

Tennessee Anti-Abortion Center Funding

EQUITY
FORWARD

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.**

Tennessee 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 2024 - Present

Current Funding: \$3,050,000

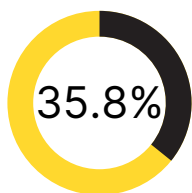
Estimated Funding Over Time: \$26,516,000

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

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

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

Nationwide, Tennessee has the highest maternal mortality rate and the 16th-highest infant mortality rate. Tennessee's maternal mortality rate is the fourth highest in the nation, with pregnancy-related mortality increasing 51% from 2017-2019.



Of all Tennessee counties, 35.8% are considered maternity care deserts.

More than **3 out of 4 pregnancy-related deaths** in the state **were deemed to be preventable.**

[Our Tennessee, 2023; Tennessee Department of Health, 4/13/22]
[Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed 2/24/25]
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed 2/24/25]
[Deloitte, accessed 2/24/25]

Supporting Deceptive Practices:

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

Per *Knox News*, Human Coalition, a national AAC network, runs a telecare service in Knoxville, which offers counseling and facilitates referrals for "abortion-determined women."

Yet, in a misleading move, Human Coalition only connects them with providers that do **NOT** provide abortion services.

[Knox News, 6/24/22]

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.



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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Tennessee 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 Care Tennessee \(ACT\)](#)
- [Mountain Access Brigade](#)
- [Healthy & Free Tennessee](#)