

Tennessee Anti-Abortion Center Funding

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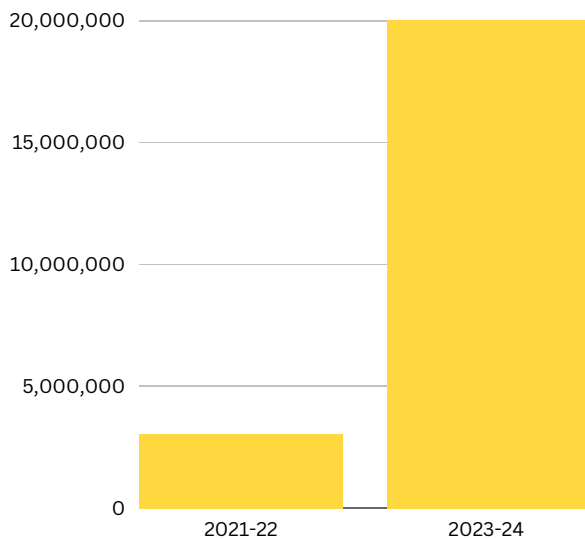
When someone is making a decision about continuing or ending a pregnancy, they should be able to get accurate information about all their options so they can decide what is best for themselves.

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.

Tennessee 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: 2021

Current Funding: \$20,000,000



[Tennessee 2021-2022 Administration Budget Overview, 4/12/21]
[Tennessee State Budget FY 2023-2024, accessed 8/31/23]
[State of Tennessee Public Chapter No. 418, accessed 8/31/23]

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.



Supporting Deceptive Practices:

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

Per *Knox News*, Human Coalition, a national AAC network, runs a telecare service in Knoxville, which offers counseling and facilitates referrals for "abortion-determined women."

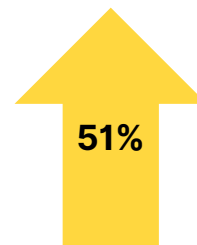
Yet, in a misleading move, Human Coalition only connects them with providers that do **NOT** provide abortion services.

[Knox News, 6/24/22]

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.



Tennessee's maternal mortality rate is the fourth highest in the nation, with pregnancy-related mortality increasing 51% from 2017-2019.

More than **3 out of 4 pregnancy-related deaths** in the state **were deemed to be preventable.**

[Our Tennessee, 2023; Tennessee Department of Health, 4/13/22]

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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2024 Fiscal Budget Will Increase AAC Funding By More Than 6x.

In 2021, Tennessee began allocating \$3 million to anti-abortion centers. In the 2024 fiscal budget, Gov. Lee initially proposed increasing funding to **\$100 million**.

The final budget funnels **\$20 million to AACs**, a whopping 6x increase.

The Department of Finance and Administration's Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) will administer this funding, raising significant concerns about pregnant people's safety and privacy.

[[State of Tennessee Public Chapter No. 418, accessed 8/8/23](#)]

Tennessee Gov. Lee proposes \$100M for anti-abortion centers

February 6, 2023

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Brushing aside calls to tweak one of the [strictest abortion bans](#) in the United States, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee on Monday unveiled plans to funnel tens of millions of taxpayer dollars to anti-abortion centers as he declared the state had a “moral obligation” to support families.

AP

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