



## NEW YORK MUST LEAD:

# PASS THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM & EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM

### THE PROBLEM

In the wake of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* and ending the constitutional right to abortion, nearly half the states are poised to ban abortion – and many already have. New York legalized abortion in 1970, three years before *Roe*, and welcomed thousands from across the United States who were in need of legal and accessible abortion care. We understood then that providing access to abortion is part of the fight to protect human rights, dignity, health, and equality. And today, we are once again called to be a leader for abortion access – for New Yorkers, as well as people from around the country who are now forced to travel for care.

## THE SOLUTION

And yet, even in New York, abortion care is out of reach for far too many. Some lack the money necessary to pay for care itself and others can't cover the costs of travel, lodging, child care, and associated expenses required to obtain care.

This is unsustainable for patients and abortion providers. In fact, providers on the frontlines in New York operate at a loss – due to a decade of stagnant reimbursement rates – making it difficult for them to expand to meet current demand. To make matters worse, the attacks on reproductive rights continue, with medication abortion and other forms of care increasingly under threat.



To meet this moment, New York must invest in our abortion care infrastructure. **The Reproductive Freedom and Equity Grant Program** (S.348-B (Cleare)/A.361-A (Gonzalez-Rojas)) will establish a comprehensive, sustainable state program that will invest in providers to support uncompensated care, provider training and capacity building, facility and equipment enhancements, and improved clinic security. Equally important, the grant program will fund abortions and provide logistical support for anyone who needs financial assistance.

This legislation is needed now more than ever. The New York Abortion Access Fund, a nonprofit that assists people who cannot afford to pay for abortion care, pledged \$421,778 to support people seeking care in the first two months of 2023. By comparison, they pledged \$1.2 million in all of 2022. Without an influx of state dollars, it is at risk of running out of funds.

By passing the **Reproductive Freedom and Equity bill**, New York will join fellow access states, California and Oregon, as well as many municipalities like New York City in investing public dollars in abortion providers, abortion funds, and logistical support funds. For New York to cement its role as a leader on abortion access, lawmakers must pass this urgently needed legislation.

**TAKE ACTION: [nyclu.org/equityfund](https://nyclu.org/equityfund)**

