

South Carolina 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.**

South Carolina 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: **\$5,600,000**

Estimated Funding Over Time: **\$10,800,000**

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

Funding Propaganda:

Anti-abortion centers use tax dollars for marketing instead of support.

States are allocating funds towards anti-abortion messaging instead of directing resources to address the various crises affecting our communities.

For FY 2025, the South Carolina Association of Pregnancy Care Centers was awarded a \$3 million contract with the state's Department of Health and Human Services to continue operating an Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) program. The contractor currently features 18 affiliate AACs on its website. South Carolina Association of Pregnancy Care Centers says the state needs "proposed laws to protect [AACs]' right to provide faith-based guidance without facing penalties or pressures to offer services that conflict with their beliefs." Nonconsensual religious proselytizing is commonplace for AACs.

For FY 2024, the state's Department of Social Services gave Catholic Charities of South Carolina \$100,000 to operate an "Alternatives to Abortion Awareness Campaign." The state appropriated \$100,000 for this propaganda again in FY 2025.

[Contract #A2025000579A between the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and South Carolina Association of Pregnancy Care Centers, 7/1/24]
[South Carolina Association of Pregnancy Care Centers, "Our Members," accessed 2/25/25]
[South Carolina Association of Pregnancy Care Centers, "Legislative," accessed 2/25/25]
[South Carolina Department of Social Services, Letter to Ms. Lydia Doyle of Catholic Charities of South Carolina, 9/11/23]

Supporting Deceptive Practices:

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

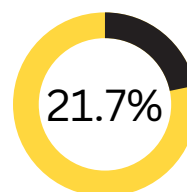
In South Carolina, anti-abortion centers outnumber in-person abortion clinics 34 to 3, but AACs are not a replacement for health care services, nor are they able to support pregnant people or parents.

[Crisis Pregnancy Center Map, accessed 2/25/25]
[AbortionFinder.org, accessed 2/25/25]

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

Anti-abortion centers don't contribute to ameliorating health inequities.

Nationwide, South Carolina has the eighth highest maternal mortality rate and the 13th highest infant mortality rate.



Of all South Carolina counties, 21.7% are considered maternity care deserts.

[Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed 2/24/25]
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed 2/24/25]
[Debitto, accessed 2/24/25]

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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South Carolina Organizations To Support

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

- **The Carolina Abortion Fund**
- **Palmetto State Abortion Fund**