with 18.3% of single adults.
What are the Indicators Children Do Better in Marriage Families?

- A child living alone with a single mother is 14 times more likely to suffer serious physical abuse.
- Children from single, never-married parents are more than four times more likely to be expelled from school.
- 54.1% of 14-18 yrs. olds from single, never-married households are sexually active, compared with 32.2% from intact married families.
Keys to a Healthy Marriage Curriculum
Defining Marriage Lesson One

• 1. Introduction Juggle
• 2. Introduce the Marriage Unit
• 3. Descriptions from Experience
• 4. Marriage Laws
• Session Conclusion
Influences on Marriage Lesson Two

- 1. Mixed Paths (A Ball Game)
- 2. My Family Tree
- TV Families
Benefits of Marriage Lesson Three

1. Marshmallow Walk
2. Two Scenario
3. Statements about Marriage (True or False)
Celebrating Diversity in Marriage Lesson Four

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Storytelling Activity
- 3. My Dream Marriage (copy p. 28)
- Marriage Diversity Tool
Components of Healthy Relationships & Healthy Marriages
Lesson Five

• 1. Match Face
• 2. Relationship Triangle
  • Intimacy
  • Passion
  • Commitment
Balanced Communication
Lesson Six

- 1. Not I!
- 2. Introduction to Balanced Conversations
- 3. Practice Balanced Communication
Changing Relationship Patterns
Lesson Seven

• 1. Human Words Scramble
• 2. Introducing the Concept of a Pattern
• 3. TV Marriage Patterns
Healthy Behavior: Changing Relationship Patterns Lesson Eight

1. Session Introduction
2. The Risk of & Tips for Changing
Project: The Footprint I Want to Make in My Special Relationship
Choosing a Boyfriend/ Girlfriend
Lesson Nine

• 1. This My Nose
• 2. Choosing Our Friends & Spouses
• 3. Adult Handout
• Adult/Youth Handout: The Ideal Boyfriend/ Girlfriend
Abusive Relationships Lesson Ten

• 1. Introduce the Lesson of Domestic Violence & Abuse
• 2. Abusive Relationship
• 3. Reflective Collage
• Handouts !!!!!!
Abstinence Until Marriage
Lesson Eleven

- 1. Curriculum Review
- 2. Why Abstinence?
- 3. What About My Needs?
Lesson Supplement: Components Of Healthy Relationship

- Supplement for 5 or 10 Cassie & Charlie Four Scenarios
  Optional Use of Video

QIC of America