



The National Partnership for Community Leadership
"Strengthening Communities and Organizations to Serve People for the Future"

CASE STUDY 6

Shari and Kenny

Shari is 20 years old and enrolled in Healthy Start. She and her boyfriend Kenny dropped out of school to better support their son. Shari wishes that Kenny would spend more time with them. However, Kenny has a minimum-wage job and has to work long hours to get a decent check. Shari is a responsible mother and takes the baby everywhere she goes. Shari gets tired of not having regular help from Kenny to physically care for the baby. Although Kenny maintains regular contact and gives Shari *money* monthly, she still wants to spend more time with him. Kenny often encourages Shari to let his mother care for the child and to provide her with a break sometimes. However, she is very protective of their son and does not like him being without her. Shari loves Kenny but is beginning to think that things won't work out. She believes that family comes first, and that Kenny has to get a better-paying job so he won't have to work so many long hours. They need a co-parenting plan.