

# Arkansas Anti-Abortion Center Funding



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.**

**Arkansas** is one of many states that funds AACs with taxpayer dollars; across the country more than \$89 million dollars were allocated toward AACs in 2022 alone. In several places, 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:** \$1,000,000

## Anti-abortion centers outnumber abortion providers in Arkansas.

Abortion is completely banned in Arkansas except to save a pregnant person's life. This means that in order to get care, most people will have to leave the state.

However, there are 40 anti-abortion centers in the state. AACs are not a replacement for health care and do little to support pregnant people and families.

[\[Abortion Finder\]](#) [\[Crisis Pregnancy Center Map\]](#)

## Lack of Oversight:

### Anti-abortion centers face next to no oversight when it comes to medical privacy.

Many AACs collect people's information including STIs, past pregnancies, and number of partners. This can put people's privacy at risk.

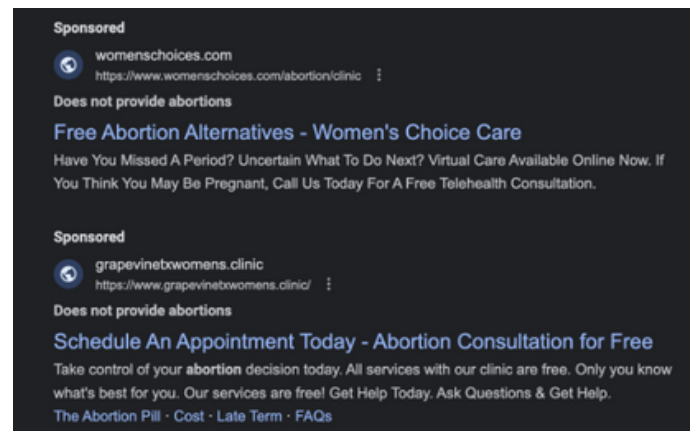
As most AACs are not health care facilities and therefore, not bound by medical privacy laws, there is real concern about how this information may be used against people. This is true especially in states, including Arkansas, that have passed laws criminalizing abortion care.

## Supporting Deceptive Practices:

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

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

When searching "I need an abortion in Arkansas" on Google, the top two results were ads for anti-abortion centers that mention abortion but use evasive language. The small label that indicates that the facility does not provide abortions does not come from the anti-abortion center, but has been added by the search engine in an attempt to reduce the deception caused by these ads.



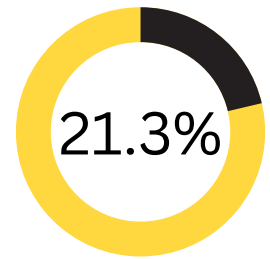
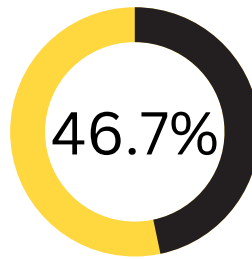
[Google search for "I need an abortion in Arkansas", performed 6/13/23]

## 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.

Arkansas has the highest maternal mortality rate in the nation and the third-highest infant mortality rate, behind only Louisiana and Mississippi.



In Arkansas, 46.7% of counties are maternity care deserts.

21.3% of counties have low or moderate, not full, access.

[March of Dimes]

[KFF, accessed 11/9/23]

[Arkansas Center for Health Improvement, accessed 11/9/23].

## 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.

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