

Iowa Anti-Abortion Center Funding

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When someone is making a decision about continuing or ending a pregnancy, they should be able to get accurate information about all their options so they can decide what is best for themselves. **Anti-abortion centers (AACs) do not support pregnant people and families. Instead, they serve as a barrier to parental support and legitimate health care, including abortion access.**

Iowa is one of many states that funds AACs with taxpayer dollars. Equity Forward estimates that since 1995, states have allocated a combined total of **more than \$1.13 billion in tax dollars to AACs** through state-run Alternative to Abortion programs or via other funding streams. In several places, millions of federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) dollars, which are meant to support families working to make ends meet, instead get diverted to AACs.

Period of Funding: **FY 2023 - Present**

Current Funding: **\$1,000,000**

Estimated Funding Over Time: **\$2,500,000**

[Equity Forward AZA - AAC State Funding Database, updated 2/20/25]

Funneling Dollars Away From Care:

Anti-abortion centers funnel money away from programs that families need.

In Iowa, 1 in 7 households struggle to make ends meet. Yet the legislature funnels half a million dollars to AACs that only provide a sliver of support that families need.

Reallocating those funds to programs that directly support low-income families could be more impactful.

[Common Good Iowa]
[Radio Iowa]

Anti-Abortion Centers Do Not Address The Maternal Care Crisis:

AACs don't contribute to ameliorating health inequities.

States are investing in anti-abortion propaganda when money could be going to programs that address the multiple crises in our communities.

Nationwide, Iowa has the 25th-highest maternal mortality rate and the 35th-highest infant mortality rate. Of all Iowa counties, 35.35% are considered maternity care deserts.

[Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed 2/21/25]
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed 2/21/25]
[Deloitte, accessed 2/21/25]

Supporting Deceptive Practices:

Anti-abortion centers exist in order to delay or deter pregnant people from getting abortion care.

In Iowa, anti-abortion centers outnumber in-person abortion clinics 53 to 2 but AACs are not a replacement for health care, nor are they able to support pregnant people or parents.

53:2

AACs are often not required to be transparent about who they are and what services they do and don't provide, leading to confusion and delays for people who are seeking abortion care or other health services.

AACs often use deceptive names such as:

Informed Choices Medical Clinics

1013 S Central Ave
Burlington, Iowa 52601

Women's Choice Center

2740 Happy Joe Dr
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

Her Health Women's Center

25 Plymouth St W
Le Mars, Iowa 51031

[Crisis Pregnancy Center Map, accessed 3/5/25]
[AbortionFinder.org, accessed 3/5/25]

Take Action - End Tax Dollars From Flowing To Anti-Abortion Centers

Funding AACs siphons money away from low-income individuals and those in need of quality health care, and instead places it in the hands of organizations that spread biased, false, and harmful information — and have been left unchecked far too long.

Reallocation:

Tax dollars should go to programs that provide the support parents and pregnant people need.

Instead of funneling money to programs that spend more on propaganda than services, states can fund people getting health care, accurate information, and access to all of their options, including abortion, adoption, and meaningful support for parents to raise children once they are born.

Regulation:

States must engage in greater scrutiny, investigation, and regulation of AACs, especially those that rely on taxpayer dollars. AACs should not be allowed to engage in unscrupulous tactics and should be required to be transparent about their use of funds and operations.

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Iowa Organizations To Support

Take action by supporting these organizations that ensure comprehensive reproductive health care access or work to hold anti-abortion centers accountable.

- [Iowa Abortion Access Fund](#)
- [The Emma Goldman Clinic](#)