



**NATIONAL NETWORK OF
ABORTION FUNDS**

Dear Friends,

I've been thinking about the language of crisis and who is allowed to use it. Whose definition generates action, and who feels called to act? For some of our communities, relentless crises have been ignored — they are seen as exaggerated, irrelevant, or simply an unfortunate fact of life. If crisis means bold and immediate action — executive orders, national addresses, federal funding — where has this decisive action been for the crises we have been navigating for decades?

No one can deny that the COVID-19 pandemic is a global crisis of unprecedented scale.

However, when I think of crisis, I also think of the lives of the 216,000 people who reached out to our network for support in 2019. The systemic failures many must navigate as they go about their lives become even more visible when they call a fund for help.

Volunteers and staff at abortion funds are resilient, experienced navigators of this broken system, but they are everyday people picking up the care the government refuses to provide. Their resources are limited, and they are not able to meet the needs of everyone who calls for support. That's a crisis.

For decades, abortion funds and their callers, clinics, and advocates like you have protested as abortion has been legislated against, stripped of legal protection, and stigmatized. The white supremacist violence that is this nation's foundation magnifies the impact of these discriminatory policies on callers of color — Black callers in particular. The current level of access to abortion is the most restricted many of us have ever experienced.

***Read the complete announcement online:**
abortionfunds.org/leadership-transition

You and I know that in the absence of policy solutions, this crisis requires a bold strategy to get the care we need.

That's why, with your support, we launched Operation Scale Up (OSU). OSU is a visionary strategy rooted in the wisdom of local abortion funds to transform the abortion access landscape. No longer should abortion fund callers have to crowdfund their healthcare. They deserve to know they will be fully supported as soon as they call for help. *(Read more on p. 2-3.)*

When I started in 2015, the network was shifting toward our current theory of change: to fund abortion and also build power. I am honored to have led this organization through that shift and grateful for the ways we have grown to support our members. Six years later, there is another shift happening as we build a network of scaled-up abortion funds. In 2022, I will pass the baton to a new leader to move into this next chapter.* The network is profoundly ready for the deep investment that abortion fund callers deserve. Together, we will organize for a future where access to abortion is simple, affordable, and free from shame or stigma.

With love and power,

Yamani Hernandez,
Executive Director
National Network of Abortion Funds

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OPERATION SCALE UP WILL TRANSFORM ABORTION FUNDING

We are in the midst of multiple abortion access crises. Barriers to abortion on the state and federal levels have increased in the decades since *Roe v. Wade*, a trend that shows no signs of slowing. The conservative super-majority now sitting on the Supreme Court means that soon even the protection provided by *Roe* may come to an end. The pandemic's effect on unemployment is disproportionately impacting Black and Latinx communities, especially people who can become pregnant. These intersecting pressures are visible in the increasingly complex requests for support reported by abortion funds.

For years, the abortion funds in our network have supported callers navigating financial, legal, and practical barriers. Drawing on their leadership and expertise, we've developed a visionary strategy to fully resource abortion funds and transform the abortion access landscape: **Operation Scale Up**.

Read more online: abortionfunds.org/osu-will-transform-abortion-funding

All statistics provided in this piece are from the National Network of Abortion Funds' 2020 Membership Enrollment Survey, with 83 member abortion funds providing data from July 2019 - July 2020.



Illustration: Laura Chow Reeve, @radicalroadmaps



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MOBILIZE YOUR NETWORK: HOST A FUNDRAISER

Eager to share your support for abortion access with your friends and family? Consider hosting a fundraiser! We're constantly amazed by the creativity and joy of these donor-hosted events. Maya cooked up a bake sale. Hannah put a green thumb to work propagating seedlings for an ongoing plant sale — check it out on Instagram: [@propjustice](#).



Seedlings for Hannah's fundraiser.

Have you already hosted a fundraiser for NNAF? We want to hear about it! Post a photo or a link on social media using the hashtag [#WeFundAbortion](#). Want to start your own fundraiser? Check out the fundraising toolkits on our website: [nnaf.org/WeFundAbortion](#). In need of inspiration? Peruse the incredible list of virtual fundraisers in the National Abortion Access Fund-a-Thon, running now through the end of April: [fundathon.nnaf.org](#). Find your local abortion fund and join in one of their events!

Have a bigger idea? Email development@abortionfunds.org to talk it through.



Maya and the bake sale table.