**TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

The topic of unwanted pregnancies and abandoned babies may be difficult for young people to address. Talking about the Safe Haven Law may be uncomfortable and evoke strong emotions. The following tips may help in making discussions of this topic more supportive and positive:

- **Comfortable environment**
  - Be open and listen to what the young person has to say without interruption and make sure others in the room do similarly.

- **Encourage Questions & Answers**
  - Some young people may be quiet and shy. Using comments like “good point” and “excellent question” may help draw them out. Ask them to repeat back to you what you’ve just explained to make sure they understand. Clarify any confusing points.

- **Allow for quiet reflection**
  - Give the young person time to digest the information instead of jumping in to fill the silence. Let the young person process the information before responding to it.

- **Be Honest**
  - If you don’t know the answer to a question, say so, and tell the young person you’ll try to find out and get back with them.

- **Sit**
  - This is a very personal topic. When you are standing, it can convey two things: 1) you’re in a hurry to leave; and 2) you’re in a superior position. When you sit down with the young person, you eliminate these perceptions.