

Michigan Success: Defunding Anti-Abortion Centers

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Michigan History of Anti-Abortion Center Funding

Period of Funding : 2013 - 2020

Estimated Funding Over Time*: \$2,600,000

Anti-abortion centers (AACs), sometimes referred to as “crisis pregnancy centers,” are established, backed, and funded by the anti-abortion movement in order to push their agenda in our communities. AACs exist for the primary purpose of delaying and deterring people from accessing abortion care. AACs attract clients by advertising free services. They offer some material goods and financial support, which are a sliver of what parents truly need. To receive them, people are required to sit through mandated and biased counseling.

Many states fund anti-abortion centers (AACs) with public dollars but in recent years, due to increased scrutiny and advocacy, some have begun to take action to hold AACs accountable for their deliberate deception and misinformation. This is leading some states to end the practice of funneling tax dollars to AACs.

Ending Funding: How Advocates In Michigan Stopped Tax Dollars From Flowing To Anti-Abortion Centers

In October 2019, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer issued a line-item veto in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, **ending \$3 million in funding for anti-abortion centers in the state.** **Equity Forward** worked alongside advocacy groups **Campaign for Accountability** and **Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan** to achieve this success.

From 2013 to 2020, Michigan funneled tax dollars to the state’s Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) program, which was managed by Pennsylvania-based Real Alternatives. The organization had been the subject of investigations and complaints by advocacy groups and elected officials for peddling misinformation on abortion care and misusing program dollars both in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Reallocation: Michigan Should Redirect Funding To Support Pregnant People and Parents

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 for too long.


Instead of funneling money to programs that spend more on propaganda than services, Michigan can take action and reallocate those dollars to 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.

*Equity Forward estimated AAC funding using appropriated figures from state budget documents. Equity Forward is engaged in ongoing research to determine variations between appropriated and actual funding used.

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