

# Wisconsin 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.**

**Wisconsin** 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 1998 - Present**

**Current Funding:** **\$69,100**

**Estimated Funding Over Time:** **\$2,841,800**

[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.

Since FY 1998, state appropriations acts fund a line item for Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) program services, wherein Wisconsin Department of Health Services grantees are forbidden from using these funds for providing abortion care, counseling in favor of abortion care, or providing referrals for abortion care except for when “medically necessary.”

While the appropriation has been relatively small over the years, it nonetheless funds anti-abortion propaganda.

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

## Supporting Deceptive Practices:

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

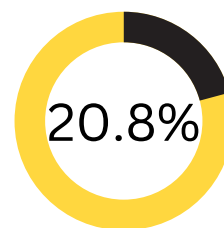
In Wisconsin, anti-abortion centers outnumber in-person abortion clinics 53 to 4, but AACs are not a replacement for health care services, nor are they able to support pregnant people or parents.

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

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

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

Nationwide, Wisconsin has the 37th highest maternal mortality rate and the 26th highest infant mortality rate.



**Of all Wisconsin counties, 20.83% are considered maternity care deserts.**

[Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed 2/3/25]  
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed 2/3/25]  
[Deloitte, accessed 2/3/25]

## 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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### Wisconsin Organizations To Support

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

- [Women's Medical Fund](#)
- [Freedom Fund](#)