



ABORTION BRIDGE

COLLABORATIVE FUND

IMPACT REPORT 2

The ABC Fund is an initiative of the Women Donors Network, a nationwide donor community with extensive connections to the reproductive health and justice movements that invests deeply and funds rapidly for impact.

WDN WOMEN
DONORS
NETWORK

Answering the Call

The Abortion Bridge Collaborative Fund was founded to meet a particular moment – the fall of *Roe* in the United States – but was also established to help organizations across the country in an unprecedented moment of need. **In its first year of funding, the ABC Fund has quickly established itself as a unique and trusted partner in the reproductive rights landscape.**

Unfortunately, in the year and more since the *Dobbs* decision, the needs of the organizations the ABC Fund seeks to support have only grown greater: funders have pulled or are pulling back from funding abortion, **a constantly-changing legal landscape provides innumerable difficulties for organizations providing abortion and reproductive justice services**, and more people than ever are cut off from accessing affordable, proximate reproductive healthcare. The work of the ABC Fund has, sadly, only become more urgent.



As we look toward a second year post-*Roe* – and our second year of grantmaking and donor organizing – we anticipate even greater challenges: More states are expected to enact restrictions, forcing people to travel even greater distances to get to care. Potential challenges to the status of one of two abortion pills, mifepristone, seem likely, pending a ruling from the Supreme Court. The temporary increase in donations and public awareness that many organizations saw in the immediate aftermath of the *Dobbs* decision is now gone.

Given this reality, **the ABC Fund will continue to fund the clinics, abortion funds, disseminators of information**, and other organizations that facilitate getting people to care. Alongside this ongoing work, the ABC Fund will also make strategic investments in organizations helping to build a new future of abortion access.

We will continue to prioritize innovation and experimentation: for example, funding organizations that seek to pass and take advantage of shield laws, which protect providers who can mail abortion pills to banned states, alongside funding state-based organizing to strengthen and reinstate abortion access. **We are committed to providing funding that allows organizations to survive and thrive in the present, while also imagining a radically different world of abortion access and equity.**

Grounded in Values

The ABC Fund ensures abortion care endures across the U.S. by moving money rapidly to support organizations that fill immediate needs or build long-term infrastructure to protect and advance nationwide abortion access. **The dollars we grant are as effective as they are because of our participatory grantmaking structure.**

Our team of experts – **activists, movement leaders, abortion providers, funders, and attorneys from the reproductive rights, health, and justice movements** – identify organizations and projects engaging in the most critical abortion work.



The Fund meets monthly and uses a low-barrier application, only providing unrestricted funding which enables organizations to save staff time and to decide how funds are best used. Abortion seekers and providers across the country need strong allies to ensure abortion is accessible now and always. The ABC Fund is proud to be one of them.



WDN was the only entity to ask us exactly what we needed to make it. They asked for a dollar amount, and didn't hesitate to provide exactly that...**Without WDN, we would be closed.** That is the absolute truth. And that while that may not seem like a large change to the overall fabric of the reproductive rights landscape, I can promise you that **to the state of Alabama, and the most vulnerable populations here, it means everything.**

West Alabama Women's Center,
ABC Grantee

Rooted in Action

The ABC Fund is an initiative of the Women Donors Network (WDN), a national donor community with extensive connections to the reproductive health and justice movements and a track record of supporting these movements.

WDN has a long history of seeding and/or incubating organizations, notably in recent years the Emergent Fund (on which the ABC Fund's participatory grantmaking structure is closely modeled) and the Reflective Democracy Campaign. The Abortion Bridge Collaborative Fund is supported by WDN's fiscal sponsorship and staff resources, which has allowed the Fund to launch, fundraise, and begin granting quickly and efficiently.



Donors are able to contribute anonymously to the ABC Fund via WDN and the fiscal sponsorship provided by WDN allows the ABC Fund to take additional risks in funding this work. The ABC Fund is also extremely fortunate to be closely tied to WDN's brilliant donor community, which seeded the Fund and whose board continues to provide strategic guidance, feedback, and support. WDN and its members recognize that the ABC Fund offers a unique and critical opportunity to organize ALL donors - existing and new - to the abortion rights movement. We will continue to invest in and grow this part of the ABC Fund's work. **WDN was made for moments like this.**

Funding Summary

GRANTED TO DATE: **\$4.015M**

31 GRANTS
AWARDED

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$130,000

100%
WOMEN-LED
ORGANIZATIONS

81%
BIPOC-LED
ORGANIZATIONS



PROVISION
\$1,700,000

Keeping clinics open and able
to provide safe & accessible
reproductive health care



INFORMATION
\$610,000

Disseminating information
about how to access abortion &
protection while seeking care



ORGANIZING
\$130,000

Building & organizing the base of
abortion defenders to protect
and expand abortion access



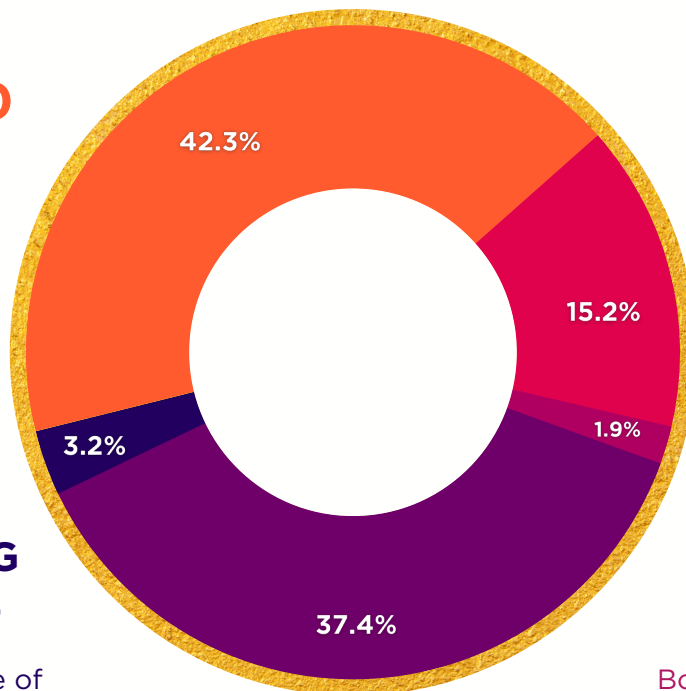
PROTECTION
\$75,000

Bolstering legal & digital security
to counter criminalization and
anti-abortion extremism



SUPPORT
\$1,500,000

Helping patients access care
and sustaining the abortion
rights movement



Impact Highlights



West Alabama Women's Center

In our first round of grantmaking, ABC sent \$300,000 to the West Alabama Women's Center, a former abortion clinic. The Center needed six months of support to transition its services and financial model, as they are one of the few reproductive health facilities serving low-income people in a high-need area. **By fully funding the clinic for six months, the Center could focus on service provision rather than fundraising.** According to the Center's leadership, the grant allowed the clinic to survive this first difficult period post-*Dobbs*.

New York Abortion Access Fund

Virtually every abortion fund in the U.S. has seen a significant increase in demand for funding, either to help clients trying to leave their state or region for care or to assist clients traveling to their state or region for care. New York Abortion Access Fund exemplifies an abortion fund in a state that still has abortion access that has seen a huge surge in demand due to abortion seekers traveling to New York, many of them needing abortions later in pregnancy (a more expensive procedure). **The ABC Fund provided a grant that supported NYAAF's transition from an all-volunteer organization to an organization with paid, full-time staff** who are better able to meet the needs of their clients.

Cambridge Reproductive Health Consultants

After the passage of Massachusetts' shield law that allowed physicians to prescribe and ship abortion pills to states with abortion bans, Cambridge Reproductive Health Consultants launched a small pharmacy to provide doctors with pills. **The \$50,000 granted by the ABC Fund seeded the project, allowing them to raise additional funds and launch.** The project is an important "proof of concept" model, demonstrating the power of shield laws and facilitating doctors' abilities to take advantage of them.



Lessons from Our Grantmaking Advisors

The heart of the ABC Fund is our Grantmaking Advisory Council, **a group of the best strategic thinkers and doers in the reproductive rights, health, and justice movement today.**

They make every recommendation about which organizations get funded, when, and how much; and it is due in no small part to their wisdom and insight that the ABC Fund has achieved what it has this year.

Their charge to us from the beginning has been to **fund from a place of trust and, as much as resources allow, abundance**; to move quickly and with care for our grantees; to provide general operating support and keep the application lift as light as possible.



It's really interesting to think about how to prioritize various projects and what the rest of the movement is and is not willing to fund. I've really appreciated the opportunity to grow and make a difference for my colleagues' work."



Renee Bracey Sherman,
ABC Grantmaking Advisory Council Member



"I think the ABC Fund is already doing so much to support the field, I am hopeful that with fundraising, we can really raise the profile of the fund itself and the grantees. I would love to see maybe funders/donors who haven't traditionally funded abortions, funding this work.



alicia sanchez gill,
ABC Grantmaking Advisory Council Member

ABC FUND GRANTMAKING ADVISORY COUNCIL

Jill E. Adams
Formerly of
If/When/How

Renee Bracey Sherman
We Testify

Poonam Dreyfus-Pai
National Network of
Abortion Funds

Naa Hammond
Groundswell Fund

Silvia Henriquez
Formerly of All*
Above All

Kwajelyn Jackson
Feminist Women's
Health Center

Rachael Lorenzo
Indigenous Women
Rising

Oriaku Njoku
National Network of
Abortion Funds

alicia sanchez gill
Emergent Fund

Tracy Weitz
American University

This year, we completed two rounds of surveys to better understand how we could improve the experiences of our Grantmaking Advisory Council members. **We are proud that our advisors reported:**

1.

A desire to continue serving on the ABC Grantmaking Advisory Council

2.

A tremendous sense of community with one another on the ABC GAC

3.

The belief that the **ABC Fund has had a significant impact** on the current abortion funding landscape

Lessons from Our Grantees

We also conducted a grantee survey at our one-year mark to gain insight into the experiences of our 30 grantee organizations. Every single one of our grantees is under-resourced. Most are under-staffed, particularly abortion funds, many of which have had few or no paid staff members in the recent past.

Nearly half of our grantees need support with strategic planning, and all of them need support with fundraising. Unfortunately, these findings from our inaugural grantee survey are consistent with what our Grantmaking Advisory Council (and what WDN) is hearing from abortion groups across the U.S.

Our grantees also provided invaluable feedback about how we can improve our application process and communication with them. While we are proud of how positive the feedback from our grantees has been about their experience working with the ABC Fund, we are grateful for feedback about how we can continually serve as better partners.

Most of our grantee partners spoke to **how unusual and empowering the ABC Fund application process was**, uplifting our:

1. **Limited, low-lift application**
2. **Zero required grant reporting**
3. **Complete trust in the organization** and what they do with the money

“This was one of the **easiest and most affirming funder experiences** I’ve had in almost 30 years of doing this work. I appreciate you all for the support you are providing & how you are providing it.

All-Options, ABC Grantee



“We are super appreciative of the **brevity of the application**, and the lack of lots of special supporting documents. Also, the stellar advisory council are the **people who know EXACTLY what is needed by the on-the-ground movement** at this time.”

Abortion Access Front,
ABC Grantee



Rising to the Moment & Looking Ahead

It is clear that the Abortion Bridge Collaborative Fund occupies a critical niche in the funding landscape for abortion access – and that it will continue to be needed in the near (and medium) term. Our charge has always been to listen and think critically about how to best serve the field, and the ABC Fund has an ambitious plan for donor organizing and grantee support.

In addition to increasing our grantmaking, in Year 2, our goal is to expand upon our donor organizing – focusing on connection-building and information sharing, and to build deeper offerings for our grantees beyond initial grant funding. We anticipate hiring dedicated staff support for the Fund so that we can continue to evolve to meet the needs of the abortion rights movement and our funder community, bridging – as ever – the gaps with our unique, trust-based, participatory approach.

It is together, *especially* in these pivotal moments of uncertainty, that our unity is our greatest strength. We have shown how quickly we can collectively bridge the critical gaps left in the wake of a failing system. Our collective power inspires and mobilizes the broader philanthropic community to show what's possible.



The ABC Fund is essential to many organizations having the resources needed to deliver abortion care immediately instead of being burdened by having staff spend their time and resources to fundraise for support.

We invite you, our trusted partner, to join us in continuing to lead this vital effort through your investment in the ABC Fund. **It is through your donor activism that we will ensure the patchwork of abortion access across the nation remains intact.** We are grateful for your partnership in this movement and all the ways you share your gifts of time, resources, and connections as we embark together on this next chapter.

Join us as we bridge the gaps, build the critical infrastructure, and lay the groundwork to ensure abortion is accessible **now and always.**

FUND

ABORTION BRIDGE
COLLABORATIVE FUND

NOW



GIVE ONLINE: Make a gift via credit card at womendonors.giv.sh/ce54.



SEND A CHECK/CONTRIBUTE VIA DAF to The ABC Fund c/o Women Donors Network, PO Box 2930, San Francisco, CA 94126.



MAKE A GIFT OF STOCK: Contact Angela Bottum, CFO, at 415-814-1333 or abottum@womendonors.org to contribute via stock or wire transfer.



LEARN MORE: womendonors.org/funded-projects/abortion-bridge



Grantees to Date

Abortion Access Front
Abortion Care Network
All-Options
Alpha Trans Puerto Rico Transgender Wellness Center
Amplify Georgia
Anonymous
Apiary for Practical Support
Cambridge Reproductive Health Consultants
CHOICES
DC Abortion Fund
Desert Star Institute for Family Planning
Endora
Famalao'an Rights
Feminist Women's Health Center
INeedAnA.com
Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health
NY Abortion Access Fund
Online Abortion Resource Squad (OARS)
Provide, Inc.
Reprocare
ReproJobs
Self-Managed Abortion, Safe & Supported (SASS)
Sisters Helping Everywoman Rise and Organize (SHERo)
The Feminist Front
The REACH Fund of Connecticut
Utah Abortion Fund
Valley Abortion Group
West Alabama Women's Center
Wild West Access Fund of Nevada
Women's Health Center of West Virginia