

Louisiana 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.

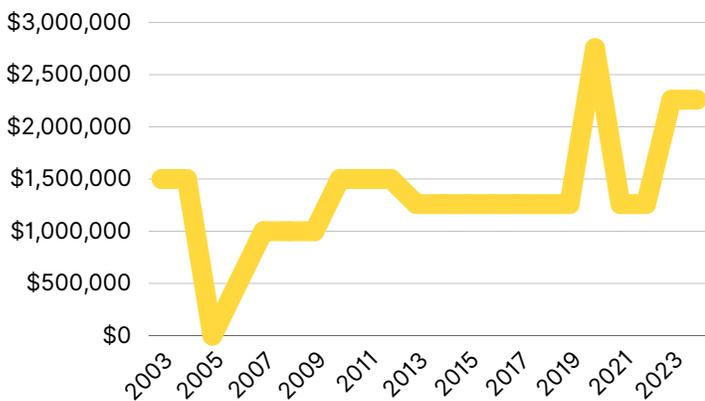
Anti-abortion centers (AACs) do not support pregnant people and families. Instead, they serve as a barrier to parental support and legitimate health care, including abortion access.

Louisiana 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. **Louisiana** has historically used TANF block grants for its Alternatives to Abortion (A2A) program.

State Funding Began: 2003

Current Funding: \$2,260,000

Funding Over Time:



[Louisiana State Senate and Louisiana Legislative Fiscal Office]
*See page 2 for information on 2005 & 2006 funding]

Failing To Meet Maternity Care Needs:

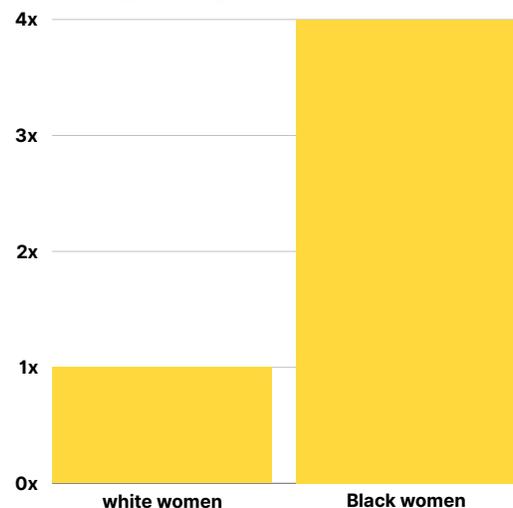
Anti-abortion centers funnel money away from programs that families need.

AACs don't contribute to ameliorating health inequities.

31.3% of Louisiana counties are classified as maternity care deserts and **26.6%** of Louisianians have low or moderate access to maternity care.

Black women* in the state are four times more likely than white women to experience pregnancy-related death. Currently, the state has an infant mortality rate of 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to the national rate of 5.4 deaths.

Racial Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths



[March of Dimes PeriStats, accessed 6/26/23], [Louisiana Department of Health, 9/2019], [March of Dimes PeriStats, accessed 10/4/23]

Supporting Deceptive Practices:

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

Millions of dollars go to aggressive anti-abortion propaganda efforts, often on the taxpayer dime.

In LA, Caring to Love Ministries spent \$17,534.63 on TV and radio ads, and search engine optimization (SEO). SEO serves people ads that look like they are for legitimate providers but are instead AACs.

[Public Records, Obtained by Equity Forward, 4/4/23]
[Lift Louisiana, 2022]

*Equity Forward recognizes and respects that not all pregnant people identify as women. When citing data, it uses terminology from the sourced document.

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.

Clarity on FY 2005 and 2006

For FY2005, no amount appears for either TANF or state general funds under “FY05 Initiatives Means of Financing.”

[Louisiana State Senate, 7/28/04]

In FY2006, the budget summary states: “Unlike prior years, when initiative programs have been added or removed and allocation amounts have been altered, there were very few changes to funding for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) initiatives for FY2006. The only major fiscal change was the addition of \$500,000 for abortion alternatives placed in HB 1 by the House.”

[Louisiana State Senate, 7/8/05]

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