**Los Angeles County Budget Proposal Talking Points**

**Topline:** California is [preparing](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-11-16/california-makes-plans-to-be-nations-abortion-provider) to be the nation’s abortion provider in a post-Roe world. Barriers already exist for people trying to access abortion care in California. The COVID-19 pandemic, the uprisings protesting racial violence, and the rapid eroding of Roe v. Wade, which was always a floor not a ceiling for abortion access in this country, are further exacerbating barriers within the state and nationally.

At a time when abortion care is under attack by state and federal governments, Los Angeles County has the opportunity to fund programs that support Californians in accessing abortion care.

**Every person should have access to the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion. Even in a Reproductive Freedom state like California, that is not a reality for many people in Los Angeles County.**

* It’s the duty of local governments to find creative and equitable solutions to fit the needs of our community members.
* Those most harmed by barriers to accessing care, such as paying for abortion, transportation to and from a clinic, lodging for multiple day appointments, childcare, and much more, are people who are already failed by our complicated health systems, including Black, Indigenous, people of color, low income folks, young people, transgender and non-binary people.
* A budget item to support procedural and practical support of abortion care and other reproductive health care services in Los Angeles County is an important step towards ensuring everyone has access to reproductive health care, including abortion.

**Abortion funds continue to receive an increase in requests for financial assistance for abortion care due to the significant economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the erosion of abortion access across the country.**

* ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, California’s only statewide abortion fund, has supported nearly 500 callers in 2021 with over $70,000 in support for procedural and practical support needs, but this is only a small fraction of the financial support callers need to access their care.
* Abortion funds are community-based organizations, often run by volunteers, that help people in their communities pay for their abortion care.
* They grew out of a need to step in where elected officials have failed, with policies that ban abortion coverage or don’t provide adequate funding for this care. A fund will typically pledge a few hundred dollars to their clients

**When someone in Los Angeles County has decided to end their pregnancy, it is important that they have equitable and timely access to abortion care, regardless of income or other socioeconomic status. Low wages, high co-pays and deductibles, and navigating Medi-Cal can make it burdensome to access care.**

* Nearly half of Americans are unable to afford an unanticipated $400 expense. We know this is true for many of our constituents. For those in Los Angeles struggling to make ends meet, that means they may have to make the impossible choice between paying for basic needs or paying for their health care.
* Denying or delaying care can have profound and lasting consequences. Studies show that a woman[[1]](#footnote-0) who wants an abortion but is denied is more likely to live in poverty and is more likely to not be able to cover her basic living needs.

**As California prepares to respond to a significant influx of patients seeking abortion coming to the state, major cities and municipalities, including Los Angeles County need to take proactive action to ensure equitable, accessable reproductive healthcare, including abortion.**

* If the U.S. Supreme Court weakens or overturns Roe v. Wade, 26 states are certain or likely to ban abortion. [[2]](#footnote-1)
  + This would lead to an increase in women of reproductive age (15-49) who may drive to California for aboriton care. Guttmacher Institute estimates a 2,923% increase in women who may drive to California for care.
* As we work towards rebounding from the impact of the pandemic and preparing for a potential gutting of *Roe v. Wade,* Funding procedural and practical support is a proactive commitment to economic justice and removing barriers for those in Los Angeles county.

1. We recognize that folks who do not identify as women also require reproductive health care including abortion. The use of “women” throughout this document refers specifically to data collected on women-identifying individuals. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. https://states.guttmacher.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)