



## **Proposal: The Access Project**

AccessMatters, a private nonprofit organization based in Philadelphia, is a catalyst for providing access to sexual and reproductive health care for teens and adults in need. Key among our initiatives is helping people plan the timing and spacing of their pregnancies and preventing unintended pregnancies. We achieve our mission through collaboration with high-quality health care providers and partners. Our staff is made up of passionate people who care deeply about the issues we work on. The networks we support are made up of dedicated health care providers who put their hearts – and sometimes their lives – on the line to deliver high quality, compassionate, patient-centered sexual and reproductive health care. Our family planning work is funded through the federal Title X Family Planning Program and other public funding sources at the state level.

### **Our Challenge**

Given the current state and national political landscapes, advocacy work is critical to achieving our mission. The rights to freely and effectively access healthcare services and to make informed personal healthcare decisions are under attack. We are navigating dangerous, uncharted territory. Recent actions threaten us, our communities, and long fought for reproductive rights.

Advocacy is needed to address these threats and protect and expand access to client-centered care and accurate health care information. Current funding is not sufficient for us to engage in advocacy at the level needed in this environment. AccessMatters needs to be at the forefront of work at the local, state, and federal levels to protect existing policies and expand access. We are launching **the Access Project** to expand our advocacy capacity during these troubling times. We need your support to make it a reality.

### **Advocacy Matters**

We are creating a new position with a health policy focus that will be specifically devoted to advocacy, allowing us to expand our efforts and take a more proactive and comprehensive approach to our advocacy work on important issues. These include: protecting the contraceptive coverage currently provided under the Affordable Care Act; protecting access to all reproductive health options, including safe abortion; requiring comprehensive sex education for all Pennsylvania students; and increasing reimbursement rates to ensure providers are fairly compensated and incentivized to provide comprehensive care. With this new health policy position, we will be equipped to better protect reproductive health access in Pennsylvania. With this additional capacity, it will allow us to engage in policy and advocacy work at the local, state, and federal levels with increased activity in certain areas, such as:

- Meeting with the Governor's office, members of the state and federal administrations, and elected officials around policy, regulatory, and legislative matters impacting access
- Proactively engaging the media through press events and op eds
- Delivering testimony and/or drafting public comments to protect access
- Engaging with local and national advocacy groups and coalition partners
- Developing a base of informed consumers and advocates who we can mobilize around a particular issue through education and outreach activities



Importantly, your support also will help AccessMatters' increase our technology capabilities so that we can measure our success in mobilizing support.

### **Why AccessMatters?**

AccessMatters has a long history of advocacy and working in coalition with other healthcare groups in Pennsylvania. Our achievements in 45 years include:

- Protecting state funding for a cervical cancer screening program called Keeping Women Healthy
- Securing and protecting state funding for SelectPlan for Women, a family planning program, and advocating for it to become a formal part of Pennsylvania's Medicaid program.
- Changing state policy to include Medicaid reimbursement for the significant cost of a long-acting reversible contraceptive device when placed at time of delivery, advanced in concert with increases in provider reimbursement rates for family planning services
- Working in coalition to secure paid sick days in Philadelphia
- Advocating for contraceptive coverage and preventive health coverage with the passage of the Affordable Care Act
- Advocating for birth control services at HIV clinics and in the corrections system
- Preserving and expanding policies protecting people living with or affected by HIV

AccessMatters is active on the steering committees for the Pennsylvania Campaign for Women's Health and Pennsylvanians for Reproductive Health, both aimed at opposing restrictions and expanding access to sexual and reproductive health services in Pennsylvania. With your support, we can do so much more.

The Access Project is the next step we need to take to truly advance our mission. To create and sustain a health policy position, we estimate needing approximately \$400,000 over three years. We greatly appreciate your generous support to allow us to expand our work and make a real difference in the lives of Pennsylvanians by fighting for and defending reproductive and sexual rights, health, and information. Thank you!