

Arizona 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.

Arizona is one of at least 18 states that fund AACs with taxpayer dollars; more than \$89 million dollars were allocated toward AACs in 2022 alone. In at least seven of these states, millions of federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) funds, which are meant to support families working to make ends meet, instead get diverted to AACs.

State Funding Began: 2022

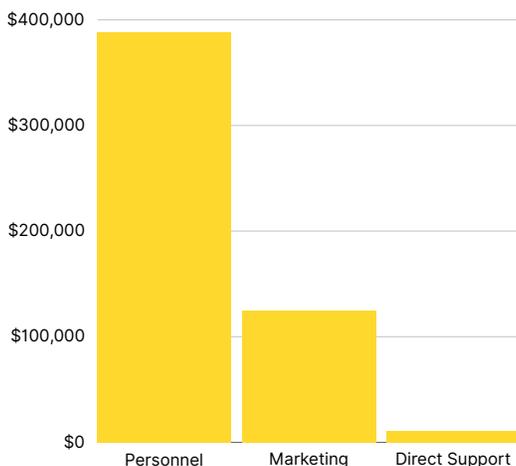
Current Funding: \$3,000,000

Funding Propaganda:

Anti-abortion centers often spend more on overhead and propaganda than they do on services.

Arizona's Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) program **claims** to support people and families, but a review of Arizona Youth Partnership's proposed program budget with the AZ Department of Health Services for a contract beginning in 2021 tells a different story.

- **Only 1.13%** went toward **direct support** as defined in the program's budget while;
- **41.66%** went **toward personnel** and
- **13.37%** went **toward marketing** and other operating costs such as Google ads that target people seeking abortion care as well as local news visibility campaigns.



[Arizona Department of Health Services contract No. CTR057940-1 with Arizona Youth Partnership, accessed 10/19/23]
[State of Arizona Executive Budget Fiscal Year 2024, accessed 11/20/23]

Supporting Deceptive Practices:

AACs are often not required to be transparent about who they are or what services they provide.

This leads to confusion and delays for people who are seeking abortion care or other health services.

44:7

Anti-abortion centers outnumber abortion clinics 44 to 7 in Arizona, 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 10/4/23]
[AbortionFinder, accessed 10/4/23]

Putting Privacy At Risk:

Many anti-abortion centers are not medical centers or covered by medical privacy protections.

AACs collect people's information, but many AACs are not bound by medical privacy laws or covered by the privacy protections afforded under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Option Line, which is run by Heartbeat International, a worldwide network of anti-abortion centers, received \$21,600 in taxpayer funding. Option Line collects personal and health information, including through an online chat interface that requires users to input their name, demographic information, location, and if they are considering abortion care.

There is real concern about how this information may be used against people, especially as states pass more laws criminalizing abortion care.

[Arizona Department of Health Services contract No. CTR057940-1 with Arizona Youth Partnership, accessed 10/19/23], [Option Line, accessed 5/2/23], [Privacy International, 7/22/19]

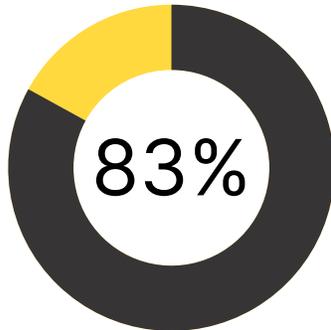
Failing To Meet Maternity Care Needs:

Anti-abortion centers funnel money away from programs that families need.

AACs 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.

While Arizona's A2A program wastes public dollars that could go toward supporting parents and pregnant people, the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee determined that 83.6% of pregnancy-associated deaths were preventable.

Arizona is classified as having a high Maternal Vulnerability Index. Arizona's maternal mortality rate ranks 25th in the U.S. with 25.1 deaths per 100,000 live births. 13.3% of counties have no hospital or birth center offering maternity care.



of pregnancy-related deaths in AZ were preventable.

[Arizona Department of Health Services, 12/2020]

[March of Dimes in partnership with Surgo Ventures, accessed 5/2/23]

[The University of Arizona Health Sciences, 9/27/22]

[March of Dimes PeriStats, accessed 5/8/23]

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



@EquityForward



EquityFwd.org



@EquityForward



Equity Forward

EQUITY

FORWARD