

Missouri Anti-Abortion Center Funding

EQUITY
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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.**

Missouri 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. **Missouri** has historically used TANF block grants to fund AACs.

Period of Funding: **FY 1997 - Present**

Current Funding: **\$8,658,561**

Estimated Funding Over Time: **\$86,982,414**

[Equity Forward A2A + AAC State Funding Database, updated 2/20/25]

Tax dollars have gone to Missouri AACs since FY 1997, however, the state's Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) program was not officially codified until FY 2008.

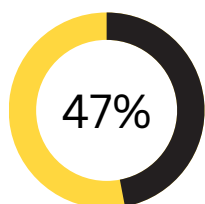
Equity Forward is unable to locate enacted appropriations information for FYs 1997-2002 at this time.

[Missouri Department of Social Services; Missouri Senate; Revisor of Missouri]

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

Anti-abortion centers 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, Missouri has the 19th-highest maternal mortality rate and the 12th-highest infant mortality rate.



Of all Missouri counties, 47% 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 engage in deception to delay or deter pregnant people from getting abortion care.

There are 91 AACs in Missouri. None of them provide abortions, but many use deceptive names such as:

Options for Women

1420 S Business 61, Ste B
Bowling Green, MO 63334

Choices Medical Services

2334 Fair Lawn Dr
Carthage, MO 64836

Parkville Women's Clinic

6326 N Lucerne Ave
Kansas City, MO 64151

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

When people look for abortion care online, anti-abortion center ads often find them. Millions of dollars go to aggressive and deceptive anti-abortion ads, often using taxpayer dollars.

Internet search companies have started taking action against these misleading ads, but the Missouri government is using granted funds to help AACs circumvent these accountability efforts.

The MO government had a quarter million dollar contract with Choose Life Marketing in order to, "help [AACs] reach pregnant women at risk for having abortions when such agencies are blocked or in any other way suppressed by any search engine, social media platform, or digital advertising network."

[St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 6/2/23]

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.

 info@equityfwd.org

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Missouri Organizations to Support

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

[Abortion Action Missouri](#)

[Missouri Abortion Fund](#)