Quick Facts:

- Divorce & unmarried childbearing costs Utah taxpayers at least $276 million a year in public services.
- Utah averages 23,000 marriages/year & 10,000 dissolutions with over 50% involving children.
- Marriage is associated with reduced rates of alcohol & substance abuse for both adults & teens.
- Children whose parents divorce have higher rates of psychological distress & mental illness.
- A child who is not living with his or her own two married parents is at greater risk of child abuse.

Sources:
- Benjamin Scafidi, Principal Investigator, The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce & Unwed Childbearing, 2008, pg 38

Our mission is to provide educational services to help all individuals and couples form and sustain healthy relationships and enduring marriages.

The Marriage Commission is Not about:
- Defining Marriage
- Coercing anyone to marry or remain in unhealthy relationships
- Withdrawing supports from single parents or diminishing the important work of single parents
- Stigmatizing those who choose divorce
- Limiting access to divorce

SOME OF OUR SERVICES
- Consulting with Department of Human Services programs for integration of relationship skills education
- Partnering with agencies to provide relationship skills education in local Utah communities
- Maintaining a website (StrongerMarriage.org) to provide research-based information and online educational resources statewide
- Promoting the Adult Roles & Financial Literacy high school course
- Distributing the Utah Marriage Handbook
- Providing curriculum training to family life educators

FY15 4-MONTH APPROPRIATION RESULTS (Sept 15-Jan 31)
- Contracts for services & evaluation have been established with USU Washington County Extension, Utah Valley University, & Weber State University.
- In just four months, 680 individuals have participated in an 8-10 hour course of evidence-based curriculum. 101 educators have been trained and certified to teach.
- Class locations (Partnerships) have been formed with Head Start, Domestic Violence Shelters, Public Schools, Habitat For Humanity, Kids on the Move, etc. serving high-risk/low-income couples & individuals. Classes have been taught, in English and Spanish, by professors and family life students totaling 774 volunteer hours valued at approximately $13,440.
- StrongerMarriage.org currently averages 32,927 visits/month, 725,822 hits, and 7,583 social media followers.

IF YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION
Utah Marriage Commission • 801-538-3909

For additional information, visit www.StrongerMarriage.org