

LOCAL INDEX SELF-SCORING TOOL: INDICATORS AND REFERENCE CHARTS

The Local Index Self-Scoring Tool follows the rubric that NIRH used in assessing the scores of the 50 cities included in the Local Index. This tool is intended for advocates and officials in the cities, counties, and towns that are not currently included in the Local Index who want to use NIRH's framework to assess their locality's standing and create scorecards of their own, which can be used to advance policy goals and support work on the local level.

Because every city is different, these guidelines are recommendations for how to evaluate each policy, not strict rules. You know your community best and should make the final determination about where to find the information below and how the policies should be evaluated. NIRH encourages you to make your best determination about how an indicator should be scored. Please contact us at localrepro@nirhealth.org with questions or to talk through your analysis.

Calculate your score using the Local Index Self-Scoring Tool at localrepro.nirhealth.org.

How to use the reference charts

NIRH identifies 34 specific policies as "indicators," all of which fall within six broader categories that NIRH has determined are core to securing and advancing reproductive freedom at a city level. NIRH assigned each policy indicator a point value, determined by its impact on abortion access and reproductive health, its degree of rarity among cities, the investment required to pass and implement, and/or whether the policy is particularly effective in achieving its aim. A city's score is determined using an equation that calculates the total number of points a city achieved divided by the total number of possible points. The score falls on a 10-point scale and corresponds to a five-point star rating, ranging from half a star to five stars. The reference charts provide guidelines on how to find and evaluate the information needed for each indicator.

Instructions:

1. Determine whether you are focusing your analysis on the city, the county, or both. If you aren't sure, contact us for more information on how NIRH approaches this challenge.
2. Conduct research on each of the indicators based on the Reference Charts.
3. Determine if your state has positive or negative preemptions for any of the indicators. A positive preemption means that a state-level policy is so proactive and/or expansive that the city does not need to pass its own policy. A negative preemption means a state restricts municipalities from setting their own policies related to the indicator. A preemption does not impact the city's score. This will be calculated automatically when the data is entered into the Local Index Self-Scoring Tool.
4. Visit localrepro.nirhealth.org to download the Local Index Self-Scoring Tool and enter your responses into the final column.
5. Optional: NIRH would appreciate if you would share your findings and score by emailing us at localrepro@nirhealth.org.

PROTECTING ABORTION ACCESS

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Pts</i>	<i>How to score</i>
Clinic safety ordinance	2	<p>Yes: At least one local protection is in place, including but not limited to buffer zones, bubble zones, or enhanced penalties for crimes committed near a clinic</p> <p>No: No policy</p> <p>Limited: N/A</p>
Regulations on deceptive practices of anti-abortion pregnancy centers	2	<p>Yes: At least one local protection against the deceptive practices of anti-abortion pregnancy centers is in place, including but not limited to signage ordinance, consumer protections, or restrictions on funding</p> <p>No: No policy</p> <p>Limited: N/A</p>
Local protections for abortion clinics & providers	1	<p>Yes: At least one of the following is in place with the goal of protecting abortion clinics, including but not limited to noise regulation, clinic escort training program, parking regulations, residential picketing restrictions, police training initiative related to abortion safety, or zoning policy</p> <p>No: No policy</p> <p>Limited: Existing protections are not being adequately enforced or are assessed by abortion providers or advocates to have limited impact</p>
Public awareness about access to abortion care	2	<p>Yes: City has engaged in a public awareness campaign or initiative related to access to abortion care</p> <p>No: No campaign or information</p> <p>Limited: N/A</p>
Anti-discrimination ordinances for employees: reproductive health decisions	2	<p>Yes: Policy is in place citywide</p> <p>No: No policy</p> <p>Limited: Policy in place for municipal employees only</p>
Anti-discrimination ordinances for housing: reproductive health decisions	2	<p>Yes: Policy is in place citywide</p> <p>No: No policy</p> <p>Limited: Policy in place for municipal employees only</p>

To evaluate this category, look for information here: municipal ordinances, municipal government website(s), municipal government social media accounts, local department of health website(s), local police department, local public affairs or communication departments, local reproductive rights and justice organizations, local abortion providers, media coverage, National Institute for Reproductive Health, Feminist Majority Foundation, National Abortion Federation, and National Women’s Law Center.

FUNDING AND COVERAGE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

Indicator	Pts	How to score
Funding for abortion	2	<p>Yes: Municipal funding is spent on abortion care, including practical support for abortion care</p> <p>No: No funding in the local budget, or funding comes fully from state sources, such as Medicaid</p> <p>Limited: N/A</p>
Funding for STD/STI testing & prevention	1	<p>Yes: Funding for at least one of the following, of any size/for any population: testing, prevention (to any extent), treatment, expedited partner therapy</p> <p>No: No funding in the budget, or funding comes fully from federal or state sources, such as Title X</p> <p>Limited: Funding for a coalition intended to address rates of STIs</p>
Municipal insurance coverage of abortion	2	<p>Yes: All municipal employees have insurance coverage of abortion, and/or an explicit municipal policy is in place requiring insurance coverage of abortion for all municipal employees</p> <p>No: No coverage of abortion, and/or a municipal policy is in place that bans insurance coverage of abortion</p> <p>Limited: Some municipal employees receive coverage but it is not universal</p>
Funding to train providers in reproductive health care	2	<p>Yes: Funding to train providers in an important element of reproductive health care, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LARC insertion or removal • Contraceptive counseling • Reproductive health care for LGBTQ people, young people, or other specific populations <p>No: No funding in the local budget, or funding comes fully from federal, state, or private sources</p> <p>Limited: Training is available only online</p>
Funding for contraception	1	<p>Yes: Funding for contraception in any form, including condoms</p> <p>No: No funding in the budget or funding comes fully from Title X</p> <p>Limited: Funding for condoms exists only as a small component of a larger program or has limited impact</p>
Funding for community-based organizations to provide comprehensive sexuality education	1	<p>Yes: Funding for at least one community-based organization to provide CSE, or for a program that offers CSE and pays CBOs</p> <p>No: No funding in the budget</p> <p>Limited: N/A</p>

To evaluate this category, look for information here: municipal government website(s), municipal budget(s), municipal government employee manual, municipal employees, local department of health website(s), local department of health staff, insurance company or companies that provide municipal health plans, local reproductive rights and justice organizations, local family planning clinics and providers, local youth-serving organizations, media coverage, National Institute for Reproductive Health, and All* Above All.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Pts</i>	<i>How to score</i>
Support for pregnant and parenting youth	1	<p>Yes: At least one of the following is in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daycare in schools • Flexible graduation policies • Breastfeeding accommodation policies • School for pregnant and parenting youth that is vouched for as a high-quality institution by advocates and/or young people • Pregnant and Parenting Youth Bill of Rights • Homebound instruction <p>No: No policies or programs in place to support pregnant and parenting youth</p> <p>Limited: One of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classes on parenting available for pregnant and parenting youth • After-school support groups • Rights-focused policy in the handbook
Funding for comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	1	<p>Yes: City has allocated its own funding for CSE in schools or has received state/federal funding to support CSE</p> <p>No: No funding in the budget</p> <p>Limited: Funding available only to a limited number of schools or students</p>
Comprehensive sexuality education (CSE)	1	<p>Yes: Policy is in place requiring CSE, which must be evidence-informed, medically accurate, developmentally appropriate, and non-stigmatizing. To be categorized as CSE, a curriculum should include: human development; healthy relationships; interpersonal behavior, including consent; and sexual health. CSE can include abstinence as an option but must discuss other forms of contraception.</p> <p>No: No policy, or an abstinence-only or abstinence-plus policy</p> <p>Limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSE is available only to a minority of schools in the district • City has multiple school districts and only one has CSE
Reproductive health care in school-based health centers (SBHCs)	2	<p>Yes: SBHCs provide reproductive health care in some form, including dispensing of birth control or STI testing and/or treatment</p> <p>No: No SBHCs or no reproductive health care offered in SBHCs</p> <p>Limited: SBHCs offer one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals for reproductive health care • Contraceptive counseling • Condoms, but no other contraception

To evaluate this category, look for information here: municipal government website(s); municipal budget(s); local department of health website(s); board of education; school board or school district websites; school curricula; school policies; school administration or staff; school-based health center administration or staff; local reproductive rights and justice organizations; local family planning clinics and providers; local youth-serving organizations; media coverage; and SIECUS State Profile.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Pts</i>	<i>How to score</i>
Supportive lactation policies	1	<p>Yes: Supportive lactation policies or programs in place, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring lactation rooms • Requiring time allowed to chestfeed or pump • Lactation support for new parents funded by the city <p>No: No policy or program in place or only through WIC (federal funding)</p> <p>Limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies in place only for municipal employees • Programs where chestfeeding is a component but not the main focus • Programs that are available only to a limited number of participants or are available only in certain places
Paid family leave for municipal employees	1	<p>Yes: Policy is in place for full-time municipal employees</p> <p>No: No policy in place</p> <p>Limited: Some full-time municipal employees receive leave, but it is not universal</p>
Environmental protections for maternal and reproductive health	1	<p>Yes: City has one or more of the following in place specifically linked to protections for maternal, fetal, or reproductive health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protections for nail salon workers or other workers exposed to toxic chemicals • Banning fracking • Regulation of radioactive activity • Regulation of BPA • Regulation of skin lightening creams <p>No: No policy in place</p> <p>Limited: City has initiatives or programs that focus on environmental justice</p>
Anti-discrimination ordinances for employees: pregnancy and family status	1	<p>Yes: Policy is in place citywide</p> <p>No: No policy in place</p> <p>Limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy in place for municipal employees only • Policy covers only one of the two: pregnancy or family status
Anti-discrimination ordinances for housing: pregnancy and family status	1	<p>Yes: Policy is in place citywide</p> <p>No: No policy</p> <p>Limited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy in place for municipal employees only • Policy covers only one of the two: pregnancy or family status

To evaluate this category, look for information here: municipal ordinances, municipal government website(s), municipal government employee manual, municipal employees, local department of health website(s), local department of health staff, local chamber of commerce or other business-serving organization, local reproductive rights and justice organizations, local environmental justice organizations, local organizations that support lactation, media coverage, A Better Balance, and Healthy Babies, Bright Futures' Bright Cities Program.

BUILDING HEALTHY AND JUST COMMUNITIES

Indicator	Pts	How to score
Positive public awareness campaigns on sexual and reproductive health (SRH)	1	<p>Yes: Positive and non-stigmatizing public awareness campaign on SRH</p> <p>No: No campaign in place</p> <p>Limited: Campaigns are not widespread or only on social media</p>
Menstrual equity initiative	1	<p>Yes: Policy or program that promotes menstrual equity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repealing pink tax or “tampon” tax on menstrual products • Providing free menstrual products in city-funded buildings, including schools, shelters, and jails <p>No: No policy or program in place</p> <p>Limited: Program that provides limited free menstrual products or to a limited group (e.g., free menstrual products in a shelter but not all shelters)</p>
“Shield” law for victim reporting	1	<p>Yes: City has an ordinance allowing people engaged in illegal activity to report a violent crime that they were a victim of or witness to without being charged themselves (e.g. a sex worker assaulted by a client can report that assault without fear of being arrested for engaging in sex work)</p> <p>No: No policy in place</p> <p>Limited: N/A</p>
Paid sick leave	1	<p>Yes: Policy in place citywide</p> <p>No: No policy in place</p> <p>Limited: Policy in place only for municipal employees</p>
\$15 minimum wage	1	<p>Yes: Policy in place to scale up to a \$15 minimum wage</p> <p>No: No policy in place</p> <p>Limited: Policy in place only for municipal employees</p>
Support for immigrants to access reproductive health care	1	<p>Yes: City has a policy in place to support immigrants’ health care access, including sanctuary funding, municipal IDs, or a municipal health insurance program</p> <p>No: No policy or program in place (or funded only through Title X)</p> <p>Limited: Policy of non-cooperation with ICE only</p>
Advancing democracy	2	<p>Yes: City has passed one or more of the following in the review period: voting rights for non-citizens, voting age under 18, voting reminders or education program, matching funds for local candidates, maximum contribution limits, local campaign finance reform, youth councils</p> <p>No: No policy, resolution, program, or campaign in place</p> <p>Limited: Program or initiative with small-scale impact (e.g., coordinating with county clerk office to hold voter drives in schools, hold mock elections in schools, etc.)</p>
Anti-discrimination ordinances for employees: gender identity	1	<p>Yes: Policy is in place citywide</p> <p>No: No policy in place</p> <p>Limited: Policy in place for municipal employees only</p>
Anti-discrimination ordinances for employees: gender identity	1	<p>Yes: Policy in place citywide</p> <p>No: No policy in place</p> <p>Limited: Policy in place for municipal employees only</p>

To evaluate this category, look for information here: municipal ordinances; municipal government website(s); municipal budget(s); municipal government voter requirements and registration rules; municipal government social media accounts; municipal employees; local department of health website(s); local public affairs or communication departments; board of education, school board, or school district websites; school administration or staff; local reproductive rights and justice organizations; local organizations that work with young people, homeless populations, and/or people who are incarcerated or formerly incarcerated; local sex workers’ rights organizations; local anti-trafficking organizations; local economic justice organizations; local immigrants’ rights organizations; local democracy reform organizations; local LGBTQ rights organizations; media coverage; A Better Balance; FairVote; RepresentWomen; Fight for \$15 campaign; and HRC’s Municipal Equality Index.

PROCLAIMING LOCAL VALUES

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Pts</i>	<i>How to score</i>
Opposition to deceptive practices of anti-abortion pregnancy centers	1	<p>Yes: Resolution passed stating opposition to anti-abortion pregnancy centers and/or funding for anti-abortion pregnancy centers</p> <p>No: No resolutions passed</p> <p>Limited: N/A</p>
Support for abortion coverage, including the EACH Woman Act	1	<p>Yes: Resolution passed in support of insurance coverage of abortion</p> <p>No: No resolutions passed</p> <p>Limited: N/A</p>
Pro-choice stance on state or federal legislation or ballot initiatives	1	<p>Yes: Resolution passed establishing a pro-choice stance on state or federal legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation can be positive, with the City Council endorsing it or calling for its passage or negative, with City Council opposing it <p>No: No resolutions passed</p> <p>Limited: City signs on to letter to support pro-choice stance</p>
Support for anti-discrimination	1	<p>Yes: Resolution passed supporting anti-discrimination or establishing a stance on state or federal legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation can be positive, with the City Council endorsing it or calling for its passage, or negative, with City Council opposing it <p>No: No policy in place</p> <p>Limited: N/A</p>

To evaluate this category, look for information here: municipal resolutions, local reproductive rights and justice organizations, local community-based organizations, media coverage, National Institute for Reproductive Health, and All* Above All.

LOCAL LANDSCAPE

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Where to look</i>
Population, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Community Survey “Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Populations” 5-year data If this information is not available for your city due to size, use Census Quick Facts
Population by race	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Community Survey “Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Populations” 5-year data If this information is not available for your city due to size, use Census Quick Facts
Median income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Community Survey “Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Populations” 5-year data If this information is not available for your city due to size, use Census Quick Facts
Annual costs (family of 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Policy Institute “Family Budget Calculator”
Number of abortion clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned Parenthood National Abortion Federation Abortion Care Network
Number of Title X clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Human Services (HHS) website
Number of SBHCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of health and board of education websites
Number of anti-abortion pregnancy centers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ReproAction website (Fake Clinic Database) Local reproductive rights organizations
Maternal mortality rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of health websites
Infant mortality rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of health websites
Number of Catholic and non-Catholic hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. News Health reports for lists of hospitals Hospital websites for mission statements
% of city funds spent on policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vera Institute of Justice: What Policing Costs
Rates of incarceration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vera Institute of Justice Incarceration Trends