

**Attachment A.1**

**Lead Letter for Parents of Youth Younger than 18**

[GRANTEE AGENCY/PROGRAM LETTERHEAD]

[DATE]

[PARENT NAME]

[PARENT ADDRESS]

Dear [PARENT NAME],

We are inviting your child to be part of a research study with [PROGRAM NAME] as part of our involvement with the Administration for Children and Families' Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education Program. This study is being conducted by RTI International, a research firm in North Carolina. Your child was chosen because he or she is part of [PROGRAM NAME]. The study will involve up to 1200 youth and adult participants at multiple locations around the country.

The purpose of this research study is to learn about relationships among people who are served by programs like [PROGRAM NAME]. If your child decides to participate, he or she will be asked a series of questions about romantic relationships, including experiences with unhealthy relationship behaviors and violence. There will be two surveys that your child will complete on a computer (that will take about 10 minutes each to complete) and one interview that a [PROGRAM NAME] staff will conduct privately with your child (that will take about 15 minutes to complete). The surveys and interviews will be done over the course of about 2 months. The questions will ask about personal experiences with romantic or intimate partners, like boyfriends or girlfriends. Your child will also receive written information about dating violence and healthy relationships and be asked some questions after receiving it. Your child does not have to be in a relationship to be in the study and participation is voluntary. If your child chooses to participate, he or she will receive a \$5 gift card after answering each set of questions as a token of appreciation.

We will do our best to keep all of the answers to the questions private. Only the people working on the study will be able to see your child's answers.

If you have any questions about this study, please contact me at [LOCAL NUMBER] or the RTI Project Director, Tasseli McKay, toll-free at (800) 334-8571 ext. 2-5747. If you have questions about your child's rights as a study participant, please call [LOCAL IRB] at [LOCAL NUMBER].

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

[PROGRAM DIRECTOR]

*An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.*