

Missouri 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.

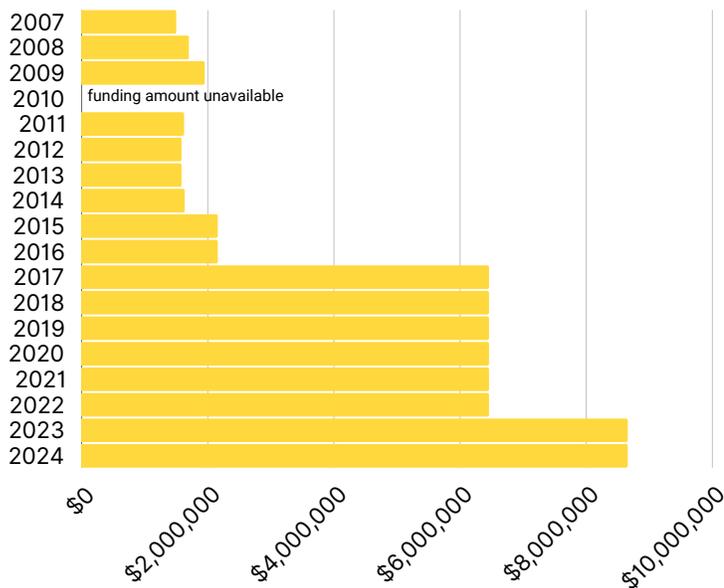
Anti-abortion centers (AACs) do not support pregnant people and families. Instead, they serve as a barrier to parental support and legitimate health care, including abortion access.

Missouri is one many states that fund AACs with taxpayer dollars; more than \$89 million dollars were allocated toward AACs in 2022 alone. In several 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. **Missouri** has historically used TANF block grants to fund AACs.

State Funding Began: **2007**

Current Funding: **\$8,658,561**

Funding Over Time:



[Missouri FY 2007 Executive Budget; FY 2008 Executive Budget; Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee 2007 Annual Fiscal Report for FY 2008; 2008 Annual Fiscal Report for FY 2009; FY 2010 & The Missouri Budget Project, FY 2011; The Associated Press, 8/7/10; 2011 Annual Fiscal Report for FY 2012; Missouri Budget FY 2013; Missouri Budget FY 2015; Missouri Budget FY 2016; Missouri Budget FY 2017; Missouri Budget FY 2018; Missouri Budget FY 2019; Missouri Budget FY 2020; Missouri Budget FY 2021; Missouri Budget FY 2022; Missouri Budget FY 2023; Missouri Budget FY 2024]

Tax dollars have gone to Missouri AACs since 1996, however the program was not officially codified until 2007. Equity Forward has only been able to verify donation amounts from the year of codification with the exception of 2010.

[Missouri Department of Social Services; Missouri Senate; Revisor of Missouri]

Supporting Deceptive Practices:

Anti-abortion centers engage in deception to delay or deter pregnant people from getting abortion care.

There are 73 AACs In Missouri. None of them provide abortions, but many use deceptive names such as:

Options for Women

1420 S Business 61, Ste B
Bowling Green, MO 63334

Choices Medical Services

2334 Fair Lawn Dr
Carthage, MO 64836

Parkville Women's Clinic

6326 N Lucerne Ave
Kansas City, MO 64151

[Crisis Pregnancy Center Map]

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

Internet search companies have started taking action against these misleading ads, but the Missouri government is using granted funds to help AACs circumvent these accountability efforts.

The MO government has a quarter million dollar contract with Choose Life Marketing in order to, "help [AACs] reach pregnant women at risk for having abortions when such agencies are blocked or in any other way suppressed by any search engine, social media platform, or digital advertising network."

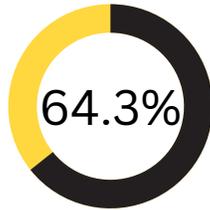
[St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 6/2/23]

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.

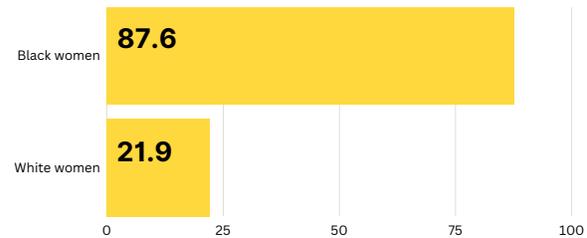
In Missouri, 64.3% of counties have no hospital or birth center offering maternity care.



[March of Dimes PeriStats]

In 2018, following years of sharp increases in anti-abortion center funding, Missouri was ranked 42nd in the nation for maternal mortality. 82% of all pregnancy-related deaths that year had a “good chance” (39%) or “some chance” (43%) of being preventable.

Missouri maternal deaths per 100,000 live births



[Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services]
[Missouri Medicine, 2022]

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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