

State and Local Leaders Must Act Now for Abortion Justice

State and Municipal Funding for Abortion

April 2022

In June 2022, the anti-abortion majority on the Supreme Court of the United States is expected to issue a decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, and directly undermine the federal right to abortion provided in *Roe v. Wade*. If that happens, 26 states are certain or likely to ban abortion outright, pushing care out of reach for even more communities.

The decision is expected to come at a time when abortion is under increased attack. In the first quarter of 2022, anti-abortion politicians have introduced over 531 abortion restrictions, including legislation that copies Texas' 2021 Senate Bill 8 which bans abortion after six weeks of pregnancy. These bans force people to pay out of pocket for care, travel long distances, create additional expenses like hotel accommodations and child care, and sometimes cause delays in care.

Barriers to abortion access are further exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as systemic racism, economic insecurity, and immigration status, which deny people the ability to make decisions over their reproductive health care with dignity and economic security. Abortion bans fall hardest on women of color, people working to make ends meet, immigrants, young people, and LGBTQIA+ people. Everyone who needs abortion care should be able to get it without being shamed, punished, or going broke — unfortunately, that is not the reality for far too many people.

THE OPPORTUNITY

State and local officials must urgently act to make abortion accessible. Leaders can make an immediate impact by providing funding for abortion care. It's time to fight for our communities and push for bold solutions that address the realities of getting an abortion and ensure abortion is available, affordable, and accessible for anyone who needs it. **Abortion justice can't wait.**

When states and cities allocate funding for abortion and other reproductive health care they help:

- * Ensure people in their community, and those who must leave restrictive states for abortion care, can get the essential and time-sensitive care they need.
- * Alleviate financial and logistical barriers faced by local residents that result from anti-abortion legislation at the state and federal level, such as paying for care out-of-pocket, taking time off work, arranging for childcare, and finding transportation.
- * Change inequitable systems by modeling transformation.
- * Build upon and invest in the existing infrastructure of trusted community-led abortion funds and other service providers who are in urgent need of funding.



Cities and states across the country are already leading the way with visionary solutions to ensure abortion is available without barriers based on who we are, where we're from, or how much we earn. All* Above All and National Institute for Reproductive Health have partnered with state and local advocates to launch, win, and implement campaigns to fund abortion. Read about these powerful efforts below and see our resource, "[Best Practices in Municipal Abortion Funding](#)," to learn more.

New York City

In 2019, New York City became the [first locality in the country](#) to allocate municipal dollars to directly fund abortion in the aftermath of Georgia's passage of a six week ban on abortion. The Fund Abortion NYC campaign was successful in securing \$250,000 for the New York Abortion Access Fund (NYAAF) to support both New York City residents and people traveling to the city for an abortion. The City Council renewed their commitment to abortion access allocating \$250,000 to NYAAF again in 2020 and 2021. New York City is a key access point for people who face barriers to abortion care in their communities and choose to travel out of state.

Austin, Texas

Texans face many barriers to accessing abortion due to anti-abortion laws designed to shut down clinics, force people to travel long distances, create additional expenses like hotel accommodations and child care, and delay care. In Texas, Medicaid, private insurance plans, and Marketplace plans are prohibited from covering abortion. To better support Texans who face financial and other barriers to accessing abortion care, advocates including Lilith Fund, Avow Texas, and Jane's Due Process and local champions in the Austin City Council successfully [secured \\$150,000 in funding for practical support for abortion in 2019](#). The funding helps people pay for travel, lodging, and other costs associated with seeking an abortion. In 2020 and 2021, the Austin City Council renewed their commitment and allocated \$250,000 annually for practical support.

Portland, Oregon

In 2021, [the Portland City Council allocated \\$200,000](#) to the Northwest Abortion Access Fund (NWAAF) which provides direct funding and practical support to people seeking abortion in Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and Washington. Due to restrictive federal policies, there are disparities when it comes to accessing care, particularly for people of color working to make ends meet, LGBTQIA+ people, young people, and people who live in rural communities like in eastern Oregon. [NWAAF and Pro-Choice Oregon](#), with support from Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, launched a campaign to secure municipal funding for abortion — these efforts became even more urgent after Texas' Senate Bill 8 went into effect, which bans abortion at six weeks of pregnancy and allows anyone to sue abortion providers and helpers in state court. Texas' law means that residents and others are forced to travel out of state to get the abortion care they need and with Oregon being a key access point, the Portland City Council heard advocate's concerns about the human impact of a proposed Texas boycott, and instead took meaningful steps for abortion justice by allocating local funding.



Kalamazoo, Michigan

In 2021, the YWCA Kalamazoo [launched a first-of-its-kind Reproductive Health Fund](#) to meet their community's needs by providing financial support to people seeking abortion care, doula services, and gender-affirming care. Due to a combination of restrictive federal and state policies, Kalamazooans face significant barriers to accessing the essential care they need to lead healthy lives with dignity and economic security. YWCA Kalamazoo sought municipal funding for the Reproductive Health Fund, launching a campaign urging the Kalamazoo County Commission to allocate \$44,000 in funding. While the Commission granted funding to the Reproductive Health Fund, they chose to strip abortion care from their funding support and only allowed funding to go to support doula services and gender-affirming care. YWCA Kalamazoo was able to secure private funding to cover the costs of abortion care at the Reproductive Health Fund, and continue their efforts to shift culture and build a path toward future municipal funding.

Oregon

In March 2022, [Oregon made a bold investment of \\$15 million dollars to the newly established Reproductive Health Equity Fund](#). This first-of-its-kind investment will provide meaningful and immediate support to patients, health providers and community advocates like NWAAF to proactively prepare for and mitigate the harm of a Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Center* and other state abortion bans that aim to push care out of reach for even more communities. The Reproductive Health Equity Fund will be used to address urgent patient needs for abortion funds and practical support (e.g. travel, lodging, etc.) as well as to invest in a future in which the range of reproductive care is accessible to whomever needs it, whenever they need it.

In 2022, [California](#) and [New York](#) are also currently considering investments to help ensure that people can access the abortions they need without delay or barriers.

CONTACT

Contact **Winnie Ye** at winnie@allaboveall.org and **Danielle Castaldi-Micca** at dcastaldi-micca@nirhealth.org to learn more about state and municipal funding for abortion, get connected with advocates in your community, access guidance on messaging to talk about abortion and avoid perpetuating abortion stigma, and get more information on how [All* Above All](#) and [National Institute for Reproductive Health](#) can support you in your work.