



Funding Opportunity for Abortion Coverage Policy Lab Expanding Access through Public Funding for Abortion

The National Institute for Reproductive Health is requesting proposals from organizations interested in joining our Abortion Coverage Policy Lab. The Policy Lab's goal is to improve and advance the equitable delivery and utilization of publicly funded reproductive health services in states across the country. Participants in the Policy Lab will co-develop and implement policy campaigns in their states; coordinate strategic state-level responses to federal threats to public coverage; and generate movement-facing tools and resources based on their work and learnings.

Successful applicants will receive funding of up to \$40,000 for reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations. Completed applications are due on June 11, 2025. The Policy Lab will run from September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026.

About NIRH

The National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH) drives state and local advocacy that defines the future of reproductive freedom. Through deep partnerships, strategic expertise, and values-based leadership, NIRH works to advance policies that protect and expand access to abortion, contraception, and birth justice in states and localities across the country. Working across geographies and political conditions, NIRH equips advocates and policymakers with the tools to lead—building lasting infrastructure, shifting culture, and translating public support into policy change. Our work has included building broad and inclusive coalitions, planning and launching campaigns, and creating opportunities to enact progressive policies that expand access to reproductive health care.

This work has never been more essential. Political attacks on reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy are unrelenting. Creating a pathway forward requires focus, resolve, and investment in leaders and campaigns that aren't just holding the line - but actively redrawing it.

NIRH's Partnership Strategy

For over 20 years, NIRH has worked hand-in-hand with partners in communities across the country to create a new future for reproductive rights and justice. This work is fueled by the development of bold policy solutions, including legislation, budgetary advocacy,



regulatory change, and executive action. It requires wrap-around support through technical assistance; strategic guidance; and advocacy, policy, and communications support. NIRH's approach contributes to the sustainability of our movement by building state and local capacity and creating opportunities for community learning and knowledge sharing amongst partners. Since 2008, NIRH has advanced our mission in 43 states, including more than 80 localities, by working side-by-side with more than 200 organizational partners.

NIRH is committed to centering and working with those who face disproportionate barriers to accessible reproductive health care and who are most impacted by systemic racism. This includes Black and Brown people, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, and people with low incomes. We prioritize partnering with organizations led by and deeply connected to these communities as we strive to build an equitable world where all people can determine their own futures and all families can thrive. We also recognize that reproductive freedom cannot be won in isolation. Across our partnerships, we encourage alignment with other movements—racial, economic, LGBTQ+, and democracy—recognizing that the same forces attacking reproductive autonomy are also threatening fundamental civil rights.

NIRH's Commitment to Racial Equity

NIRH staff have a deep commitment to racial equity, and have been engaged in an ongoing process to adopt and incorporate a racial equity lens across the organization. We are a reproductive health and rights organization that incorporates reproductive justice values into our work. We recognize the interconnectivity of identities, such as race, socio-economic status, immigration status, ability, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity, and how they interact with systems of oppressions to shape and impact a person's freedom and ability to control their reproductive and sexual lives. This understanding is foundational to our partnership approach.

About the Abortion Coverage Policy Lab

The Abortion Coverage Policy Lab aims to achieve durable state-level policy wins that expand access to publicly funded abortion care. The Policy Lab will bring together organizations working on, or seeking to work on, such policy efforts in their states, and serve as a space for shared learning and peer support throughout their campaigns.

As federal threats to Medicaid, abortion coverage, and essential health benefits escalate, we must be prepared to both advance and defend them. The Policy Lab is designed to:

- Facilitate policy innovation grounded in equity and feasibility
- Support campaign planning and readiness, even under shifting political conditions
- Enable shared learning and peer problem-solving, particularly around restrictions on public coverage of abortion as they emerge
- Generate resources, messages, and frameworks that benefit the broader movement

The Policy Lab will be a space for rapid response, brainstorming, and innovation in real time so that our work continues, regardless of how oppressive our reality may become. Based on the learnings of the Policy Lab, NIRH will lead the development of tools, messaging guidance, and implementation strategies that can serve the broader reproductive freedom movement, with support and input from Policy Lab partners.

Cross-movement collaboration will be strongly encouraged and facilitated. We recognize that achieving public coverage for abortion requires intersectional alignment with health justice, racial equity, economic security, and immigrant rights. The Policy Lab will support participants in forging these connections and surfacing strategies that reflect shared values and goals

Commitment to the Policy Lab

Participants in the Policy Lab will be expected to participate in the following:

- A project aimed at expanding public coverage for abortion in their state, e.g., reimbursement rate disparities, administrative barriers to access, and other opportunities for funding to offset the cost of abortion care
- One monthly one-hour Lab cohort meeting
- One monthly one-hour meeting between your organization and NIRH staff focused specifically on your project
- Participation in webinars, peer strategy sessions, messaging work, and/or rapid response coordination as needed and jointly determined by Policy Lab participants and NIRH. We anticipate this additional time commitment to range from 0-3 hours per month. Collaborate with NIRH to shape tools and resources for movement-wide dissemination

Funding of up to \$40,000 per project is available to participants in the Abortion Coverage Policy Lab to support organizations' work to expand public coverage of abortion on the state level and participation in the Policy Lab itself.

Selection Criteria and Submission Process

We prioritize proposals from reproductive justice organizations and organizations that serve and center communities most impacted by limits on public coverage of abortion, including but not limited to Black, Indigenous, Latine, and Asian communities, immigrants, young people, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities.

We are also prioritizing applications from states with political environments favorable to implementing a new or better public coverage model for abortion care. This includes:

- States where abortion care is currently covered through the state's Medicaid program
- States where there are opportunities to lay the groundwork for public coverage of abortion in Medicaid and/or other programs

Applications will be judged based on a variety of criteria including but not limited to:

- The impact the project will have on expanding and improving public coverage of abortion in the state, in the short- and long-term
- Capacity of the organization to participate in and contribute to the Policy Lab and cross-movement collaboration
- The integration and participation of people with low-incomes, especially immigrants, communities of color, rural people, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ people in the proposed work

Completed applications are due on June 11, 2025 by 11:59 pm PDT. Please note that you cannot save the application form and come back to it, so make sure your proposal is complete before you begin this process. You can download a copy of the questions in each of the RFPs [here](#). Contact us at partnerships@nirhealth.org with any questions.

Important Dates

- **May 20** at 3 pm EDT: NIRH staff will host a webinar to review the RFPs and answer general questions. [Register here.](#)
- **May 27 – June 6:** Optional: Schedule a 1:1 call with NIRH staff to discuss proposal ideas or answer specific questions. Please note staff will not review written proposals.
 - [Abortion Coverage Policy Lab](#)
 - [Birth Justice Policy Lab](#)
 - [Repro and Data Privacy Policy Lab](#)
- **June 11:** Proposal Deadline. [Submit your proposal\(s\) here.](#)
- **July 21-25:** Interviews with final round applicants. If selected for an interview, applicants will be contacted with as much notice as possible to facilitate scheduling. Interviews will be no more than 30 minutes.
 - *We recognize that this falls during the summer and key staff may be more likely to be out of the office. Please do not feel the need to plan around this; if this week doesn't work, we will work with you and your team to develop an alternate plan that does work.*
- **August 15:** All applicants will be notified of final decisions – whether accepted or not – on a rolling basis, but no later than August 15.
- **September 1:** Partnerships will begin and run through August 31, 2026.

Strategic Guidance and Technical Assistance

NIRH is an advocacy organization, not a foundation. We are proud to offer a range of strategic guidance and technical assistance to our partners and prioritize partnerships with organizations who would benefit from this support as much as the funding we are able to offer.

- **Administrative:** Scheduling and planning meetings, note-taking, assistance with research and program planning, support with job descriptions and onboarding staff
- **Coalition building and management:** Coalition planning, formation, and governance; planning, facilitation, and follow-up for coalition meetings; navigating conflict and communication
- **Communication:** Creating messaging strategy and message development; support with digital strategy and content; support with media relations, including press strategy and support with earned media pitches.
- **Policy strategy:** Supporting the development of state and local-level policies, including drafting legislation, regulations, amendments, talking points, and testimony
- **Political organizing:** Supporting the creation of legislative and advocacy campaign strategy plans, execution of Lobby Days at the state or local level
- **Trainings & workshops:** Developing and hosting customized trainings on a range of topics for elected officials, community members, allies, and other stakeholders