



# Utah Marriage Commission

## Divorce and Relationship Education Data

### Cost of Divorce in Utah

#### Estimated Cost per Divorce

- Direct cost to couples: \$14,520
- Cost to government and community: \$28,787
- Total: \$43,307

#### Estimated Cost of Divorce for One Year (State and Federal)

- Divorces in a year: 8,700
- Total: \$376,770,900
- Estimated state and local tax burden: 10.7%

### Savings via Relationship Education

- Numbers served by USU alone (2019): 9,833
- Approximate cost for above Relationship Education: \$1,000,000
- Number of divorces prevented to pay for the cost of RE? 23
  - > A mere .2% effective rate
  - > A 1% effective rate?
- \$4,258,377 in savings

### Effectiveness of Relationship Education

- 40 years of scientific evidence supporting effectiveness of RE: 1985, 1993, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2019
- Addresses issues directly related to predictors of divorce
  - > Reduce conflict and negative behaviors
  - > Increase loving behaviors
  - > Improve communication
  - > Increase commitment

### Conclusion

#### **\$10 to Relationship Education will save the couple money via reduced tax burden**

- Even with small success rate
- Especially if their own marriage is saved as a result
- \$10 equals to ~4 minutes of time talking with a divorce attorney

Scafidi, B. (2008). The taxpayer costs of divorce and unwed childbearing: First-ever estimates for the nation and all fifty states.  
Schramm, D. G. (2006). Individual and social costs of divorce in Utah.