



REPRODUCTIVE EQUITY NOW

Who Are the Abortion Funds in Massachusetts?

Abortion funds are groups that organize to help people (both in and out of state) obtain an abortion when they may not be able to afford it otherwise.¹ Abortion funds work by pledging to cover a portion of a patient's total bill. Some abortion funds also help with “travel, lodging, child care, doula, and translation services so that accessing an abortion is less challenging.”² **The existence of abortion funds helps ensure that thousands of individuals can receive the health care they need.**

Abortion funds are community-based organizations with decades of experience filling gaps in our health care system because **cost is one of the biggest barriers to accessing abortion care.**³ In fact, 75% of abortion patients are considered low-income.⁴ According to the Guttmacher Institute, a surgical abortion at 10 weeks gestation costs an average of \$508; medication abortion, available up to 10 weeks, costs an average of \$535.⁴ The cost goes up later in pregnancy, averaging \$1,195.⁵ However, these figures ignore the range of possible costs: a Massachusetts study found that the cost of medication abortion can range from \$420 to \$920, and surgical or aspiration abortion could range from \$420 to \$3,450.⁶

The National Network of Abortion Funds ([NNAF](https://abortionfunds.org)) is a network of grassroots abortion funds operating in forty states.⁷ According to the NNAF, “[t]ogether abortion funds form a network of over 90 grassroots organizations that directly supported 56,155 people in fiscal year 2019. But that's only 26% of the 215,573 calls [NNAF] received that year.

¹ Common Questions About Abortion Funds. *National Network of Abortion Funds* <https://abortionfunds.org/common-questions/>.

² Abortion Providers in Massachusetts, NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts (2015).

³ Higgins, J. A., Lands, M., Valley, T. M., Carpenter, E. & Jacques, L. Real-Time Effects of Payer Restrictions on Reproductive Healthcare: A Qualitative Analysis of Cost-Related Barriers and Their Consequences among U.S. Abortion Seekers on Reddit. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* **18**, 9013 (2021).

⁴ Jerman, J., Jones, R. K. & Onda, T. Characteristics of U.S. Abortion Patients in 2014 and Changes Since 2008. (2016).

⁵ RK, J., M, I. & J, J. Differences in Abortion Service Delivery in Hostile, Middle-ground, and Supportive States in 2014. *Women's health issues: official publication of the Jacobs Institute of Women's Health* **28**, 212–216 (2018).

⁶ Abortion Providers in Massachusetts, *supra* note 2.

⁷ Financial Resources for Abortion. *Provide Inc.* <https://providecare.org/financial-resources-abortion/>.

There is great unmet need.”⁸ In addition to the work of NNAF, **four main abortion funds operate in Massachusetts:**

- **Eastern Massachusetts Abortion Fund (the [EMA Fund](#))**

“Eastern Massachusetts Abortion (EMA) Fund is your local abortion fund that works to ensure that all people living in or traveling to eastern Massachusetts have access to abortion. Access to abortion is a matter of social justice, reproductive justice, economic justice, fairness, and human rights. The EMA Fund provides people with funding and practical support to access abortion care. We help them get onto MassHealth quickly or find doctors that will take their insurance. We negotiate with abortion providers, and we pay for callers' bus or train tickets, car rides, hotels, childcare, and translation services. We focus on our Eastern Massachusetts community but recognize that the work we do has a ripple effect that furthers the larger movement for reproductive justice.”

- **Tides for Reproductive Freedom ([Tides](#))**

“We are the first abortion fund in MA founded and led by Queer, Black, and Indigenous People. Tides for Reproductive Freedom is dedicated to providing practical and financial support for people across race, gender, sexuality, spirituality, ethnicity, ability, and history seeking access to abortion services. Our goal is to fill the funding and practical support gaps across the state by working directly with frontline communities. As members of these communities, we find ourselves equipt to do the necessary work of centering and working with people from our communities, while also investing in their leadership. We are committed to working strategically with our fellow Massachusetts abortion funds to meet our people where they are through sustainable system building to ensure equitable access to reproductive health, services, and justice.”

- **Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts ([ARFWM](#))**

“The Abortion Rights Fund of Western Massachusetts (ARFWM) is a community-based, all-volunteer organization dedicated to overcoming barriers to abortion access. Every person has a human right to make their own decisions about when, whether, and how to create family. But a right is not a right if you can't afford it. To realize the human right to abortion health care, ARFWM provides financial assistance to people seeking abortions who cannot afford them. Our primary commitment is to the communities of the four counties of Western Massachusetts,

⁸ Abortion Funds 101. *National Network of Abortion Funds*
<https://abortionfunds.org/about/abortion-funds-101/>.

although we support people across the state and the country when funds are available.”

- **Jane Fund of Central Massachusetts ([Jane Fund](#))**

“The Jane Fund of Central Massachusetts is dedicated to funding and supporting abortion access in Central Massachusetts and beyond. We believe abortion is a key part of comprehensive health care. We envision a world in which there is reproductive justice. This means 'the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.’*

*Credit to SisterSong for this definition of reproductive justice, and to the Black women who have pioneered the movement.”
