

Reproductive Justice: Options for Mobilizing

This is a lightly curated list of possible options for people interested in mobilizing for Reproductive Justice. Some items offer explicit, specific ways to connect, others suggest only a possible direction for mobilizing. This is definitely not an exhaustive list!

A. Support for People Needing Abortions

1. The Bridge Collective

<https://thebridgecollective.org/>

<https://thebridgecollective.org/volunteer>

Our Philosophy on Volunteering

The Bridge Collective is an all-volunteer, consensus-based, grassroots organization, committed to decentralizing power and decision-making whenever possible. We fully believe that giving our time and talents to help make our community more equitable is the best route to bridge the gap between healthcare and access.

Without volunteers, the essential services we provide to Central Texans would go unanswered. We aim to create a culture that thrives by engaging people at all different levels and are committed to including people of color in the strategic planning that will decide the direction of the collective's future.

From <<https://thebridgecollective.org/volunteer>>

“Looking to get more involved with us? We're currently looking for more Client Intake Coordinators and Core Members! If you're interested in working on our hotline as a CIC or helping direct our operations as a Core Member, please respond to this email and we can set some time to chat!”

bridge-vols-stand+managers@googlegroups.com

Opportunities

- ❖ Volunteer to do rides
- ❖ Spread the word about our work
- ❖ Deliver kits in Austin or Lubbock
- ❖ Become a Client Intake Coordinator
- ❖ Become a TBC Core Member

Client Needs

- ❖ Pads (any type/size)
- ❖ Tampons
- ❖ Menstrual Cups
- ❖ Underwear
- ❖ Small containers or packets of OTC pain medications

Suggestion: The Buy Nothing groups across Austin are a great way to get donations!

2. National Abortion Access Fund-a-thon

The annual [National Abortion Access Fund-a-thon](#) starts in early March of each year. People/groups set up fundraisers for specific, [local/regional funds](#), e.g. Lilith Fund for Central Texas, Frontera Fund for Rio Grande Valley; they each have a web page that will be linked from the NAAF page. See also social media “@abortionfunds” on Instagram and Twitter. The feminist caucus of the [Austin Democratic Socialists of America](#) participate very actively in this funding event, and sponsor many activities: plant sales, cookie and bake sales, car washes, etc. Contact Elizabeth Gray for more information.

[AVOW](#) (was TARAL)

“To avow means to declare openly, bluntly, and without shame. Now more than ever, our state needs bold and unapologetic advocacy for abortion rights.

Pro-abortion merchandise: <https://store.prochoicetexas.org/>

B. Housing for (especially) older women

1. Home on Wheels Alliance

The culmination of this drive to serve is the [Home on Wheels Alliance \(Howa\)](#), a charitable 501(c)(3) non-profit he founded in 2018. With the help of his team and volunteers, Bob helps advance clients who are being squeezed out of traditional housing from a state of crisis to financial stability to finally being contributing members of the mobile community.

To date, funded by sponsors and donations, Howa has given away seven minivans, two trailers, one skoolie (a converted school bus) and too many tents, brake pads and tires to count.

“Most of Howa’s applicants are older women. They’re disabled, or retired and divorced without sufficient SSI [supplemental security income] because they were homemakers, or simply don’t earn enough to afford rent,” Bob explained.

From

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/feb/04/modern-nomads-nomadland-van-life-us-public-lands?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other>

See also: movie [Nomadland](#) Soon to stream on Hulu. Trailer [here](#), [reviewed](#) in The Guardian

C. Period Poverty

[1 in 10 college women face period poverty, a study shows. Here's what that means.](#)

Black and Latina women are most likely to report not being able to afford tampons and pads, the research shows

From Washington Post, Feb. 3, 2021

[We need to talk about periods](#) May 2019 article discussing proposed bill in state of MA and why it's needed.

1. Period products in prison

Lauren Johnson <ljohnson@aclutx.org>

[from email to Elizabeth Gray] Jails and prisons [in Texas] are required to offer at no cost period products. So even though the women may have to ask for more if they have a heavier flow, they are available. If you are talking about something like period cups that might be interesting but there is a whole process to go through to get approved to donate things to people inside jails and prisons. Hannah Overton is [a woman who was wrongfully convicted](#) and upon her exoneration she created a ministry that works doing a lot of things for the women still inside and they do two donation drives one for summer and one for Christmas. The summer drive collects money and donations to give the women hygiene items (soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) along with cooling towels or water bottles. The winter one is much the same. Some of the indigent women inside rely on this kind donations to have the items they need to feel human. So if people are interested in doing something that might benefit women in prison it might be worthwhile to connect with Hannah.

2. Increasing Access to Menstrual products via legislative action

The I AM bill [Massachusetts] would provide access to free menstrual products to all menstruating individuals in schools, shelters & prisons.

[Advocacy Toolkit](#)

From <<http://www.massnow.org/iam>>

3. Austin Diaper Bank

Austin Diaper Bank collects period products (along with diapers)

“If you'd like to help from home, please consider the option of doing a [neighborhood diaper drive](#) to help raise diapers and awareness. Once completed, you can call the Austin Diaper Bank to schedule a time to drop off your donation.”

D. Telemedicine Abortions

Article: A Bitter Pill

The pandemic made telemedicine mainstream. Now, a skin check or a cold prescription is just a video call away. But when it comes to abortion, just because it's “virtual” doesn't mean it's any easier.

From <<https://www.marieclaire.com/politics/a35203155/pandemic-abortion-telemedicine/>>

1. EMAA Expanding Medication Abortion Access

The EMAA Project seeks to improve the way the medications prescribed for medication abortion care are dispensed in the United States, to make the process consistent with the medical and scientific evidence and to meet women's needs.

From <<https://emaaproject.org/#contact>>

The TelAbortion Study is a research project that aims to evaluate the use of telemedicine for providing a medical abortion to those who prefer to receive the abortion pills in the mail. Operating in 14 states and Washington DC

From <<https://telabortion.org/about>>

E. Mutual Aid

Mutual Aid is “Solidarity; not charity”. Not an exchange of goods, but that people give/get what they can.

No Fees: I wouldn't be here if YOU weren't here

Examples: childcare collectives, legal aid

Mutual aid is “cooperation for the sake of the common good.”

From

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRMxV09kdojzMdyOfapJUOB6Ko2_1iAflm8ELelgma21wlt5HoTqP1QXadF01eZc0ySrPW6VtU_veyp/pub>

‘Solidarity, Not Charity’: A Visual History of Mutual Aid

Tens of thousands of mutual aid networks and projects emerged around the world in 2020. They have long been a tool for marginalized groups.

At end, includes excellent list of further readings

From <<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-12-22/a-visual-history-of-mutual-aid>>

Useful, short cartoon history

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-12-22/a-visual-history-of-mutual-aid>

Take What You Need and Give What You Can: A Mutual Aid Portrait

From <<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/coronavirus-mutual-aid/>>

1. Austin Street Forum

@StreetForumATX · Community Organization

From

<[https://www.facebook.com/StreetForumATX/?_xts__\[0\]=68.ARBfImZ2_qDEiezCbY5YZFnfWciki](https://www.facebook.com/StreetForumATX/?_xts__[0]=68.ARBfImZ2_qDEiezCbY5YZFnfWciki)>

Street Forums: coffee, hot tacos, talk. Issue: anti-camping ban discussed. Low threat, community we are building, exchange outside of capitalism

F. Supporting BIPOC

1. SisterSong

Organizing for Southern Women of Color

[SisterSong](#) mobilizes a vast base of supporters in rapid response organizing to protect the rights of women of color and other marginalized women and trans* people in the South. We organize huge marches, rallies, petitions, and social media campaigns that attract the attention of key decision-makers and the media. Issues include abortion and contraception access, the criminalization of women of color for miscarriage, abortion, or protecting their families, and more.

For the latest on SisterSong's organizing, follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter@SisterSong_WOC](#).

From <<https://www.sistersong.net/centering-black-womens-issues-leadership>>

Trust Black Women

SisterSong created the national [Trust Black Women partnership](#) in 2010, when racist and sexist anti-abortion billboards actually accused black women of genocide for obtaining abortions – as if the oppression of black people should relegate black women to breeding machines with no right to make personal choices about family creation. SisterSong responded by convening a partnership of black-women-led organizations to form Trust Black Women, and in our first year, we defeated both the billboards and a concomitant bill to restrict abortion.

Black Mamas Matter: [A Toolkit for Advancing the Human Right to Safe and Respectful Maternal Health Care](#) from the Center for Reproductive Rights

2. Black Mamas ATX

[Black Mamas ATX](#)

Our work centers around the health and wellbeing of Black women who are pregnant and through the first year postpartum. Black Mamas ATX fact sheet [here](#).

G. Advancing Economic Justice

Tips from The Path to Racial Equity series, hosted by the LBJ Library
<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheLBJLibrary>

Playlist [Path to Racial Equity](#)

2. Be intentional in your personal, corporate, and charitable spending.
3. It takes effort! You have to track down, really look for BIPOC companies
4. Whites give to white nonprofits that help Blacks, but don't give as much to Black NPs
5. Black NPs are expected to do more (reporting requirements, metrics) with less funding than NPs run by whites.
6. "People have more power than they realize"
7. Educate: teach our children, grandchildren. And model for them.

H. Expanding Medicaid in Texas

Medicaid and Reproductive Justice Fact Sheet
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yQ5PZ29Cn-rJaYT6DiCxeDcZbfNMnW4o/view?usp=sharing>

I. Local Government Action

Right now, anti-abortion extremists are crisscrossing the state, pressuring Texas municipalities to [adopt ordinances](#) that would try to outlaw abortion in our communities.

Work in Texas cities large and small to pass proactive abortion ordinances and fight

back against anti-abortion extremists.

From <<https://txabortionaccessnetwork.org/advocacy/>>

See also: information from Feb. 28 presentation by ACLU

J. YOUR IDEA

How do you think YOU can connect and support Reproductive Justice?