

# 30 YEARS OF BUILDING POWER

FOR OUR COLLECTIVE LIBERATION



NATIONAL NETWORK OF  
ABORTION FUNDS



## FY21 SUMMARY

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to gather in person, which was an important part of our network culture. We came together in new ways and shifted towards the redistribution of resources directly to our member funds. After the uprisings sparked by George Floyd's murder, we stood with the Movement for Black Lives and our colleagues in the Reproductive Justice movement in calling to #DefundThePolice. We witnessed increased pregnancy criminalization and how the failure of our healthcare system impacted the experience of abortion seekers, many of whom come from systematically oppressed communities. This year made it more clear that our ability to determine our bodies, families, and future extends far beyond abortion.








## DEAR FRIENDS,

Thirty years of moving money, resources, and building power in the abortion access movement is something we must take time to celebrate. Abortion funds continue to be the heart of the abortion access movement, lighting the pathway for new beginnings for abortion seekers. In dark moments in our movement, our network has been a place where people can practice liberation in real time, tapping into the abundance of possibilities that come with funding abortions. The progress we have made as a network over the last 30 years is why I write to you with the spirit of grounded optimism knowing that the next 30+ years will bring a better and brighter future for all of us who believe that funding abortions while grounding ourselves in Reproductive Justice is one pathway towards our collective liberation.

Our former Movement Building Director, Adaku Utah, once mentioned that NNAF was coming out of our Saturn's Return as we celebrate 30 years of our existence as a network. For those unfamiliar with Saturn's Return, it is that transition into adulthood around the age of 27 where you first encounter challenges and shift in responsibility that solidifies who you are and how you move forward as you approach the age of 30.

Three years ago we found ourselves at the intersection of a global pandemic, racial reckoning as a result of the criminalization of Black and brown bodies, the erosion of our democracy, and the erasure of so many lives and experiences. On top of that, we were facing an increasingly hostile climate for abortion seekers and those who support them. When I joined NNAF in July 2022, 12 working days after the *Dobbs* decision, I asked myself, "What is written in the stars for our network and how will this radically shift the abortion access movement?"





As I reflect on the current state of our world — both the beauty and the challenges — I'm reminded that stars are easier to see when the sky is dark and the dust is settling. The dark sky helps us map out the constellations and realign our compasses. We can see more clearly how working towards abortion access requires us to explore how our work meets at the intersection of various movements.

**WE ARE IN A PLACE WHERE WE MUST DECRIMINALIZE ABORTION, ABOLISH PRISONS, AND INVEST IN THE LIVES OF BLACK PEOPLE WHILE MANIFESTING QUEER AND TRANS LIBERATION.**

Moving in silos will no longer serve us as we are working to dismantle an ecosystem of overlapping oppression that is maintaining the current state we are in. Our movement pathways are necessarily interlinked, and we must be clear in how we must respond.

We are amid an escalating abortion access crisis, worsening the already scarce access that existed before. It seems that our legal rights are being even more restricted from all angles — whether that's access to abortions, our right to gender-affirming care or to move freely beyond arbitrary borders. It is hard to keep up with the daily political attacks while our Earth itself seems to be in chaos. All around us, there seem to be extreme climate catastrophes — where we expect calm *waters*, there are wildfires, droughts in swamp lands, and flooding in deserts. The balance of the natural elements is disrupted.

In the moments when the world continues to overwhelm us in so many ways, abortion funds, like the stars, have long been our guides to restore order to chaos. Abortion funds created the roadmap when the national network formed decades ago, beginning as bits of abundant whispers of “what ifs.” What if our communities had the true, real agency to shape their lives fully? What if our people can come to us and know that they will be loved on, that they will get to decide what they do with their bodies and how and with whom they build a family? 30 years ago, abortion funds across the country formed a network, resulting in constellations of care and support for people seeking abortions in their communities.

Even before the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, abortions were not fully accessible to our communities, and funds worked hard to fill those gaps with care, providing access and community and continuing to expand networks of support. We've seen the ways funds have been connecting work across geography, finding ways so that community members have to deal with less of the hassle and hustle of making dozens of calls while juggling so many logistics. As we approached the 30-year mark, NNAF and our member funds continued to expand and adapt.



During the pandemic, funds and the network piloted the Penny Portal so that payments and information could more seamlessly flow between funds and clinics. Funds across different regions have been sharing resources and tips, pivoting as the legal landscape shifts while continuing to organize and advocate at all levels of government for equitable policies that ensure abortion access.

Even before the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, many funds across the network were hiring their first full-time staff members and transitioning volunteers to paid staff, really investing in leadership and sustained growth to support community needs.

In the wake of *Dobbs*, funds had to be nimble in their response to the adjusting landscape. As abortion access became increasingly restricted across the country, service delivery needs for abortion seekers also increased. Abortion funds continue to be portals of light through the darkness of *Dobbs*. Immediately after the *Dobbs* decision, abortion funds experienced spikes in donations and volunteers. The demands on the network resulted in huge capacity shifts and a need for more infrastructure to manage the complex logistical needs. The rapid response from people on the ground was an exciting time for our membership; however, it came without a promise of the sustainability of that support or funding the further away we got from the decision.

## AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY, I SEE ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL FOR OUR NETWORK.



I see a future where we are not afraid of the darkness because abortion funds are the stars guiding us to a new movement era rooted in Reproductive Justice. I see the hopes and dreams of our elders and ancestors in the constellations of care, reminding us of our collective responsibility to eliminate barriers to our freedom.

I see shooting stars representing the love and care that goes into abortion funding that moves at the speed of trust to ensure that transformational relationships are built between volunteers and funds that center the needs of callers. I see abortion funds as part of a cross-movement galaxy cluster bound by our commitment to liberation for all.

Cheers to 30 Years,



Oriaku Njoku

Oriaku Njoku, Executive Director

## OUR NETWORK

# AT A GLANCE

Abortion funds have been investing in their internal capacity: updating intake systems to be more secure and values aligned, hiring and supporting staff and volunteers, and stepping up in their organizing work. Historically, abortion funds have been volunteer-run, and now:

## 56% OF ABORTION FUNDS NOW HAVE AT LEAST ONE FULL-TIME STAFF MEMBER.

This has allowed for dramatically greater capacity to redistribute funding to their callers. The median funding budget of our membership increased from \$40,000 in FY21 to over \$80,000 in FY22. From July 2021-June 2022, **funds were able to distribute almost \$20 million dollars in abortion funding** (\$19,648,236).

# 100

MEMBER FUNDS

# 3

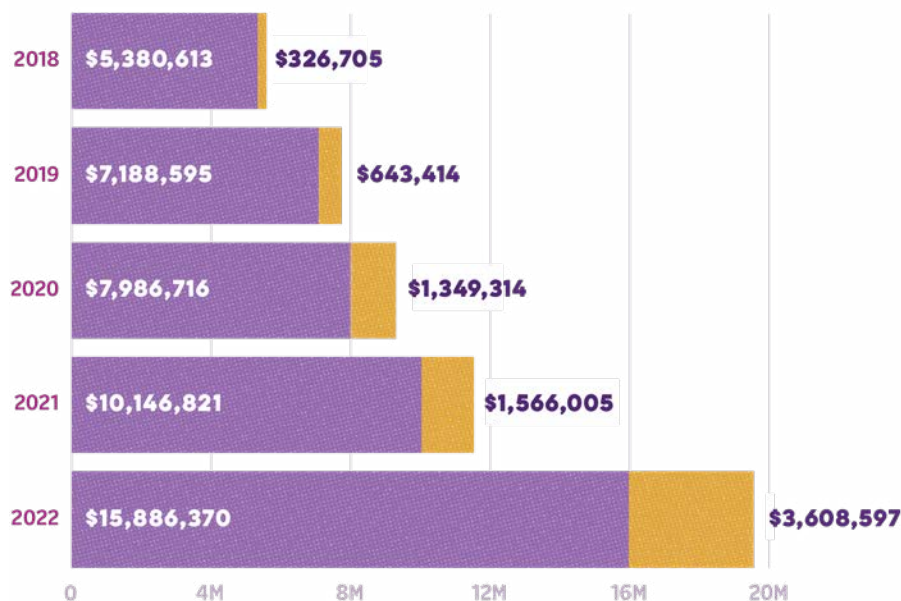
2022 NEW FUNDS

# \$267

2022 AVG. GRANT SIZE

### ABORTION FUNDING + PRACTICAL SUPPORT BUDGETS OVER TIME

● ABORTION FUNDING ● PRACTICAL SUPPORT



### 2022 FUND-A-THON PARTICIPANTS & DONORS

# 54

FUNDS

# 19,970

DONORS



### TOTAL MEDIAN FUNDING BUDGET NETWORK-WIDE



62

STAFFED FUNDS

315

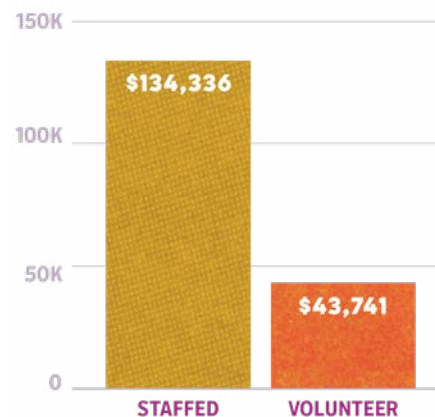
FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

8,999

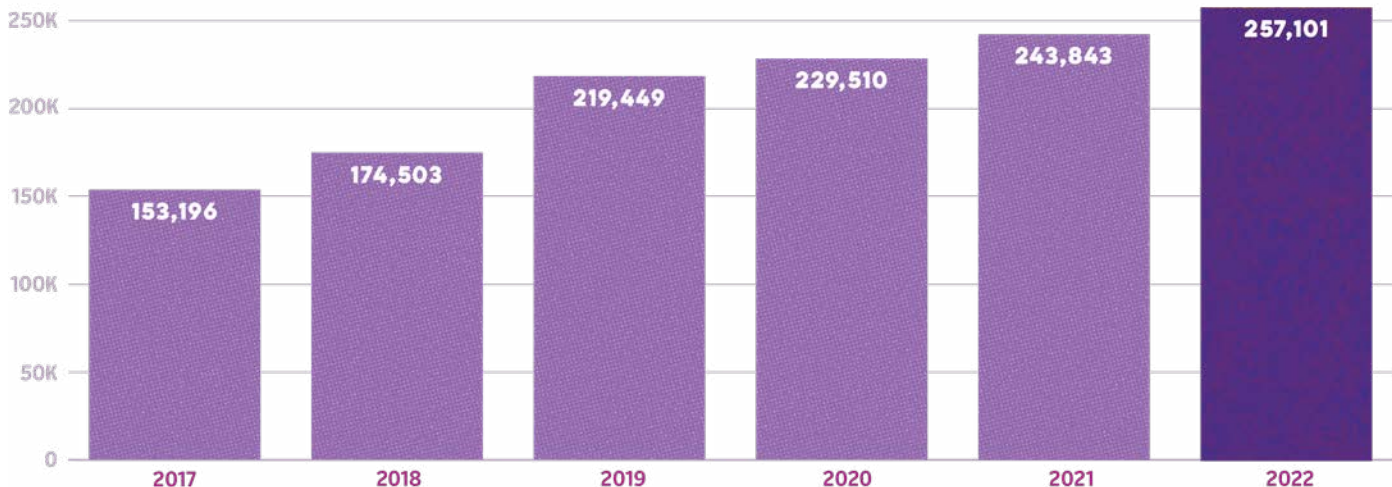
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

as of June 2022

### STAFFED VS. VOLUNTEER MEDIAN FUNDING BUDGET NETWORK-WIDE



### REQUESTS RECEIVED NETWORK-WIDE



INDEPENDENT AND AFFILIATE FUNDS SUPPORT **74%** OF CALLERS

### IN CONCLUSION

Through the pandemic, state abortion bans, and rising threats of criminalization, abortion funds have continued to move mountains to get callers the reproductive healthcare that they needed. **Because of the incredible investment in abortion funds, our network is able to support 74% of the requests that are received, a huge increase from 64% in 2021 and 56% in 2020.** However, landscape changes have required pivots and fund members are working around the clock to help people access care. We need sustained and long-term investment in abortion fund staffing, infrastructure, and movement building. In the spirit of abundance **donate monthly to your local abortion fund** to continue moving resources to those in your communities that need it most. You can also contribute directly to NNAF to support the infrastructure, capacity building, leadership development needs and more.





# ACROSS THE CONSTELLATIONS



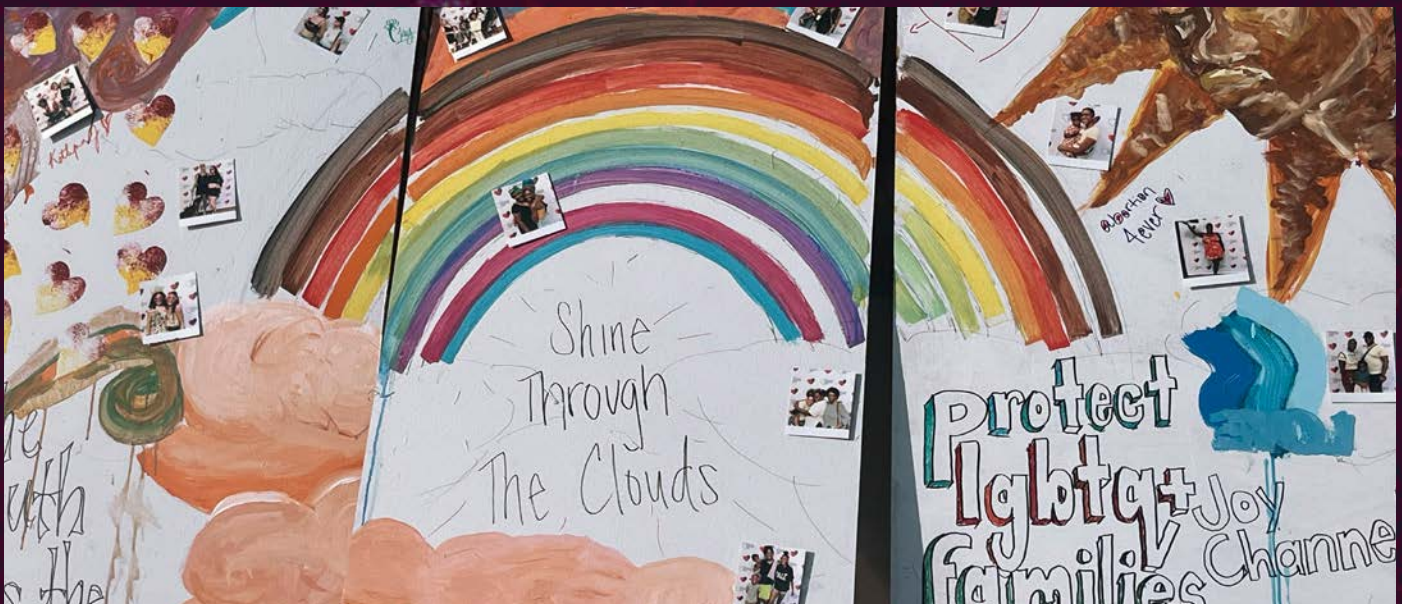
Courtesy of Chicago Abortion Fund

**"WE HAVE A RADICAL VISION  
OF PEOPLE LIVING FREELY  
AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE  
HERE IN THIS COMMUNITY."**

— LOUISIANA ABORTION FUND



Courtesy of Louisiana Abortion Fund



Courtesy of Chicago Abortion Fund



**"TO ME, REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE MEANS  
A WORLD IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO  
LIVE AND RAISE THEIR FAMILY SAFELY, WITH  
THE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES NOT JUST  
TO LIVE, BUT TO THRIVE."**

**— ABORTION FUND OF OHIO**



Courtesy of Abortion Fund of Ohio



Courtesy of Chicago Abortion Fund



Courtesy of Chicago Abortion Fund



Courtesy of Indigenous Women Rising

**"WE ARE GRATEFUL AND PROUD TO BE ABLE  
TO REDISTRIBUTE RESOURCES TO NATIVE  
FAMILIES SO THAT THEY HAVE THE ACCESS  
TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR  
LIVES AND FAMILIES."**

**— INDIGENOUS WOMEN RISING**



# TIMELINE

## SUMMER 2021

With the COVID pandemic making it impossible to gather in person safely, and amidst multiple ongoing crises, NNAF made a focused effort to connect 1:1 with the network to rebuild connections with member funds and set the stage for deepening connectivity and partnership. In 2022, this practice was formalized into twice-a-year **Equinox Calls**, with accompanying **Solstice Reports** to share themes and next steps back to member funds.

## OCTOBER 2021

NNAF launched the **Network Resource Library**, a repository of professional development and organizational development resources for abortion funds. The library was part of overall improvements to providing support to member funds, including launching a technical assistance request system that receives, tracks, and triages requests for support from member funds.

## MARCH 2022 – JUNE 2023

Hosted **Service Delivery Huddles**, a virtual space every four to six weeks for fund members to connect with each other about service delivery coordination.

## MAY 2022

\$2.67 million was raised for member funds through **Fund-a-Thon**, crushing the collective fundraising goal of \$1.5 million.

**The leak of the Dobbs decision** led to a wave of support so intense it crashed the NNAF website. Our ActBlue page was circulated while the site was down, and in the days following the leak individual donors gave over \$2.4 million to the local abortion funds in our network.

## OCTOBER 2020 – FEBRUARY 2022

NNAF worked with facilitator, consultant, psychotherapist, and healing justice practitioner **Erica Woodland** on a Racial Justice Assessment to engage in an evaluation of the organization's embodiment of racial justice in its structure, systems, operations, and programmatic work.

## SEPT 2021

**Texas Senate Bill 8** went into effect on September 1. This vicious new law made abortion funds, providers, and anyone who helps someone seek an abortion after six weeks in the state vulnerable to a civil lawsuit with minimum damages of \$10,000.

NNAF launched the **ED Leadership Circle**, an informal peer support space for executive directors (EDs) and other leaders at member funds to share space with each other and the NNAF Executive Director.

## JANUARY 2022

Observed the **49th anniversary of Roe**, the final anniversary before the *Dobbs* decision.

Launched **Abortion Fund Demands** via the Abortion Within Reach campaign. The demands were co-written by abortion fund leaders and assert a bold new vision for the future of abortion access.

## APRIL 2022

Launched **Legal Grants**, which were grants for \$15,000 for the discrete legal needs of member funds, such as obtaining a lawyer and legal trainings.

## JUNE 2022

**The Supreme Court** announced the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

NNAF set up an ActBlue **fundraiser for all member abortion funds**, which raised millions of dollars for abortion funds after the Dobbs leak and decision.

**Oriaku Njoku** hired as NNAF's Executive Director to start on July 18, bringing vital organizational expertise, incomparable vision, and boundless optimism to our organization and network.





**"OUR ANCESTORS  
DREAMED US UP  
AND THEN BENT REALITY  
TO CREATE US."**

**- WALIDAH IMARISHA**



# PROGRAMS AND PRIORITIES

Over the last two years, we have intentionally centered equity and justice—internally, within our network, and externally for abortion fund callers—to guide us during this time as we embodied our organizational and network values. We moved with care and prepared for the devastating upending of abortion access across the country.

We listened to the expertise of abortion funds and ensured our network and internal teams had the resources, support, and infrastructures in place to meet the demand of the moment.

## VALUES-DRIVEN ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FORTIFICATION AND INTERNAL PRACTICES

We balanced staff needs, internal infrastructure, and external realities in an increasingly complex, rapidly-changing landscape:

- › We practiced radical human resources, providing people with the resources they need to thrive in their roles. We proudly offered a new benefit — providing staff, partners, and their dependents fertility and family forming, parenting, pediatrics, and menopause support;
- › We crafted internal infrastructure to ensure role clarity, protocols, transparency and cross-department communication to streamline processes and ensure our teams are best equipped to meet their goals; and
- › We managed critical day-to-day operations to maintain compliance and smooth organizational functionality.





## STRATEGIC, RESPONSIVE ACTION TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE EXTERNAL MOMENT

Our organization and member funds experienced a massive increase in visibility, including an influx of new donors, media attention, and individual supporters looking for ways to get involved. In response, we:

- › Co-designed the Operation Scale Up (OSU) Pilot with Baltimore Abortion Fund, Blue Ridge Abortion Fund, Carolina Abortion Fund, DC Abortion Fund, and Richmond Reproductive Freedom Project to provide full financial support for a caller's needs and strengthen the infrastructure and capacity of local abortion funds. While the primary funder decided not to invest in direct service funding for abortion costs and logistical support in 2022, we laid the groundwork and set forth a call for organizations, funders, and individuals to show their strong support for the five pilot funds that have built the capacity and infrastructure to distribute millions of dollars to abortion seekers;
- › Increased NNAF's voice in the media and shaped new narratives that advanced abortion access and centered abortion funds in the press;
- › Supported the network with campaigns such as Fund-A-Thon and Taco-Or-Bev Challenge to increase fundraising goals;
- › Gathered our membership in meaningful ways to support relationship building and collaboration;
- › Provided strategic technical assistance, including operations, security, compliance, media trainings and communications skills building, and a new resource library and legal grants;
- › Launched a new case management system to offer one-on-one technical assistance support;
- › Mobilized resources for the organization and the network, including redistribution of funds via emergent-technical assistance and legal grants and ongoing mechanisms like the Crisis Relief Fund;
- › Implemented a new donor platform and established a simple entry-point for one-time and recurring donors, with intentional touch points throughout the year; and
- › Developed political education, strategy, and praxis offerings that strengthen the network's and supporters' political analysis and movement building with racial justice as the through-line.





# FINANCIALS

Since 2020, the National Network of Abortion Funds successfully amplified the work of our membership, which resulted in an increase in awareness and contributions. Between FY21 and FY22, NNAF’s expenditures doubled, growing from \$13.4M to \$26.9M respectively. The growth was in large part due to a more than \$10M increase in grants disbursed to member funds, particularly through Operation Scale Up, Crisis Relief Funds, as well as fund grants and stipends. While collected by NNAF, Fund-a-Thon funds flow through the organization to member funds.

During this time, NNAF’s internal operating costs remained relatively flat, reflective of the capacity constraints felt organization-wide.

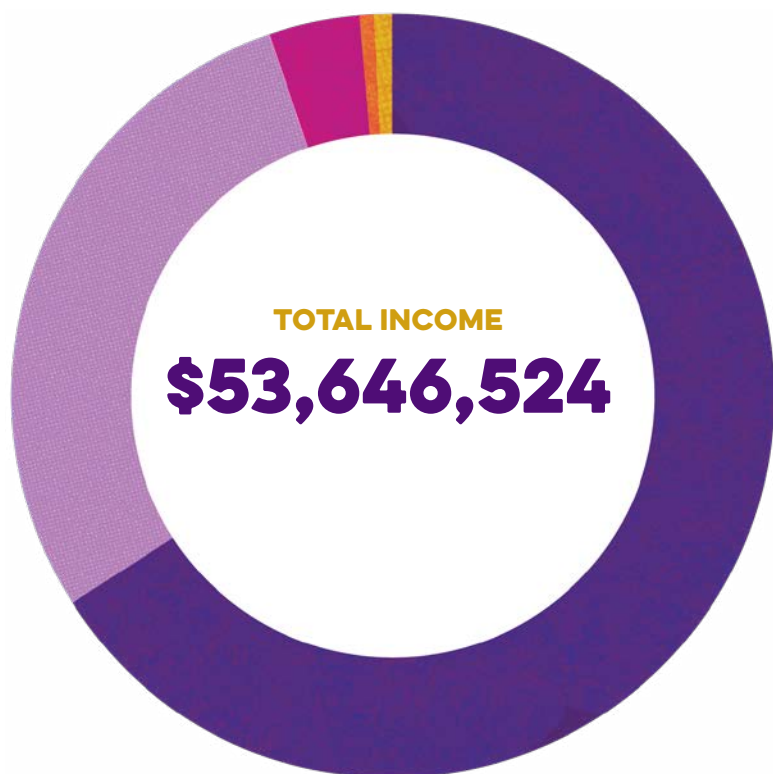
*Note: Our audited financials can be reviewed on [abortionfunds.org](https://abortionfunds.org)*

FY22  
EXPENSES

\$24,868,804







## FY22 REVENUE

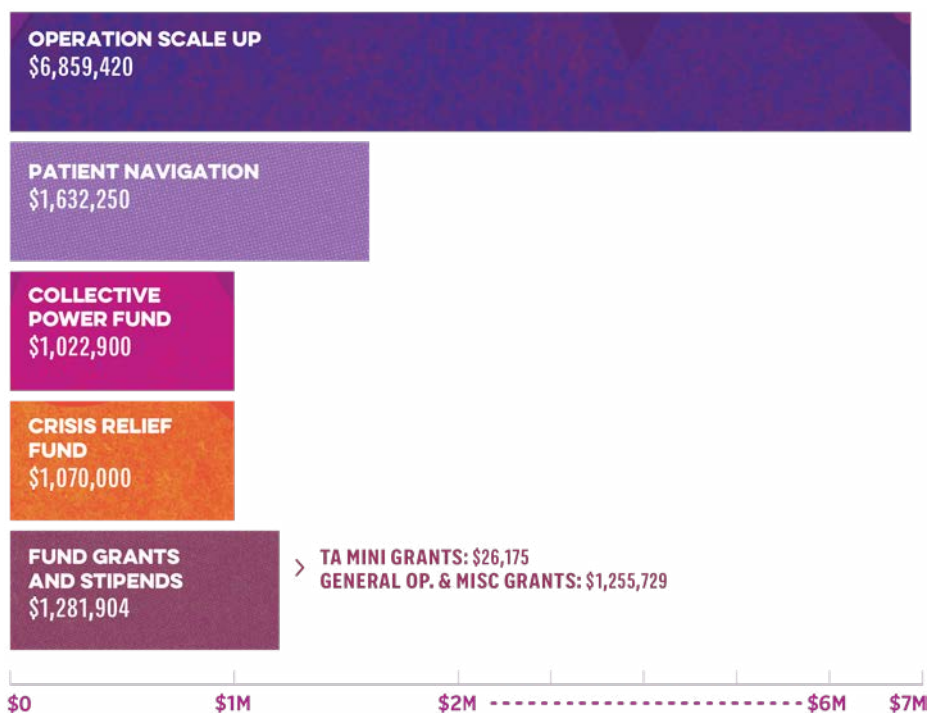
- **\$35,626,287**  
Grants
- **\$15,720,793**  
Individual Contributions
- **\$2,112,509**  
Fund-a-Thon Donation
- **-\$223,612**  
Net Investment Income
- **\$410,547**  
Other income

## FY22 COLLECTIVE POWER FUND IMPACT

An additional \$200K was added from the Operation Scale Up budget to the Collective Power Fund expenses to the funds involved in OSU, not reflected in this impact report.

## FY22 REDISTRIBUTION TO THE NETWORK

**\$11,866,474**







# LOOKING AHEAD

The last three years have shown us that we must radically shift how we approach this abortion access crisis.





We must be grounded and strategic and believe in an abundant future where we have all the funding, information, and resources required to adequately meet the needs of abortion funds and abortion seekers. We cannot make compromises and create temporary fixes that only focus on protecting the legality of abortion.

If we are Pro-Abortion and Pro-Choice, we must remember that we are also in choice. As a movement, we must choose to work toward a future that does not replicate the harsh reality of *Roe*, which never guaranteed that abortions would be accessible, available, or acceptable. We all must reckon with the things that are no longer serving us as we look to use our north star of collective liberation to reorient ourselves to manifesting a future beyond *Roe*. Our communities are worthy of so much more than what the status quo tells us! We must move beyond silos and build sustainable strategies that are rooted in hope, collective dreaming, principled struggle, and a deep commitment to our values. To that end, we have chosen four organizational priorities for July 2023-June 2024 before embarking on our strategic plan in the mid-2024:

## INTERNAL | MEMBERSHIP | ORGANIZING | MOVEMENT

NNAF will continue to center the leadership and expertise of abortion funds, working to strengthen the organizing capacity of our members so they can continue to provide a caller-centered, holistic, and networked approach to building power. We are fortifying our organizational resiliency and steering an organizational culture shift that centers sustainability, racial justice, healing, and trust – through intentional pause, external support and evaluation of our processes, and a commitment to principled struggle and continued dialogue. Our vision is to enhance member engagement and experience by deepening a culture of exchange, evaluation, adaptation, and accountability for values-aligned movement building!

We have what we need amongst each other and we know that they can never rob us of our ability to dream, to love, and to build together. No matter how much the external climate might paint a picture of darkness, we must look up at the stars to map out the constellations. When the skies are overcast with the doom and gloom of the crisis we are in, knowing that the abortion funds, like stars, are always there even when we cannot see them provides comfort at a time we all need it most. Find the pockets that are illuminating your spaces – join your local abortion fund, keep funding abortions, and build power!





## IN CONCLUSION

It is important to celebrate things that bring joy and pleasure, especially in movement moments that are experienced as crises. We are celebrating this huge shift in cultural and financial capital as abortion funds are receiving the recognition they deserve as on-the-ground experts in the abortion access movement. Our plan is to harness this cultural and financial capital to catalyze our movement and bring about systemic change.

This unprecedented growth of NNAF is right on time as we shift from dreaming to strategizing as a movement anchor. As we look ahead, our financial strategy will be driven by transparency and clarity as we scale further to meet the growing needs of the network. The next two years will be crucial to position NNAF as a political home for those seeking to operationalize and embody Reproductive Justice values in the abortion access movement. We are moving from theory to practice and will work to build a strategy for the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of our membership. Part of the financial strategy includes confidently stepping in as a funding intermediary for abortion funds centering on trust, accountability, and consent. We will also explore development strategies that increase our capacity to fund abortion and build power simultaneously.

NNAF is eternally grateful to all of our donors and supporters for their continued commitment to our work and to our network of 100 funds.



# NNAF BOARD

## FY22

## FY23

Asha Dane'el

Rosa Yadira Ortiz

Melissa Flores

Shilpi Shah

Tanya Ladha

Zakiya Luna

Anjali Salvador

Katrina Rogers

Uma Rao

Katherine McGuiness

Poonam Dreyfus-Pai

Daphne Mazuz

Marlo Barrera

Maureen Stutzman

Asha Dane'el

Rosa Yadira Ortiz

Melissa Flores

Shilpi Shah

Tanya Ladha

Zakiya Luna

Anjali Salvador

Katrina Rogers

Uma Rao

Katherine McGuiness

*Term Ended December 2022*

Poonam Dreyfus-Pai

*Resigned January 2023;*

*Joined NNAF Staff August 2023*

Daphne Mazuz

*Term Ended June 2023*

Marlo Barrera

*Resigned August 2023;*

*Joined NNAF Staff October 2023*



THIS FIGHT ISN'T OVER. NOT EVEN CLOSE

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PMB 16009, Beaverton, OR 97008

[abortionfunds.org](http://abortionfunds.org)

[@abortionfunds](https://twitter.com/abortionfunds)