



2022

Impact Report



FUND TEXAS CHOICE



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Against All Odds: 2022 in Review
- 2022 Programs Numbers: Pre-*Dobbs*
- In Their Own Words: *Reflections from Our Programs Team on the Fall of Roe*
- Pivoting Our Work Post-*Dobbs*
- Litigation Update
- Advocacy
- Client Testimonials
- Our Partners
- Looking Forward

Against All Odds: 2022 in Review

For the past ten years, Fund Texas Choice has been a resource of compassion, care, and support for Texans seeking abortion care. Our mission has always been providing those Texans with comprehensive, wrap-around practical support. In 2022, our ability to help Texans travel faced an unprecedented threat.

The Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* had devastating consequences for thousands of Texans already living in the post-Roe dystopia created by SB8. Texas' trigger ban and pre-Roe laws delivered catastrophic blows to abortion access, effectively outlawing abortion entirely throughout the state and threatening hefty civil and criminal liabilities to anyone who aids a pregnant person in accessing abortion care.

But thanks to you, we were prepared for this moment. Our programs team worked around the clock from January to June to get as many Texans as we could to their abortion appointments. Because of you, 567 Texans were able to make it safely to the clinic door. This report tells the story of how we served hundreds of Texans up until the final hour, *and* how we continue to show up for our community in the post-Roe fight for reproductive access for all.

Immediately after the *Dobbs* decision, we were forced to pause our practical support operations. This cessation of services was truly heartbreaking, and felt like a cruel eternity to our clients, our staff, and our board. But, we refused to give up! In August 2022, we filed a lawsuit against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and several District Attorneys. While we awaited an ultimately favorable ruling in our case, we bolstered our partnerships with abortion and practical support funds across the country to help abortion seekers in unrestricted states where abortion remains legal. This marked a dramatic shift from our service model, but we pivoted forward - with you by our side.



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Against All Odds: 2022 in Review

Now that we have been granted a preliminary injunction enabling us to legally help Texans travel out of state again, we are doubling down on our mission once more: Abortion is healthcare, and we will do everything in our power to protect and expand abortion access for all Texans!

As this report shows, we have fought boldly against anti-abortion extremists and lawmakers seeking to strip marginalized communities of the essential healthcare they need and deserve. We will continue to fight and win because with you, we are strong, resilient, and prepared to face whatever lies ahead.

Thank you for standing with us in support of all Texans. We're in this fight together!

With gratitude,
The Fund Texas Choice Team and Board of Directors



2022 Program Numbers

Pre-Dobbs

Jan - June 2022

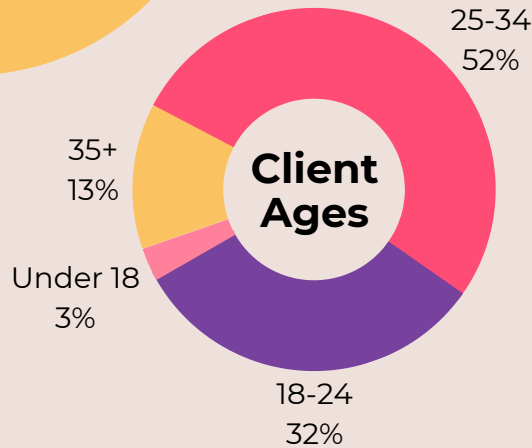
567
clients served

86%
of clients
identified as BIPOC



That's 13% more than 2021 - abortion bans disproportionately impact BIPOC people!

Over
\$415K
spent on
client travel



65% of clients
are already
parenting

99%
travelled out
of state

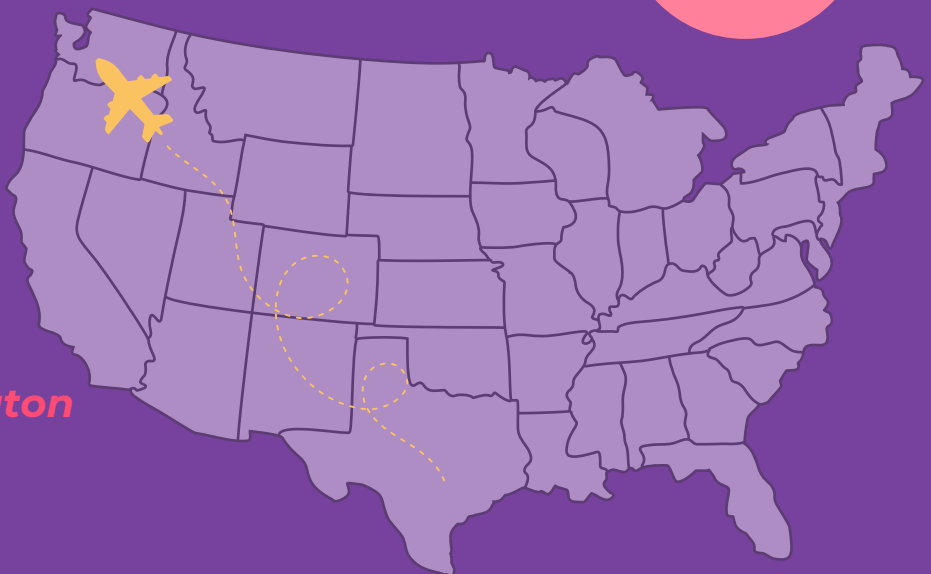
Total Miles Travelled:

825,249

Average trip: **433 miles**

Longest trip: **4,294 miles**

Central Texas to Washington



2022 Program Numbers

Practical Support Provided Pre-*Dobbs*
Jan - June 2022




414
Hotel Stays



219
Gas Money

120
Food
Reimbursements



39
Other Travel
Reimbursements
(bus, train, rental car)



305
Flights



246
Rideshares

We also reimbursed
16 clients for childcare
services, seven for
medication, and five for
menstrual products.



In Their Own Words:

Reflections from Our Programs Team on the Fall of Roe

The weeks between the *Dobbs* decision leak and the final ruling were a whirlwind of chaos as our programs team worked overtime to get as many abortion seekers out of state as possible. Although we knew *Roe* would likely be overturned, we were still gutted by the decision. Thousands of desperate people needing abortions were abandoned and betrayed by the state, and we felt this pain acutely in the messages and pleas for help they left on our hotline. Our staff would like to share the following reflections from this traumatic time:

"I can't remember much from that time, except a feeling of utter chaos, deep sadness and overwhelming exhaustion. For those two months before the decision came down, I just remember being in a state of extreme focus; booking flight after flight, hoping everything I said would remain in the listeners memory. I can't remember a full story, just sprinkles of names and stories, but no one complete story.

I have a slight memory of a minor I served that was so scared and lost. Her mom couldn't take off work to go with her to an appointment, so her aunt who had never flown before had to go with her. I remember doing my best to soothe the both of them whilst continuously reminding them, I may not be able to reach out tomorrow.

Every client's voice just sounded like panic and desperation. Most clients had no idea what *Dobbs* was or the political climate at the time, they just knew they needed help which was something I couldn't guarantee."

"The weeks before the *Dobbs* decision was announced, my team decided to assist as many clients as we could regardless of having to work overtime and exceed our individual capacities. Regardless of the stressors brought by the anticipation of the decision, I was determined to get as many pregnant people seeking travel assistance through the doors. Our team coming together humbled me and I realized how fortunate I was to be working around people who truly cared for reproductive justice and valued people's decisions and autonomy."



Pivoting Our Work Post-Dobbs

While the Supreme Court decision precipitated an eight-month pause in our practical support operations, we continued to support our community in the best ways we could! We reopened our caller hotline and provided factual, First Amendment protected information and resources. We also deepened and strengthened relationships with other practical support organizations across the country and regranted over \$130,000 unrestricted dollars. We knew our partners were going to get inundated with Texans and other people from restricted states, and we wanted to be there for them from the very beginning.

Even though the state tied our hands and wouldn't let us help Texans directly for months, we still wanted to help pregnant people in states where abortion remains legal and accessible. In November, we launched a partnership with the Midwest Access Coalition (MAC) and began providing travel support to their midwestern callers. We funded many of the same expenses we typically cover for Texans - such as gas reimbursement, hotel accommodations, and food. This model was incredibly successful and we identified additional national partners with whom we could replicate this model and build upon it, if need be.



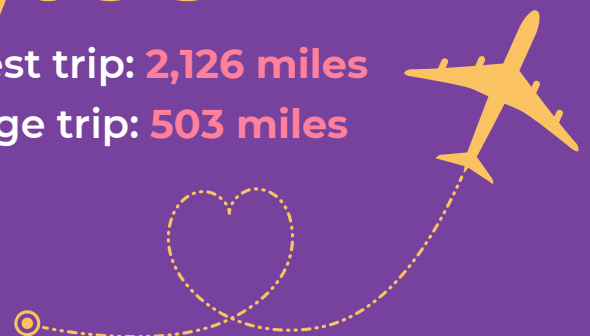
Take a look at our MAC client data from this past year and the impact we've had in the Midwest!

Clients Served
June-Dec 2022:
20

*All MAC referrals,
mostly from Indiana,
Ohio, Kansas, & Iowa*

Total Miles Travelled:
10,098

Longest trip: **2,126 miles**
Average trip: **503 miles**



Litigation Update

Throughout 2022, we continued to fight to protect and expand abortion access through litigation. Since 2019, we have been a plaintiff in several key lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of harmful anti-abortion restrictions like SB8. In response to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, Fund Texas Choice, along with seven other abortion and practical support funds and a medical provider, filed a proactive lawsuit ([*Fund Texas Choice v. Paxton*](#)) on August 23, 2022 to ensure we could continue to legally assist pregnant Texans in exercising their constitutional rights to travel and to protect our constitutional rights to free speech and association.

Our case asserted that travel, advocacy, political and practical donations, and speech are constitutionally protected activities. Our goal in filing this proactive litigation was to end the ongoing threats and intimidation by extremist legislators and government officials and to allow us, our partner organizations, and all people in Texas to provide compassionate care and assistance to pregnant Texans in need of reproductive support.

In September, our Executive Director, Anna Rupani and four other courageous witnesses took the stand. These reproductive justice warriors boldly testified to the catastrophic impact of leaving thousands of pregnant Texans with little to no recourse, as the financial and logistical barriers to travel remained incredibly high without a ruling from the court.

Fortunately on February 24, 2023, U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman [ruled](#) that Ken Paxton and specific local prosecutors cannot target individuals or organizations who support people traveling out-of-state for abortion care. This ruling opened the door for us to resume practical support for Texans traveling out-of-state for their abortions!

This was a huge win and the first major step to ensuring we could fulfill our mission once again. Thanks to the powerful testimony and work of our fellow plaintiffs at Jane's Due Process, TEA Fund, Lilith Fund, The Afiya Center, West Fund, La Frontera Fund, Clinic Access Support Network, and Dr. Ghazaleh Moayed, we have begun resuming out-of-state practical support services!



Advocacy

As organizations like ours and the clients we serve face more restrictions, threats, and uncertainty than ever, it has never been more important for the voices of people who are directly impacted to be heard. Despite the fact that abortion restrictions in Texas have been tightening since 2013, reproductive advocacy has been an essential in mitigating and preventing policies that would have been even more harmful to Texans.

This year, ahead of the 2023 legislative session, we hired a Public Policy and Communications Associate to help us strategize around policies that restrict access to abortion, emergency contraception, and gender-affirming care. We will also be joining efforts to organize around local initiatives, because, as we have seen, resolutions protecting or further restricting and stigmatizing abortion often form at the local level.

We are thrilled to be able to use the wisdom and expertise we have gained providing practical support for abortion to Texans to be able to expand our advocacy efforts and uplift the experiences and voices of those most impacted.



Client Testimonials

"Someone got back to me sooner than I expected and was able to help me out with everything I needed. I no longer had to worry about finding a hotel, the cost of a rental car, etc. It was all taken care of for me at an instant. So when I traveled to Oklahoma, everything went as smooth as can be. After my appointment was done, I didn't have to pay for anything. When I checked out of my hotel, I didn't have to swipe my card. When I returned the rental car, the cost was taken care of for me. I couldn't have done any of this without the help of TEA Fund and Fund Texas Choice. I am so grateful and thankful that I was able to find these organizations to help me out during this stressful time."

"My trip was so easy thanks to this program. I was so stressed out about my appointment and traveling but because of this program a lot of that stress was taken away. I could text the person helping me anything I needed and she would help me asap. No one made me feel ashamed or like they were judging me. I felt fully supported."

"Once I was assigned to someone...Everything from hotel and transportation was booked fairly quickly for me prior to my appointment. I had to go out of state because of the new Texas abortion law and Fund Texas Choice was very understanding. They helped me pay for my plane ticket, my hotel, and Lyft rides. I'm just beyond grateful for their help."

"When I went through a difficult time financially and emotionally, they helped me. I'm very appreciative for the help given."



Our Partners

This work would not be possible without partners and the incredible interconnectedness of abortion, practical support, and allied funds and organizations.



THE
AFIYA
CENTER

JANE'S DUE PROCESS
teens. reproductive rights. texas.



ACCESS
ACLU of Texas
All Above All
Apiary for Practical Support
Center for Reproductive Rights
Cobalt
The Lawyering Project
National Abortion Federation

National Institute of Reproductive Health
New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
National Network of Abortion Funds
Thompson & Coburn
Trust Respect Access Coalition
Planned Parenthood and affiliates

Looking Forward

The Supreme Court's failure to protect the civil and reproductive rights of Texans has undeniably made it more difficult for our clients to navigate this shrinking, post-Roe abortion landscape.

In fact, we expect that throughout the coming years there will be even more restrictions across large sections of the country as many states will follow Texas' example by enacting similar trigger laws and SB8-like bans.

That's why it's more important than ever to strengthen and solidify the national networks that will protect and ensure access to abortion services.

We are so thankful to be able to resume many of our practical support operations in 2023 and look forward to helping as many Texans travel legally, out of state as we can. Thank you for making this possible!

We'll also keep fighting in the courtroom and the state capitol, and we hope you'll join us. Individuals in the U.S. and across the globe have rallied to support our work. They understand that no one is free if they are forced to give birth against their will. We can and will work together to influence policy that honors and upholds every individual's decisions about reproductive healthcare.

The time to act is now! We're advocating for a future in which abortion is safe, legal and accessible – and we refuse to go back to the days of shame and stigma.

We have never wavered from our mission to *legally* assist Texans to equitably access abortion out of state, and we hope you'll renew your support in 2023.

Let's keep fighting for the people of Texas - and for their reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy!



GIVE NOW

**// FUND TEXAS CHOICE
2022 IMPACT REPORT**