

Best Practices in Municipal Abortion Funding

Allocating municipal funding to local abortion funds is one of the most important and impactful ways that a city can support abortion access, for its residents and for all those who must travel for abortion care. In order to best protect the confidentiality of clients, staff, and volunteers of abortion funds, and help build, support, and sustain abortion access infrastructure for the long-term, the following are best practices recommended by the National Institute for Reproductive Health.

- **Work closely with the abortion fund:** Maintain close coordination with the abortion fund to ensure they are ready and able to receive the intended amount of funding. Understand the fund's needs and work with them to find appropriate funding based on their size, staffing, and client need.
- **Protect confidentiality:** Requiring information that could be used to identify clients of the abortion fund – including full names and addresses – puts clients at risk. Ask the abortion fund what information they already track about clients and whether that is sufficient to meet reporting requirements for the funding. If not, work closely with the fund to determine what information could be reported safely, without putting clients at risk.
- **Minimize restrictions to serve as many people as possible:** Abortion funds serve people from your community, surrounding communities, and surrounding states. For your community to be a leader on abortion access for the state and country, ensure that abortion funds can serve the broadest possible pool of clients, regardless of where they live or whether they can prove residency.
- **Invest in long-term infrastructure:** Many abortion funds are run entirely by volunteers, and many more have a very small paid staff. Abortion funds are already experts in how to help people pay for and access abortions but they may need support in building up their infrastructure to work with a larger budget and serve a broader population, as well as to comply with reporting requirements of the grant. Grant funding must include administrative support so that funds can build up their infrastructure and comply with the terms of the grant.

Contact us at the National Institute for Reproductive Health with any questions.

Jenny Dodson Mistry
jmistry@nirhealth.org
National Institute for Reproductive Health