



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

News Release

www.mccl.org

For immediate release:
May 15, 2009

For more information, contact:
Bill Poehler, 612.825.6831

Positive Alternatives fully funded by Minnesota Legislature in bipartisan consensus

Women will continue to find help in their time of need

ST. PAUL – The state’s Positive Alternatives program remains fully funded for the 2009-2010 biennium, thanks to the support of pro-life Gov. Tim Pawlenty and state legislators in both parties. Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) worked tirelessly to ensure that pregnant girls and women would continue to find the help they need to bring their pregnancies to term through organizations funded by the Positive Alternatives grant program.

“Positive Alternatives is one of Minnesota’s most essential and successful programs for women,” said Scott Fischbach, MCCL Executive Director. “This modest program offers a lifeline to women in need every day across the state, and MCCL is pleased that lawmakers—both Democrats and Republicans—agreed on the importance of keeping funding intact.”

Positive Alternatives funding was expected to be cut due to the state budget shortfall. However, the DFL-controlled Legislature understood the crucial nature of the program and both the House and Senate recommended full funding for Positive Alternatives in their Health and Human Services (HHS) omnibus bills. The final HHS bill was signed into law by Gov. Pawlenty last night.

[Positive Alternatives](#) was passed by the Legislature in 2005 to establish a grant program through the Minnesota Department of Health. Grants are given to life-affirming organizations offering essential services in the following areas: medical attention for the woman and the unborn child, nutritional services, housing assistance, adoption services, education and employment assistance, child care assistance, and parenting education and support services.

A total of 37 organizations received \$4.7 million in grants in 2006. The second round of grants (\$4.7 million) was awarded to 31 grantees in July 2008.

More than 12,000 women were helped during the first two years of the grant program. Their stories reveal that Positive Alternatives is fulfilling a critical need in the lives of women.

“Minnesota women and their unborn babies now have a strong safety net beneath them, thanks to Positive Alternatives,” Fischbach said. “This bipartisan, consensus program is empowering thousands of women to choose life for their unborn children.”

[Read more](#) at MCCL’s Web site about how organizations are providing life-affirming support to pregnant women in need, both before and after their babies are born.

MCCL is Minnesota’s oldest and largest pro-life organization with more than 70,000 member families and 240 chapters across the state. For more information about MCCL, visit www.mccl.org.

Please subscribe to our [RSS Feed](#).

Minnesota’s oldest and largest pro-life organization, MCCL has been dedicated for 40 years to the single issue of life itself.