



LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS 101

OBJECTIVE

The goal of conducting a Landscape Analysis is to understand the needs of your community in order to focus your efforts. This means developing an understanding of local networks, organizations, and clinics, looking into local abortion funds, practical support groups, mutual aid networks, and getting to know local activists. It's also important to understand who in your community may oppose abortion, so you can prepare for any challenges.

ASSESSING YOUR LANDSCAPE ALLOWS YOU TO:

- Create a focused plan based on your resources and strengths, in order to meet a need in your community.
- Collaborate with others who share your goals in order to make your efforts stronger.
- Build a connected, supportive community dedicated to ensuring everyone has access to abortion, no matter what.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Every community has a web of existing support networks, but they may not always be connected. Before diving into organizing, it's important to understand the landscape you're working in.

Every neighborhood, town, and state has its own unique situation, with different resources, challenges, and opportunities. By mapping out the key players and understanding the local context, you can make sure your efforts align with what's already in place and avoid duplicating work. This knowledge also helps you identify gaps and areas where collaboration could strengthen the overall impact of your work.

Below, you'll find key groups to focus on, online tools to help you research and gather information, a sample spreadsheet for reference, tips for finding hard-to-access information, and next steps for how to use the data you've collected.

ACTION PLAN

STEP 1: START WITH EXISTING RESOURCES

Reach out to major organizations in your area that support abortion access (if you're already familiar with them). Ask if they have compiled a list of local abortion resources. This can save you time by building on existing efforts.

If they have a list, assess if it seems complete or if there are gaps in the resources provided. This will help you understand whether you need to gather additional information or if there are areas where your research can add value.

STEP 2: CONDUCT YOUR RESEARCH

TIP This project is something anyone with internet access, a computer, or a phone can help with! Gather a group of friends or people who are passionate about this work and divide up the different categories to make the process more manageable.

BELOW ARE KEY AREAS TO BEGIN YOUR RESEARCH.

1 CURRENT LAWS

Understand the laws related to abortion in your area. Researching local abortion restrictions, waiting periods, and legal requirements will help you understand the barriers people may face when accessing care. Knowing these laws will also guide you in making informed decisions about risk when organizing and supporting individuals seeking abortion care.

START HERE:

- **STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WEBSITES:** Each state's health department website often includes information on local abortion laws, including restrictions, gestational limits, and legal procedures for obtaining an abortion. It's also a good place to check for updates on state-specific policies and regulations.
- [The Guttmacher Institute](#) provides comprehensive research and data on abortion laws, policies, and access across the US. Their State Policy section offers up-to-date information on state-level abortion restrictions, legislation, and trends.
- [The Center for Reproductive Rights](#) tracks and advocates for reproductive rights, providing updates on state and national abortion laws. They offer detailed reports on policy changes, legal challenges, and key court cases affecting abortion access.

2 LOCAL CLINICS

Identify local clinics that offer abortion and reproductive health services. Understanding what services are available, where they're located, and any barriers to access (such as cost, distance, or gestational age limits) will help you understand the medical support options in your community. This will also allow you to guide people toward the care they need.

START HERE:

[I Need an A](#) is an online tool designed to help individuals find abortion services in their area. The platform provides a simple way to connect people with local clinics, resources, and providers offering safe, legal abortion care. It also includes information about financial support and practical assistance for those seeking reproductive care.

3 ABORTION FUNDS

Look for local or regional abortion funds that provide financial assistance to people seeking abortions. These funds can help cover the cost of procedures, transportation, and other necessary expenses, making abortion more accessible, especially in restrictive areas.

START HERE:

[The National Network of Abortion Funds \(NNAF\)](#) is a coalition of over 80 independent funds that provide financial assistance to individuals seeking abortion care. NNAF's website offers a fund locator tool, which helps people find local abortion funds, support services, and resources across the country.

NOTE: The NNAF directory is a great starting point, but it does not list all available abortion funds because not all funds are affiliated with NNAF. We recommend doing an online search or reaching out to local clinics, advocacy groups, or mutual aid networks to find additional funds in your area. Asking around in online spaces, local activist groups, or community centers can also help you discover other resources that may not be listed in larger directories.

4 PRACTICAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Find organizations that offer hands-on support for people seeking abortions, such as transportation, child care, lodging, or food. These services can be crucial for individuals facing logistical barriers to care.

Many abortion funds and clinics provide direct support, including transportation, lodging, and child care. When contacting these organizations, ask about any practical support services they offer in addition to financial assistance. Start with [Apiary for Practical Support's directory](#).

5 ADVOCACY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Identify advocacy groups working in abortion access. These organizations often provide information, organize outreach, and offer policy support. They can be powerful allies in your efforts, helping to amplify your work and influence local or state-level policy changes.

6 MUTUAL AID NETWORKS

Research local mutual aid groups that help people access resources like transportation, housing, or financial support. These networks play a key role in overcoming barriers to reproductive care, especially in communities facing systemic challenges.

7 COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ACTIVISTS

Locate local leaders, activists, and influencers who are outspoken about abortion. These individuals can help raise awareness, mobilize support, and provide additional resources or connections to strengthen your efforts.

8 ANTI-ABORTION GROUPS

Understand who the anti-abortion groups and individuals are in your community. These groups often work to influence public opinion, create legal challenges, and disrupt abortion access.

THESE GROUPS INCLUDE:

- **CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS (CPCS)**

These centers often present themselves as offering support to pregnant individuals but may provide misleading or coercive information about abortion, aiming to dissuade people from

choosing abortion. The [Crisis Pregnancy Center Map](#) provides a directory of crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) across the United States.

- **CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS**

Some religious groups are outspoken in their opposition to abortion, organizing campaigns, protests, or legal efforts to restrict abortion access in alignment with their beliefs.

- **ANTI-CHOICE ORGANIZATIONS**

These organizations often focus on lobbying, public education campaigns, and organizing protests to push for abortion restrictions or bans at the local, state, and national levels.

Websites like [The National Right to Life Committee \(NRLC\)](#) or [Americans United for Life](#) often list local and national pro-life organizations. They also provide information on the groups' activities and policies.

- **ANTI-ABORTION ACTIVISTS**

Individuals or grassroots groups that engage in activities like picketing clinics, providing misinformation, or attempting to intimidate people seeking abortions.

- **POLITICIANS AND POLICY MAKERS**

Elected officials or political groups who advocate for and pass restrictive abortion laws, often working closely with other anti-abortion organizations.

START HERE:

- [The National Right to Life Committee](#)

(NRLC) offers resources on anti-abortion policies and legislation, including bills being introduced in Congress and state legislatures. They also provide lists of pro-life politicians at the federal and state levels.

- [Vote Smart](#) is a nonpartisan resource that provides voting records, public statements, and biographical information about politicians. It offers a breakdown of pro-choice and pro-life politicians at both the state and federal levels. It's a great resource for understanding a politician's position on abortion and many other issues.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS TO CONDUCT YOUR RESEARCH:

START WITH ONLINE RESEARCH

- Use the links listed in the section above to use directories that have already compiled resources and organizations by region.
- Expand your search to more broad terms. Find articles about abortion access in your area and make a list of people who were interviewed or organizations mentioned that you might not know about already. Hot tip: Save the names of journalists who cover abortion in your area in case you ever need to reach out to them.

ASK FOR REFERRALS

- Contact local clinics, feminist health centers, LGBTQ resource centers, etc. and ask them for recommendations on advocacy organizations they work with or that support their efforts.

JOIN ONLINE COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL MEDIA GROUPS

- Many local advocacy groups are active on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. You can find groups that organize actions, campaigns, or outreach by searching for relevant hashtags. You can also find groups that oppose abortion this way. Consider creating an email just to receive newsletter updates or Google alert notifications about the work these organizations are doing.

CONTACT STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES

- Reach out to state or local offices working on health policy or women's health programs.

ASK AROUND IN ACTIVIST CIRCLES

- Activist communities often share resources and can direct you to important groups.

STEP 3: ORGANIZE YOUR RESEARCH

CREATE A SIMPLE LIST:

Organize the information you find into a list or spreadsheet.

SUGGESTED CHART COLUMNS:

- **RESOURCE NAME:** Name of the clinic, group, or organization
- **SERVICES OFFERED:** What support does the resource provide? (e.g. medical care, financial assistance, transportation, lodging, policy advocacy, etc.)
- **CONTACT INFO:** Email, phone number, or website. Include names or roles of key people to connect with in the organization or group.
- **TYPE OF RESOURCE:** Whether it's a clinic, mutual aid group, abortion fund, advocacy organization, etc.
- **LOCATION/AREA SERVED:** Where is the resource located? Is it local, regional, or statewide? If it serves multiple locations, include that information.
- **KNOWN BARRIERS TO ACCESS:** Identify any challenges people might face when accessing the resource, such as cost, distance, gestational age limits, etc.

STEP 4: IDENTIFY GAPS

Once you've organized your research, take a step back and assess what's missing. Look for gaps in the resources or information you've gathered.

- Are there areas where support is lacking, such as transportation, funding, or legal aid?
- Are there specific groups or communities that aren't being served adequately?

Identifying these gaps allows you to understand where additional resources or outreach efforts are needed and guides your strategy for filling those gaps in the network.

STEP 5: SHARE YOUR RESEARCH AND COLLABORATE

Once you've gathered and organized your research, share it with others in your community or network. By making your findings available, you allow others to contribute their knowledge and help fill in any gaps you may have missed.

COLLABORATION IS KEY

Whether it's through online forums, group meetings, or shared documents, inviting others to participate can enhance the accuracy and completeness of your landscape analysis. This collective effort can help create a more robust, community-driven resource for abortion access and support.

STEP 6: EVALUATE NEEDS AND PLAN YOUR NEXT STEPS

Now that you've gathered and organized your research, take time to evaluate the greatest needs in your community.

- What gaps in resources are most pressing?
- Consider what you're most interested in working on, and what skills and resources you are able to leverage. Do you want to plug into existing organizations now that you know who they are? Or do you see a resource missing that you have the capacity to create? With this data in hand, you can make a strong case for building a new resource if needed.

CONNECTING AND SHARING RESOURCES WITH COMMUNITIES

While mapping abortion support networks through a landscape analysis is essential, integrating this knowledge into the broader communities you're already part of can significantly expand the impact of your work. Sharing resources and information in these spaces helps raise awareness, reduce stigma, and build solidarity, even in communities that may not explicitly focus on abortion rights. These efforts can mobilize new allies, foster understanding, and create a ripple effect of support.

TAKE ACTION: WAYS TO CONNECT AND SHARE RESOURCES

Create a shareable document summarizing key organizations, resources, and contacts.

Share resources within your existing networks, like workplaces, faith groups, clubs, or union halls, tailoring your approach to align with each group's values—such as focusing on healthcare equity in workplaces, human rights in faith groups, or collective action in unions.

Host community discussions or workshops to share findings, educate, and identify gaps.

Share posts or infographics on social media and tag organizations to expand your reach. Concerned about social media censorship? Go old-school by creating newsletters or zines to share your research and distribute them locally or online.

Connect with local organizations, coalitions, or activist groups to coordinate efforts and share resources.

Partner with educators, campus groups, or student organizations to incorporate your findings into workshops or courses.

CASE STUDY #1

WHEN:

2022

WHERE:

DETROIT, MI

PRACTITIONERS:

HYDRA MUTUAL
AID FUND

LEARN MORE:

hydra-fund.org

In Detroit, a group of friends who had been volunteering for abortion access for years decided to take action after the fall of *Roe v. Wade*. They conducted a landscape analysis to see which community needs were unmet.

Their research revealed that Michigan lacked an abortion fund covering medication abortions by mail and had no state-specific support system for people managing abortions at home.

In response, they launched the Hydra Mutual Aid Fund, filling a critical gap in their state's abortion access network.

TOOLS

I NEED AN A:

A search tool to help individuals find abortion providers, including information on available services and local clinics

IneedAnA.com

ABORTION CARE NETWORK:

A directory of independent abortion clinics across the US

AbortionCareNetwork.org

APIARY FOR PRACTICAL SUPPORT:

A national hub for groups that provide logistical assistance to people seeking abortions.

ApiaryPS.org/pso-list

NATIONAL NETWORK OF ABORTION FUNDS (NNAF):

A coalition of over 80 independent abortion funds providing financial assistance

AbortionFunds.org

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER MAP:

A directory that identifies CPCs by location

CrisisPregnancyCenterMap.com

GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE:

Provides research and policy analysis on state-level abortion laws and restrictions

Guttmacher.org/state-policy

CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS:

Tracks legal challenges and policy changes at both the state and federal levels

ReproductiveRights.org

GOVTRACK:

Allows users to track US legislation and politicians' voting records on abortion-related issues.

GovTrack.us

VOTE SMART:

Provides information on politicians' voting records, public statements, and positions on abortion rights

VoteSmart.org

CASE STUDY #2

WHEN:

2024

WHERE:

KITSAP COUNTY,
WA

In Kitsap County, Washington, a community member started a mutual aid group for reproductive justice by posting in a local Facebook group, gathering 22 active participants.

They reached out to local clinics to identify gaps in abortion access, learning that transportation and companion services were critical needs.

Members of the group are independently funding their training as abortion companions and are collaboratively exploring plans for a transportation collective, with the goal of expanding their efforts countywide.

KEY WORDS

Abortion Fund: An organization that provides financial assistance to individuals seeking abortion care. Depending on the fund, this support may cover costs for procedures, transportation, lodging, child care, or other related expenses.

Advocacy Group: An organization focused on promoting abortion access and reproductive rights through public education, policy change, and community outreach.

Anti-Abortion Group: Organizations or individuals that oppose abortion access and often work to restrict reproductive rights through legislation, misinformation, or direct action like protests and harassment.

Clinic: A healthcare facility that provides reproductive health services, including abortion care. Clinics may offer in-clinic procedures, medication abortions, contraception, STI testing, and other related services. Each clinic operates differently, so it's important to check what services they provide, their gestational limits, and any legal requirements they must follow in your area.

Crisis Pregnancy Center (CPC): A facility that presents itself as a reproductive health clinic but typically aims to discourage individuals from seeking abortions. They often provide misleading or biased information.

Gestational Limits: The maximum number of weeks into a pregnancy that a clinic or healthcare provider can legally or medically offer abortion services. These limits vary by state laws and clinic policies and can depend on the type of abortion procedure available. Understanding gestational limits is crucial when helping someone access care, as these restrictions impact what options are available and where someone can go for services.

Landscape Analysis: A process of identifying and assessing the key resources, organizations, and individuals in a community that support or oppose abortion access. This helps guide advocacy and organizing efforts.

Mutual Aid Network: A community-driven group that provides hands-on support, like transportation, housing, or financial aid, to individuals facing barriers to abortion access.

Practical Support Organization: An organization that provides logistical help to people seeking abortions, including transportation, lodging, childcare, and meal support.

Resource Gap: An area where critical support or services are missing. Identifying these gaps helps determine where additional resources or outreach are needed.

Stakeholders: Individuals or groups that have an interest in or influence over abortion access in a community. Stakeholders can include clinics, advocacy organizations, policymakers, and activists.