



NATIONAL NETWORK OF
ABORTION FUNDS

Dear Friends,

Six years ago, I accepted an offer to join the National Network of Abortion Funds as their new executive director. When I joined the staff, there were twelve full-time employees. The organization had a budget of just over \$2 million a year; we fiscally sponsored the All* Above All Campaign at a similar level. In my first year, we could all squeeze into one house for our annual retreat. We cooked in a communal kitchen and built a new staffing plan together on notecards in the dining room.

“WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE’VE INCREASED THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE’RE ABLE TO REGRANT TO ABORTION FUNDS FROM \$970,000 IN FISCAL YEAR 2016 TO \$10 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2022.”

During my time at NNAF, this organization and our network have seen tremendous growth. New funds have emerged and joined us. We expanded our organizing strategy to meet an increasingly hostile political climate and embraced individual supporters ready to take action. We made it clear that this work is about building our collective power, and you responded to that vision. You’ve shown up in moments of crisis and invested in long-term, visionary plans like our Operation Scale Up. With your support, we’ve increased the

amount of money we’re able to regrant to abortion funds from \$970,000 in fiscal year 2016 to \$10 million in fiscal year 2022.

As many of you know, my tenure as NNAF’s Executive Director will come to an end in January. The search for NNAF’s next leader is already in motion—when you receive the spring newsletter, you’ll be able to read their letter of introduction. Looking back on my time here, I’m most proud of the decisions that embodied our internal commitment to economic justice: a thriving wage for all staff; prioritizing hiring from our membership; investment in a pace of work that allows staff to rest and heal. We have kept our core values central not only in what we say, but also in how we treat staff and partners.

Truthfully, that victory is bittersweet. The benefits we offer should not be determined by organizational policy or resources. Our government should provide these supports, just as it should provide access to abortion. In the absence of government systems, however, we are the ones who create safety and security for one another. It’s shameful that we have to do this; it’s beautiful that we can.

“OUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD PROVIDE THESE SUPPORTS, JUST AS IT SHOULD PROVIDE ACCESS TO ABORTION.”

It’s been my privilege to be a leader within this powerful, compassionate, and visionary network. It’s been a joy to build with all of you.

In solidarity,

Yamani Hernandez
Executive Director, NNAF



UNPRECEDENTED ABORTION ACCESS CASE GOES BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT

On December 1st, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, a case centered on a Mississippi law that bans abortion after fifteen weeks of pregnancy. *Dobbs v. Jackson* is a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade*, which upholds the federal right to abortion in the US before viability.

WHY DOBBS V. JACKSON IS DIFFERENT

In earlier decisions such as *Roe v. Wade* and *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*, the Supreme Court upheld a federal right to seek abortion before “fetal viability”: 24-28 weeks. The Mississippi law at the center of the *Dobbs* case bans abortion well before that threshold. Previability bans like this one exist in states around the country in various stages of litigation. *Dobbs* is the first to make it to the Supreme Court.

HOW THE MISSISSIPPI LAW DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTS BLACK PEOPLE

The restrictions challenged in *Dobbs* inequitably affect Black Mississippians, who represent the highest proportion of people accessing abortion care in the state. We know from existing data that any rollback of federal protections for abortion access will have an unequal impact on Black people in Mississippi and those similarly situated in other abortion-hostile states.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE SUPREME COURT

It’s hard to predict what decision the Supreme Court justices will make. There are several options, but with the current composition of the Court we’re bracing for the worst. The justices could eliminate federal protections entirely, leaving abortion access to state legislatures. They may strike down previability protections and create a new, more conservative federal framework. Whatever the court decides, access to abortion will likely become more challenging in many parts of the country.

WHAT WE’LL SEE IF ABORTION ACCESS IS RESTRICTED AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

Only fourteen states and the District of Columbia have laws that explicitly protect access to abortion. Twenty-two states have laws or constitutional amendments already in place that could be used to restrict access if *Roe* is overturned. This means that without federal protection, roughly half of US states could lose legal access to abortion in the next year.

Many pregnant people already have to travel out-of-state to access abortion — this is a pattern that funds in our network have been reporting for years. The model for protecting abortion access in the future already exists in funds’ work to assist callers traveling for hours (sometimes days) to obtain an abortion.

HOW WE’RE PLANNING TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE

This decision will come fast, and its impacts will be felt immediately. In the short term, abortion funds are focusing on building up their practical support systems. We’re helping funds coordinate these efforts securely and effectively.

In the long term, we’re focused on launching Operation Scale Up, our plan to give abortion funds the resources they need to fund every caller request, nationwide. When confronted with challenges like *Dobbs*, both sets of strategies are necessary: we must meet the current moment while staying focused on building the future we want to see.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The most important thing you can do is find and support your local abortion fund. You’ll find a complete list of NNAF-member abortion funds as an insert in this edition of the newsletter. There’s a page on our website listing additional actions you can take to support abortion justice, here: abortionfunds.org/mobilize. We’ll work to keep you informed about the *Dobbs* case and its impacts as we move closer to the decision date in the spring of 2022.

Read More:
abortionfunds.org/fall-scotus-news

ABORTION ACCESS STATE BY STATE: TWO FUNDS’ PERSPECTIVES

“MORE THAN 80% OF OUR CALLERS CROSS STATE LINES.” — Missouri Abortion Fund

Missouri is what’s known as a “trigger law” state: if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, abortion will immediately become illegal. Currently, there is only one clinic in our state that provides abortion care. Missourians seeking an abortion are subject to mandatory “counseling” and a 72-hour waiting period. Without federal protection of abortion rights, bodily autonomy will be placed exclusively in the hands of our hostile state legislature. All Missourians, already inundated with misleading advertising from fake clinics, will be forced to travel across state lines to secure care, as many already do. This can mean hundreds of miles to travel and additional costs that far exceed the cost of an abortion procedure itself.

Meanwhile, across the state line in Illinois, there is no waiting period, no mandatory counseling, no unnecessary vaginal ultrasound. For many folks in Missouri, traveling out-of-state for their abortion is the most logical option. Between July 2020 and June 2021, we served 1,498 patients—at least 1,201 of whom obtained care in Illinois. We’re proud to be able to assist those patients and lucky to have a clinic near the St. Louis metro area for referrals. Patients outside of this region, however, are unable to access the care they need when they need it. There are few better examples of how difficult hostile state legislatures can make abortion access than what we see in the access gap between Illinois and Missouri. This is what abortion care will look like if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.

To support Missouri Abortion Fund directly:
mofund.org/donate

“IF ROE FALLS, THE NEED FOR ABORTION FUNDS IN MINNESOTA WILL EXPLODE.” — Our Justice

Minnesota has a state-level constitutional right to abortion access, thanks to our work as one of the six plaintiffs in *Doe v. Gomez*. Despite this, our lawmakers have been chipping away at abortion access, passing all types of restrictions: a 24-hour waiting period, two-parent notifications for minors, a medically inaccurate physician’s script.

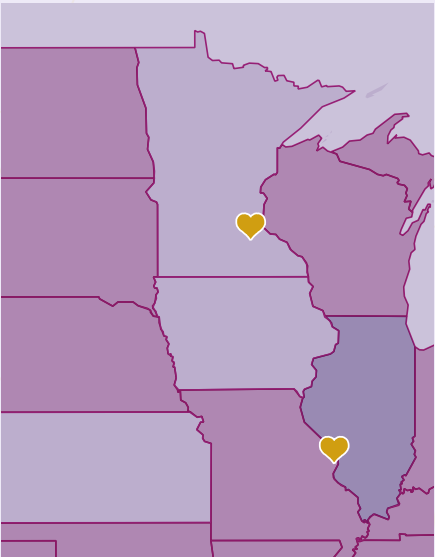
If *Roe* were to fall, the need for abortion funds in Minnesota would explode. In 2020, we pledged support to 444 people. Between January and August this year, we’ve made 364 pledges. About half of these pledges are to people traveling from out-of-state. We offer practical support by paying for hotel stays, helping people navigate insurance and find the right clinic, coordinating rides to appointments, connecting with doulas, and finding additional funds if necessary.

As plaintiffs in *Doe v. Minnesota*, we’re working proactively to remove fourteen abortion restrictions in Minnesota. We chose to bring our case in state court so that no matter what happens at the federal level, Minnesotans and those who come here for abortion care will be protected. Even if a federal right to abortion survives *Dobbs v. Jackson*, we know the states surrounding Minnesota

will continue to restrict access to abortion, forcing people to travel here for care. And while abortion would be technically legal here, access will remain challenging. We have limited funds to distribute and limited providers in the state.

Now is the time to donate directly to abortion funds like ours and to independent clinics. We’re going to need support to meet the increased need for abortion access in Minnesota.

To support Our Justice directly:
ourjustice.net/donate.



State-Level Laws if *Roe* Falls

- Restrict Abortion Access
- Protect Abortion Access
- State Constitutional Protection

THE STATE OF THE NETWORK

OUR 2020 MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Each year, the National Network of Abortion Funds’ Membership Team sends out a detailed survey to all abortion funds in our network. We ask them about requests received, callers supported, and dollars distributed; we collect data on out-of-state travel and increases in funding requests. We try our best to collect responses from every fund in our network. The data that we receive during this annual survey (we call it the Membership Enrollment Survey) is critical to our understanding of the health of the network overall. It guides our strategy for supporting funds and strengthening connections. Below you’ll find highlights from the results of the 2020 Membership Enrollment Survey – our largest survey yet! Please note: all the data included here is from July 2019 – June 2020.

View the complete 2019–2020 annual report here: abortionfunds.org/annual-report-fy-2019-20

GLOSSARY

You may see some terms here that aren’t familiar. Please refer to this mini glossary for more clarity.

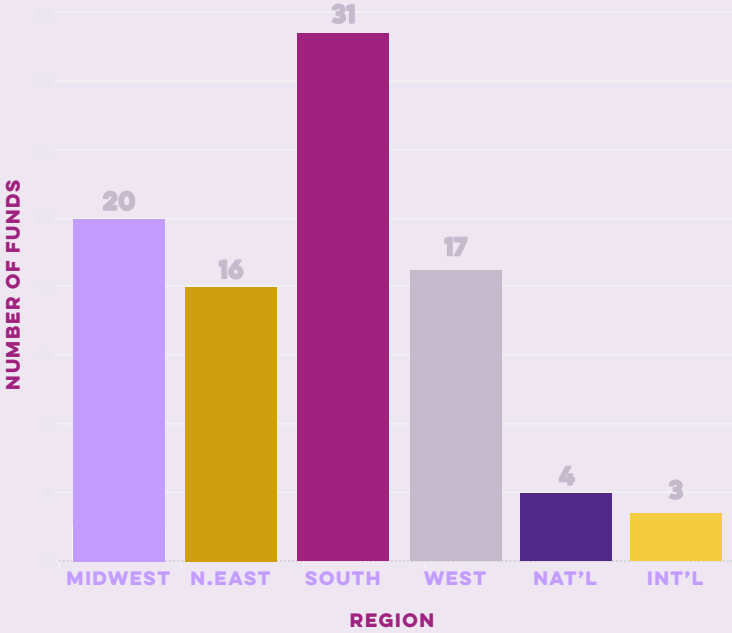
- CALLERS:** anyone who reaches out to an abortion fund for assistance.
- PRACTICAL SUPPORT:** rides, childcare, food, lodging – anything that would help someone obtain an abortion that isn’t direct financial assistance.
- ABORTION FUNDING BUDGET:** how much money an abortion fund has to directly pay for abortions and practical support.

OUR NETWORK AT A GLANCE

An overview of NNAF’s member funds: where they are located, how they operate, and how the network has grown over the last year.



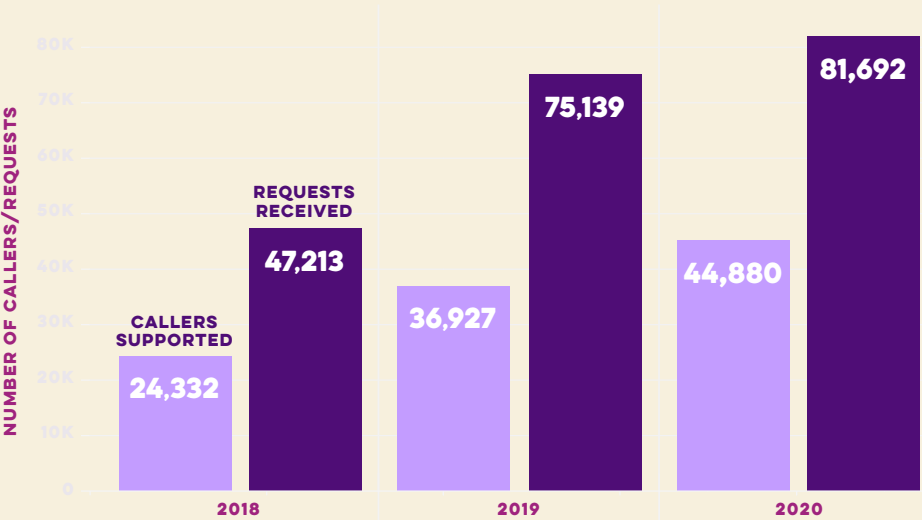
MEMBER FUNDS BY REGION



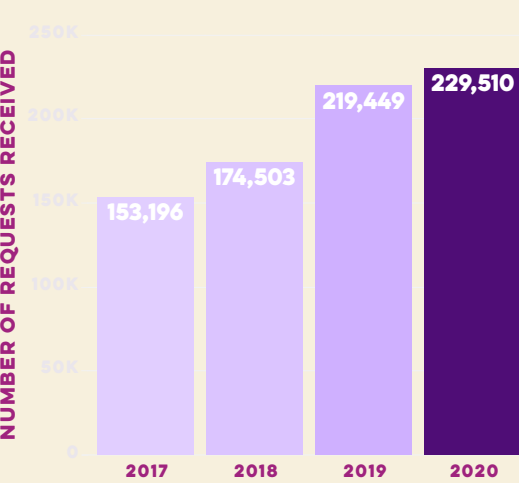
SERVICE DELIVERY

An overview of how many people reached out for assistance across the network and what level of support abortion funds were able to provide.

CALLERS SUPPORTED AND REQUESTS RECEIVED ^{††}



REQUESTS RECEIVED NETWORK-WIDE ^{†††}



7,376

CALLERS SUPPORTED WITH PRACTICAL SUPPORT

\$9,437,004

TOTAL \$ DISBURSED BY ABORTION FUNDS

\$1,353,804

TOTAL \$ DISBURSED FOR PRACTICAL SUPPORT

\$215

AVERAGE GRANT PER CALLER

567

MEDIAN NUMBER OF CALLER REQUESTS

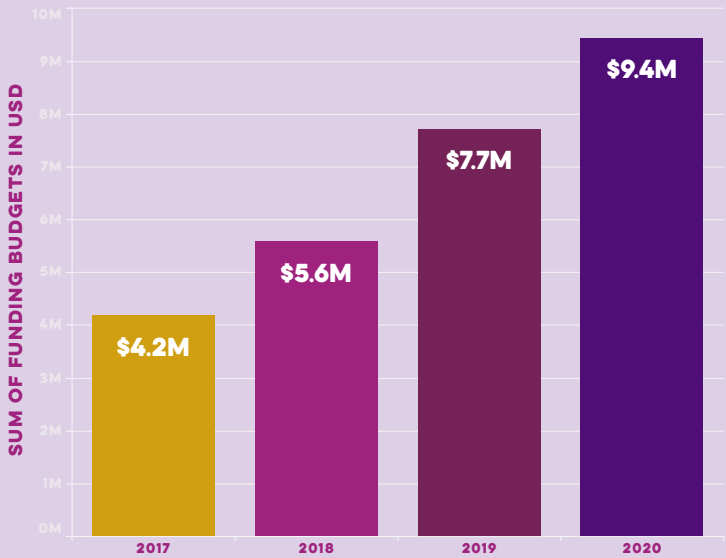
325

MEDIAN NUMBER OF CALLERS SUPPORTED

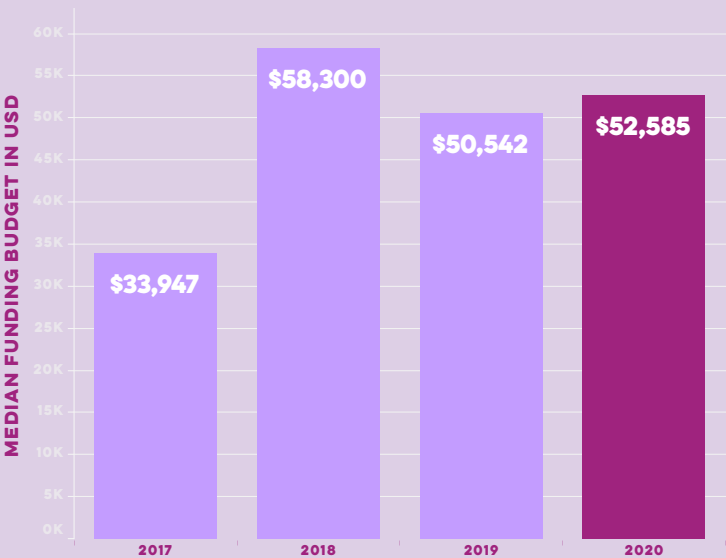
YEAR-OVER-YEAR ABORTION FUNDING

These charts show trends within our network over four years of Membership Enrollment surveys.

DOLLARS DISBURSED BY ABORTION FUNDS



MEDIAN FUNDING BUDGET OF MEMBER FUNDS



^{††}These data reflect freestanding NNAF member funds and those housed within a broader organization. Not represented here are clinic-based funds and Women Help Women. ^{†††}These totals include freestanding NNAF member funds, member funds housed within larger organizations, clinic-based abortion funds, and Women Help Women, an international NGO.

NNAF'S TA TEAM: PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR ABORTION FUNDS



“As the Director of the TA team, my mission is to return some of this time to abortion funds. I’m a former board member and current volunteer at the Northwest Abortion Access Fund—I know how critical those hours can be. The TA team provides support in a number of ways: offering one-to-one coaching, hiring external consultants, and connecting fund members, as well as creating trainings, templates, and toolkits.”
— Samantha Gladu, Technical Assistance Director

More than forty percent of abortion funds are led completely by volunteers, community leaders who do this work because they want their friends and neighbors to be able to make every reproductive decision, including abortion, in thriving communities that are safe, peaceful, and affordable.

Before fund leaders can focus on the work of abortion access, they must dedicate hours of their time to administrative tasks: tax filings, board recruitment, database maintenance, web hosting, finding legal counsel... the list goes on.

In addition to this work, the TA department manages several programs that regrant money to abortion funds: the Collective Power Fund, Operation Scale Up, and TA mini-grants. Over the next fiscal year, we plan to distribute more than \$10 million to member funds—more than any other year in NNAF’s history.

EVERY DOLLAR IS AN ACTION: MOVING MONEY TO BUILD POWER.

When we think about our community of donors, the phrases “fund abortion” and “build power” go hand-in-hand. There’s a long history in this country of framing charitable giving as something that wealthy people do to help those who are less fortunate. We could fill this newsletter with a breakdown of where that narrative comes from and who it benefits (spoiler alert: it’s rooted in white supremacy). We’d rather talk about what it looks like when you donate to support abortion funds. There is profound power in your collective commitment to fund abortion. Your contributions to NNAF and to local, regional, and national abortion funds aren’t moving from the top down — they are flowing out and around, into your community. Every time you make a choice to fund abortion, you’re demonstrating what you value and investing in it. That’s our collective power.

To celebrate our growing community, we asked a few NNAF donors to share their motivations for giving with you. We’d love to hear what resonates! What motivates you to give? How do you think about your own money-moving, power-building commitments? Email your answers to development@abortionfunds.org.



HOW KENTUCKY HEALTH JUSTICE NETWORK USED A TA MINI-GRANT TO BUILD COMMUNITY

By July 2021, It had been more than a year since Kentucky Health Justice Network’s last volunteer case manager gathering. The need for a space where volunteers could receive training, connect, and meet one another in person was urgent. “We’re really proud of our high volunteer retention rate,” says KHJN’s Support Fund Director Meg Sasse Stern, “and one of the ways we do that is by creating spaces for our case managers to support each other.”

As COVID-19 cases declined over the summer months, KHJN staff moved forward with planning a hybrid event. They worked with volunteers to build an agenda, and made use of a conference space at their office with a large screen and a special camera and microphone, allowing some attendees to join the gathering remotely.

Meg applied for a TA mini-grant from NNAF to cover a portion of the costs. The \$1,500 mini-grant KHJN received covered meals and meal cards for fifteen volunteers, postage for their swag bags, and—critically—speaker fees for a session with two movement therapists. “It felt so good to not only be able to pay these amazing professionals, but be able to pay them fairly for their work. To be able to say ‘what’s your rate?’ instead of ‘here’s what we can afford,’” Meg reports.



NNAF DONORS ON WHY THEY GIVE

Loren R., donor since 2020

“In the past, monthly donations seemed inaccessible to me for some reason, as though they were only for the very wealthy. Then I realized I was making more and more donations to various organizations on a near-monthly basis during the 45th president’s term, so I thought to myself: Why not make this official? Concretely speaking, I plan to increase the amount of my monthly donation every year. My NNAF monthly donations will be a constant in my life moving forward, as I grow old and gray!”

Eli P., donor since 2017

“As someone who has spent most of my career working to abolish prisons and carceral systems, I see funding abortion as deeply connected to abolition. Abolition means a lot of different things to a lot of different people, but to me its core is bodily autonomy and a right to live free from fear of literal or structural violence. I see in funding abortion the opportunity to push back against oppressive institutions which tell poor people, people of color, incarcerated people, and lots of other people that they do not have a right to decide what happens to their own bodies.”

Ariann W., donor since 2020

“When I think about donating money, I’m guided by two Jewish principles: tzedakah and hesed. Tzedakah means “giving toward justice,” which you could think of as giving toward causes that help move the world to a more just state, or giving in a way that immediately creates more justice. Hesed means “lovingkindness,” or a general attitude of openness toward meeting individuals’ immediate needs of food, shelter, housing, and healthcare. Funding abortion fulfills both goals. It allows me to redistribute what I have in order to meet an individual’s immediate basic needs, while also helping to move the world toward greater equality and justice.”



**NATIONAL NETWORK OF
ABORTION FUNDS**

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Show your support for local abortion funds by rocking their beautiful merch! A rotating selection of items from member funds can always be found in the “Local Funds” gallery of the National Network of Abortion Funds’ shop. Want a “Funding Abortion is Radical Care” hoodie from Blue Ridge Abortion Fund? Find it there. A “F**k Abortion Bans” mug from Texas Equal Access Fund? Yep, that too. To see the full selection head to: shoplocalfunds.com.

