



The
Brigid
Alliance

Bridging The Distance

ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023





THE BRIGID ALLIANCE

is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides individualized, all-inclusive support for people forced to travel long distances for abortion care.

We act as a dependable and consistent ally throughout our clients' journeys, taking care of all aspects of their itineraries, including local and long-distance travel, meals, lodging, childcare, and anything else that might make the experience more comfortable. Through direct support and in collaboration with a network of partners, we bridge the ever-widening gap between a pregnant person and their abortion provider. We get people to abortion care, whatever it takes.

Message from the Incoming Board Chair

Navigating an increasingly treacherous journey

When The Brigid Alliance launched in 2018, getting to and from an abortion provider was complicated and even impossible for many abortion seekers. Even before the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, nearly 90 percent of counties had no abortion provider. Today, five years since we founded our organization, the journey to an abortion provider has grown even more treacherous, with people of color and other disadvantaged groups disproportionately affected by state-level abortion bans.

Thankfully, The Brigid Alliance was built for this crisis. We exist to provide dependable support that enables people to travel long distances to get to abortion care. Perhaps most importantly, we are there for all of our clients who are navigating extraordinary barriers to accessing the healthcare they need.

The assault on abortion access hasn't ceased with the overturning of federal protections for abortion and resulting state-level restrictions. In fact, the *Dobbs* decision has opened the floodgates for egregious attacks on abortion all across this country. Courts have challenged access to Mifepristone, a safe and effective abortion medication that has been on the market for years.

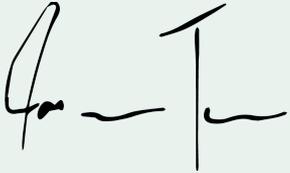


Jasmine Teer
Incoming Board Chair,
The Brigid Alliance

Message from the Incoming Board Chair

Idaho passed a law forbidding helping a person under the age of 18 obtain abortion pills or leave the state for abortion care without parental permission. And in Texas, two cities and two counties have enacted local ordinances that criminalize transporting individuals through their jurisdiction for the purpose of obtaining an abortion out of state. Abortion seekers and advocates face a long road ahead. But one thing is for certain: our unwavering commitment to ensuring abortion is accessible to people of all backgrounds and all walks of life.

True to our founding principles, we continue to focus on helping people disproportionately impacted by abortion restrictions get to abortion care, including people living at or below the federal poverty line, people of color, minors, undocumented immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, and survivors of abuse. The path forward may be arduous, but we are not going anywhere. Thanks to support from our donors and partners, The Brigid Alliance is here to stay and will not rest until abortion is borderless, burden-free, and accessible to all.



Jasmine Teer
Incoming Board Chair, The Brigid Alliance



Message from the Interim Executive Director

Overcoming roadblocks



Serra Sippel

Interim Executive Director,
The Brigid Alliance

We are experiencing a historic crisis for abortion access in the United States.

Thousands of people are being forced to carry unwanted or unsafe pregnancies against their will, unless they can figure out a way to get to an abortion provider. This often means traveling halfway across the country to an unfamiliar city and navigating countless hurdles along the way. But that's where The Brigid Alliance comes in. Wherever one of our clients needs to go, we find a way to get them there—and get them back home—safely and with dignity.

As this crisis worsens, the number of people who need our services is surging. We, in turn, are growing our team, and strengthening our capabilities, and expanding our network so we can help more and more people. We have increased our client services capacity by nearly 50%, hiring 7 new staff members across the organization to provide holistic support for an ever-growing number of clients.

We vastly grew our network of providers while streamlining our referral system, allowing our coordinators to serve more clients. And we have made an unprecedented set of grants to local and regional organizations across the country to continue growing the whole network's capacity for providing practical support to abortion seekers.

Message from the Interim Executive Director

I am in awe of the tenacity of The Brigid Alliance client service coordinators, who do everything in their power to ensure people can access the abortion care they need. In collaboration with our partners, they charter private flights with volunteer pilots for people who live hours from a regional airport. They arrange cash drops for people who are unbanked. They purchase winter clothing for people who have never traveled to a cold climate. And they reschedule flights when there is a hurricane or blizzard, and much more.

They are a beacon to thousands of people who would otherwise have no way to get the abortion care they need. We know our work is changing people's lives for the better, and it's having positive ripple effects across families and entire communities. In an otherwise dark time for abortion seekers all across this country, their persistence inspires me and it gives me hope.



Serra Sippel
Interim Executive Director, The Brigid Alliance

Getting clients there and back

Today more than ever, getting to an abortion provider in the United States means facing a dizzying array of logistical and financial challenges. **This is where The Brigid Alliance steps in.** Our coordinators create completely customized itineraries that account for everything our clients need to get to an abortion provider and back home again. Importantly, we bring compassion, respect, and reassurance to every single interaction we have with our clients.



TRANSPORTATION

We arrange and pay for local and long distance transportation.



LODGING

We book and pay for hotel stays.



MEAL ASSISTANCE

We provide stipends for food costs.



PERSONAL TRAVEL ITEMS

We pay for car repairs, temporary cell phones, cold weather clothing, car seats, and more to account for everything a client needs to get their procedure.



PHYSICAL COMFORT STIPEND

We pay for sanitary pads, pain medication, and other items so that people are as comfortable as possible during and following their procedure.



CHILDCARE

We provide stipends for child care.



VIRTUAL ACCOMPANIMENT

Our client-facing coordinators are full-time staff, trained to provide non-judgmental, trauma-informed and compassionate support at every step of the journey, and until they return home safely.



POST-SERVICE REFERRALS

We provide referrals for follow-up OBGYN care, housing assistance, and emotional support after our clients' procedures.

The rising costs of accessing abortion care

Since the Dobbs ruling in June 2022, **the cost of accessing abortion care has increased significantly**, with an average cost of our clients' itineraries now exceeding \$2,300. **There are a few reasons for this increase:**



HAVING TO TRAVEL LONGER DISTANCES FOR ABORTION CARE:

Since large swaths of the country have outlawed, criminalized, or severely restricted abortion care, travel time and distance has skyrocketed. Our clients now travel an average of 1,300 miles round trip to access an abortion provider, a 30% increase since before the *Dobbs* ruling.



INCREASED COSTS OF SERVICES:

The Brigid Alliance is not immune to the rising costs of travel – when the price of airline tickets increases for consumers, that price increases for our clients. We also increased our meal stipend from \$40 per day to \$75 per day to account for increased food costs nationwide.



ACCOUNTING FOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR CLIENT SERVICES TEAM:

Over the past year, we made important investments in technology, security, compensation and benefits, to support the sustainability and growth of our organization. To more accurately capture the cost of helping a client access abortion care, we have begun factoring 20 percent into the reported cost of each itinerary, which includes the organizational and infrastructure cost necessary to do this work.



NEW SERVICES FOR CLIENTS:

In April 2023, we began providing new services based on the feedback we received from clients. For example, we now offer a comfort stipend and support additional aftercare expenses, to ensure our clients receive all the care they need before, during, and after their procedure.

Reflecting on our journey: 5 years of impact



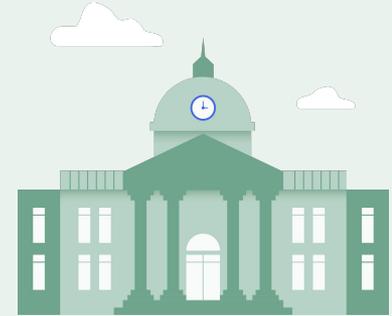
4,579
CLIENTS

supported since 2018



4,798,810
MILES
TRAVELED

by clients since 2018



We have supported
clients from

ALL 50

U.S. STATES

and **12 ADDITIONAL**
COUNTRIES to access
abortion care

Reflecting on our journey: 5 years of impact

Our current clients **by the numbers**

2/3 of our clients are
BIPOC

1/10 identify as **LGBTQ+**

1/3 of our clients are
already parents

Age Range

10 – 52

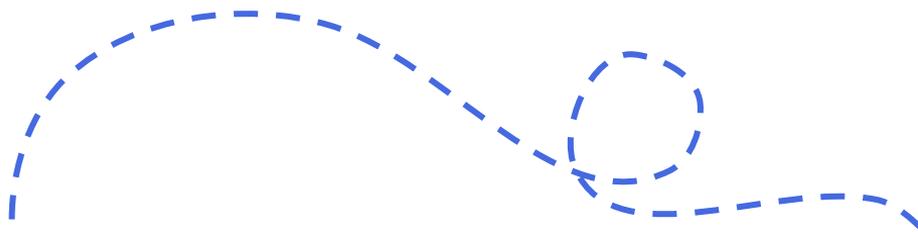
2/3 of our clients travel from the
southern U.S. to access
abortion care

1/3 of our clients report losing
wages as a result of needing to
travel for an abortion

Mile markers: this year in review

The profound inequities in abortion access have grown even deeper in the last year. Since October 2022, we have seen four more states enact total or partial abortion bans and multiple courts rule to restrict access to medication abortion.

But there are also many reasons to be hopeful, with Americans affirming the right to abortion access every time it's been put up for a vote, and our legion of donors stepping up to help ensure people can get the care they need.



Mile markers: this year in review

HERE ARE SOME OF THE RECENT MILESTONES
AND ACHIEVEMENTS WE ARE MOST PROUD OF:

We supported **1,437 clients**

to travel a total of **1,668,218 miles.**





In 2023, we partnered with
69 abortion providers and
34 practical support
organizations
to ensure our clients could
access abortion care.

Mile markers: this year in review

The Brigid Alliance was featured in **high-profile news coverage** and **popular media** reaching wide audiences and increasing support for our mission.

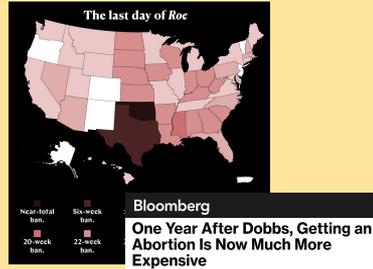
The New York Times

New York City Welcomes Growing Number of Out-of-State Abortion Patients

"We need as many ways as possible to get the word out to people in states where they are banning abortions," Ms. Sippel said. She said it was important that people "know that New York is there and is going to help people get the services that they need and deserve and have a right to access."



The Brigid Alliance's Interim Executive Director, Serra Sippel, and former client, Nancy Davis, were **featured in a New York Times article** about the growing number of abortion seekers traveling to New York City.



We raised our voice during the **one-year anniversary of the Dobbs decision** to call attention to the hurdles abortion seekers face in accessing care, and The Brigid Alliance's work to support them.

NBC NEWS

ABORTION RIGHTS

North Carolina's abortion law may make traveling to end a pregnancy impossible for some in the South

Abortion clinics in Virginia expect an influx of patients, but many Southern residents may not have the option to travel such long distances.

We spoke out about the harmful effects of state abortion bans and what we are doing to support people affected by them.



The Daily Show shined a spotlight on our work on national television and **encouraged supporters to donate to us.**

Mile markers: this year in review

Our supporters fundraised for our work in **inspiring and creative ways.**



High-profile musical artists **continued to raise funds** for our work, including the New Pornographers.



Natasha Pickowicz celebrated the launch of her book *More than Cake* with a benefit **bakesale for The Brigid Alliance**. More than 40 bakers participated in the bake sale, and there was a line of excited sweet teeth wrapped around the building all day.



40 authors came together to write an anthology, *Hell Hath No Fury*, and **donated 100% of the proceeds** to organizations fighting for reproductive rights, including The Brigid Alliance.



Our friends at **Tickled Hot Pink hosted a virtual raffle and auction** that raised more than \$30,000 for The Brigid Alliance. The lively auction featured popular festival tickets, getaways, wellness experiences, sports tickets, and so much more.



The New York Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers **named The Brigid Alliance their honoree** for their annual gala, an event that featured Alvin Ailey dancers, dinner, live music, and remarks from Sarah Moeller, our Senior Director of External Relations.

Mile markers: this year in review

We **advocated for abortion** seekers and championed policies that affirmed the right to abortion.

The Washington Post

Opinion | Abortion restrictions cause mental health strains, too

Our Interim Executive Director Serra Sippel authored a Letter to the Editor in **the Washington Post** about the harmful mental health effects of state-level abortion restrictions.



We spoke out against efforts to restrict access to medication abortion in the courts.



At a critical time when abortion clinics across the country are being forced to shut down, we used our social media platform to **advocate for our partner the DuPont Abortion Clinic**, which was blocked by anti-abortion extremists from opening a new clinic in California.

Here's what our client coordinators have to say about **why they do this work:**

“

I love that we can provide non-judgmental support and affirm people's choices.”

KIM

“

For many of our clients, this is the first time they're traveling, and it's really complicated for a lot of them. We work with clients who are going to the airport for the first time, have never checked into a hotel, or used an Uber or Lyft, and it can be very overwhelming. A lot of my motivation is trying to figure out ways to make this abortion experience feel safe and good for them.”

ARIEL

“

I feel very strongly about making sure abortion services and support are accessible across the country for all genders.”

MOL

Bolstering practical support for clients

The Brigid Alliance relies on a network of regional and state-level grassroots abortion funds and practical support organizations to help ensure people can access abortion services.

These groups are working urgently to meet increased demand for their services but face funding shortfalls. **In 2023, we made the unprecedented decision to grant \$1 million to more than 20 groups.** While The Brigid Alliance is not a funder, it is our mission to provide and expand practical support for people who need to travel to access abortion care.



Fueling the journey

MAKE A DONATION TODAY

Every dollar makes a difference.

To make a donation and support equitable access to abortion, visit: www.brigidalliance.org/donate

\$50 covers **a comfort stipend** for clients, including items like **pads and pain relievers**

\$90 covers **local transportation** for a client to get to and from an airport of clinic

\$300 covers **one night of hotel accommodations**

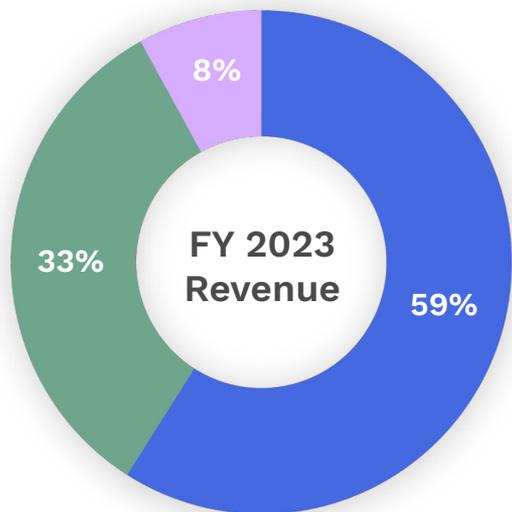
\$650 is the average cost per client of **major transportation**, including airfare, bus travel, or train fare

\$2,300 is the average cost to provide one client with **everything they need to get to their abortion and back home safely**



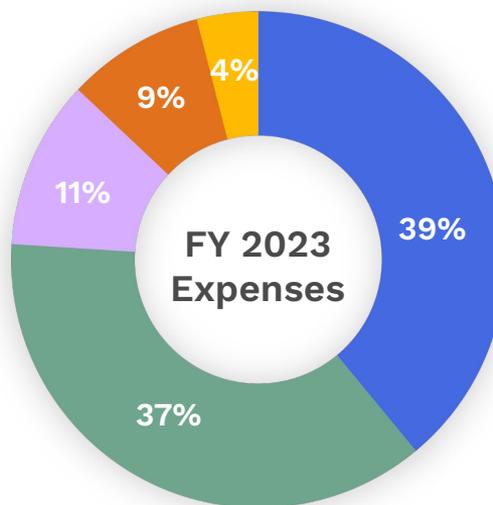
The
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Fueling the journey



The Brigid Alliance is powered by individual donors, who contributed 59% of our revenue in the last year.

- Individual Donors
- Foundations
- Other Support



In FY 2023, 76% of expenses supported program work getting clients to their abortions and back home safely.

- Program Direct
- Program Support
- Operations & Administration
- Fundraising
- Communications

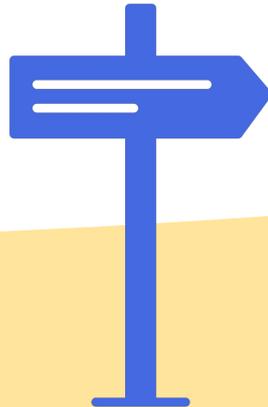
Fueling the journey

YEAR-TO-YEAR EXPENSES

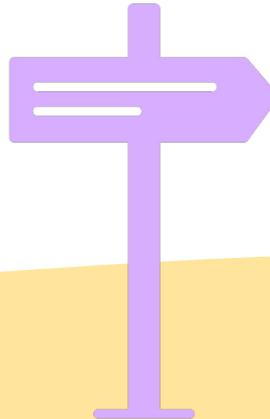
FY 2019
\$602,984



FY 2020
\$890,443



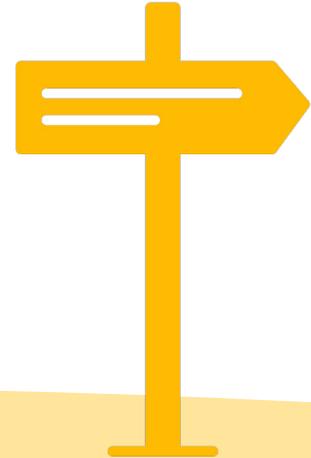
FY 2021
\$1,518,934



FY 2022
\$2,930,530



FY 2023
\$6,698,884



Building the foundation

Institutional Supporters

Apple Foundation, Argosy Foundation, Avis & Clifford Burrus Medical Foundation, Ayco Charitable Foundation, Baskett Family Foundation, Benjamin & Seema Pulier Charitable Foundation, Inc., Berger Family Foundation, Bernstein Family Foundation, Breakthrough Prize Foundation, Bresky Foundation, Bright Funds Foundation, California Nurse-Midwives Foundation, Casey & Family Foundation, Charles & Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Claneil Foundation, Cumming Foundation, Cummins-Levenstein Charitable Foundation, Deborah Loeb Brice Foundation, Elhapa Foundation, Inc., Franz W. Sichel Foundation, Friedman Family Foundation, Guy & Shirley Lewis Foundation Ltd., Halperin Family Foundation, Heinz Family Foundation, Howard P. Colhoun Family Foundation, Ingerman Family Foundation, Island Foundation Inc., Jacob & Hilda Blaustein Foundation, Ka'u Makana Foundation, Kates Foundation, Lainoff Family Foundation, Lisa & Douglas Goldman Fund, Lynn Braitman Inspire Fund, Maltz Family Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Mary H. Storer Foundation, Moelis Family Foundation, Monomoy Fund, National Network of Abortion Funds, Richard W. Rupp Foundation, Romenesa Foundation, Rosalie J. Coe Weir Foundation, S&S Charitable Foundation, Samueli Foundation, Severns Family Foundation, Sherman Family Foundation, Sidley Family Foundation, Simpson Foundation, Solidarity Giving, Spencer Johnson Family Foundation, Stanton Strong, Sudarsky Family Foundation, Susan & Eliot Black Foundation, Swartz Family Foundation, The Audrey & Sydney Irmis Charitable Foundation, The Barn Road Foundation, The Block Family Foundation, The Bydale Foundation, The Charles H. Stout Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The Deborah K. Holmes Family Foundation, The Erik E. & Edith H. Bergstrom Foundation, The Fatherree Foundation, The Gardner Grout Foundation, The Gottesman Fund, The Handlery Foundation, The Isabel Allende Foundation, The Kaleta A. Doolin Foundation, The Klein Family Foundation, The Krupp Family Foundation, The Lalor Foundation, The Leonard & Robert Weintraub Family Foundation, The Mirapaul Foundation, The Moca Fund, The Morton K. & Jane Blaustein Foundation, The October Mountain Foundation, The Pearl Family Foundation, The Pixley Hill Foundation, The Richman Foundation, The Shapiro Family Foundation, The Shepard Broad Foundation, The Sperling Family Charitable Foundation, The Tow Foundation, The Vidda Foundation, The Watson Foundation, The William C. Bullitt Foundation, Tortuga Charitable Foundation, Weissman Legacy, Willens Family Foundation, Anonymous fund of the Marin Community Foundation, Anonymous (3)

In addition to these generous institutions, 6,988 individuals supported The Brigid Alliance, with gifts ranging from \$5 - \$500,000.



The
Brigid
Alliance

Steering the ship

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jasmine Teer, *Chairperson*

Leah Gould, *Secretary*

Marlowe Greenberg, *Treasurer*

Sandy Baron, *Board Member*

Carol Davis, *Board Member*

Lenore Davis, *Board Member*

Katie Koltys, *Board Member*

LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Serra Sippel, *Interim Executive Director*

Sarah Moeller, *Senior Director of External Relations*

Leidy Londoño, *Director of Client Services*

Stefanie Goldberg, *Director of Operations*





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