

The Maryland Access Team Initiative: What it is and How to Join

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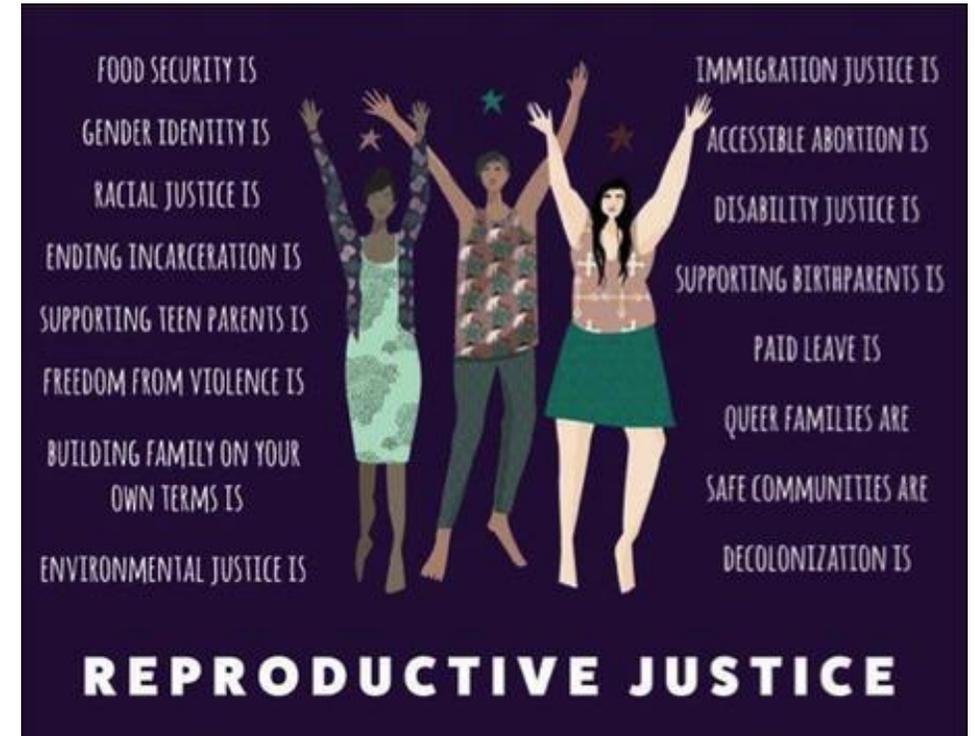


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What Is An Access Team?

- ▶ A group of people working to improve access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, rights, and freedom in their community (either existing organizations, or groups of new volunteers)
- ▶ People willing to serve as MD NARAL's points of contact to learn more about and to raise local issues
- ▶ An opportunity to be an advocate for others in your community, meet others interested in this work, and get some hands-on experience in reproductive freedom and justice
- ▶ Access Team members will receive training before getting started, will do regular check-ins, and will have opportunities to meet with other Access Teams in their region or throughout the state



Campaign 1: Addressing Deceptive Advertising and Practices of Anti-Choice Crisis Pregnancy Centers



- ▶ What is a crisis pregnancy center (CPC)?
- ▶ Why are they concerning?
- ▶ Goals of this campaign
 - ▶ Decrease their deception
 - ▶ Identify the scope of the problem
 - ▶ Increase awareness of how to identify a CPC
- ▶ Example actions:
 - ▶ Creating an education campaign about local CPC's/ "how to spot a CPC"
 - ▶ Advocating for community agencies to stop referring community members to a CPC for healthcare

Campaign 2: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare in Schools

- ▶ Access to SRH in schools
- ▶ Goals of this campaign
 - ▶ Improve and expand SRH in school-based health centers
 - ▶ Improve sex ed curricula
 - ▶ Protect the rights of pregnant, expectant, and parenting students (PEPS)
- ▶ Example actions:
 - ▶ Monitoring local school board meetings for discussions about SRH
 - ▶ Encouraging local schools to carry free pads and tampons for menstruating students



Campaign 3: Improving Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare and Rights on College Campuses



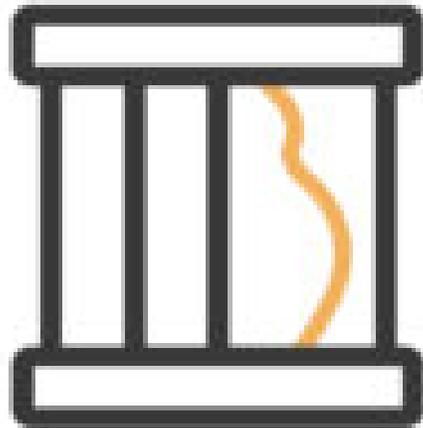
- ▶ Access to SRH on college campuses
- ▶ Goals of this campaign
 - ▶ Improve and expand range of SRH options in college wellness centers
 - ▶ Support student organizing efforts
 - ▶ Help colleges become more inclusive towards the needs of students who are LGBTQ+, pregnant/parenting, or survivors of sexual assault
- ▶ Example actions:
 - ▶ Working with students to increase access to emergency contraceptives
 - ▶ Fighting for free access to menstrual supplies on college campuses

Campaign 4: Parenting with Dignity and in Economic Security

- ▶ Current state of affairs
- ▶ Goals of this campaign
 - ▶ Allow all pregnant workers the right to reasonable accommodations to maintain a healthy pregnancy
 - ▶ Support passage of a state paid medical and family leave law
 - ▶ Create protections and accommodations for the right to express breastmilk
- ▶ Example actions
 - ▶ Advocating for state and local policies to require fair scheduling practices
 - ▶ Identifying local employers who are not treating pregnant or parenting employees equally



Campaign 5: Advocating for Those in the Care/ Custody/ Control of the State



**REPRODUCTIVE
JUSTICE INSIDE**

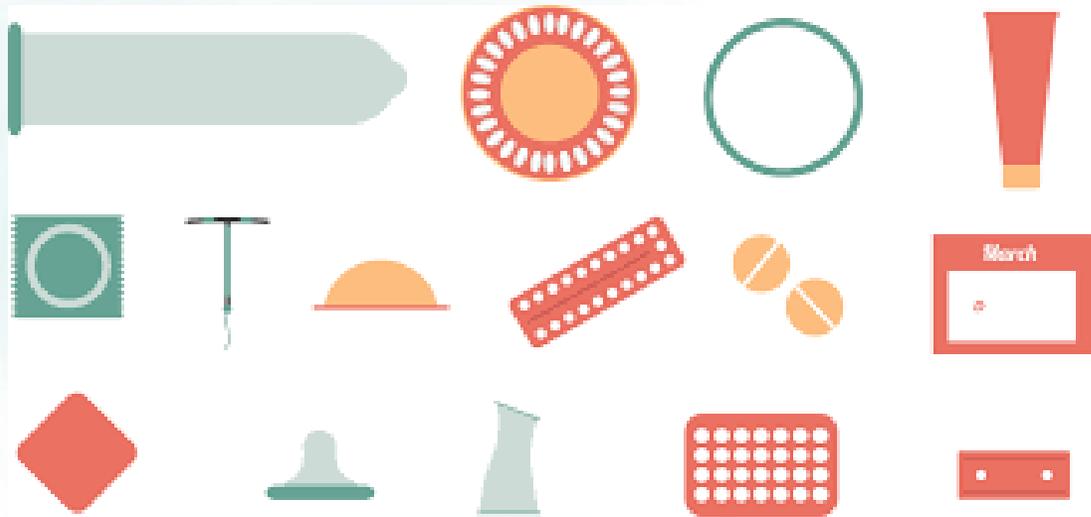
- ▶ Reproductive Justice Inside
- ▶ Goals of this campaign
 - ▶ Increase access to timely and quality sexual and reproductive healthcare for system- involved women and girls in any correctional facility or detention center
 - ▶ Help those coming into the system or leaving the system to gain access to needed SRHR
- ▶ Example actions
 - ▶ Serving as a liaison for women and girls in the care/custody/control of the state in your local facility
 - ▶ Helping to support the right for a new parent to express milk and coordinate ways for the milk to be routinely transported to the those caring for the baby

Campaign 6: Improving Maternal Health Outcomes

- ▶ Current state of affairs
- ▶ Goals of this campaign
 - ▶ Advocate for hospitals to eliminate reproductive coercion practices and policies barring the provision of the full spectrum of maternal healthcare
 - ▶ Protect the rights of pregnant individuals seeking mental health and substance use disorder treatment without criminal justice intervention
- ▶ Example actions
 - ▶ Identifying ways for more community members to have access to doulas to help improve maternal health outcomes
 - ▶ Promoting required intensive diversity and racial bias training for healthcare workers



Campaign 7: Increasing Access to Contraception



- ▶ Access issues
- ▶ Goals of this campaign
 - ▶ Promote public awareness about the existence and safety of over-the-counter and prescription emergency contraception
 - ▶ Advance access to hormonal birth control options in non-clinic settings
- ▶ Example actions
 - ▶ Encouraging local pharmacists to take training authorizing them to provide hormonal birth control
 - ▶ Advocating for better access to emergency contraceptives in pharmacies and stores (not having them behind a counter, etc)

Campaign 8: Protecting and Advancing Access to Abortion Care

- ▶ Current state of affairs
- ▶ Goals of this campaign
 - ▶ Assist with public awareness about the existence and safety of medication abortion
 - ▶ Develop a patient navigation network to support Marylanders and those traveling to MD for abortions with transportation, lodging, childcare, and translation/interpretation services
- ▶ Example actions
 - ▶ Monitoring local government meetings where measures about policies and budgets might affect abortion care access
 - ▶ Volunteering to drive people to clinics, to support them at their appointment, or to offer them space within your home



Ways to Help Now



- ▶ Our current focus is on the census and voter registration
- ▶ Ways to help with this:
 - ▶ Be a voting captain with Turnout Nation
 - ▶ Serve as an election worker
 - ▶ Volunteer with Baltimore Votes to register voters
 - ▶ Volunteer with HeadCount to register people to vote at local events
 - ▶ Become a volunteer with your local League of Women Voters (if relevant) and help with events
- ▶ You can also help by encouraging your friends and family to complete the census using the social media tools at 2020census.gov

Next Steps

- ▶ Sign up to volunteer on the “Access Team Volunteer Sign-Up” that will be sent out after this webinar
- ▶ Recruit friends who you think might be interested
- ▶ Start familiarizing yourself with the sexual and reproductive health and rights landscape in your area (where are people getting their care? Who are the decision makers?)
- ▶ Keep an eye out for emails with training and volunteer opportunities



Questions??

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