

## Making Abortion Care and Women's Reproductive Health a Certainty in Uncertain Times

[Preterm](#) is the only nonprofit independent abortion clinic in Ohio, providing care to patients from across the state and beyond its borders. As one of the largest independent abortion clinics nationwide, Preterm serves 4,000 to 5,000 patients annually. Roughly 75% of those patients receive some sort of financial assistance from Preterm since Medicaid and many private insurers do not cover abortion care.

Patient care is always at the forefront, and Preterm receives funding from national and regional partners to deliver it. But modest grants for general operating support, like the \$14,000 supplied by the [ACS Fund for Women & Girls](#) at the end of 2024, allow the organization to be more nimble and flexible—especially in challenging times.

“The general operating funds from the ACS Fund gave us the flexibility for contingency planning, which included purchasing medical supplies in anticipation of challenges from the current administration,” explained Bethany Lewis, Preterm’s Executive Director.

That flexibility is critical at a time when both tensions and prices are rising. Lewis noted that the current federal administration’s refusal to enforce the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, which prohibits threats of force, property damage, or obstruction at abortion clinics, and presidential pardons earlier this year of 23 people convicted of FACE Act violations, have created a heightened security risk for clinic patients and employees. In addition, rising costs for operations and medical supplies affected by tariffs and higher prices also significantly impact Preterm’s services, staff, and patients.

“Preterm constantly shows us what commitment to women’s health and reproductive justice looks like. Despite all of the legal hurdles, increasing costs, and threats to safety,



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they are always there for women in need,” said Scarlett Boudier, president and co-founder of [Advocacy & Communication Solutions, LLC](#) (ACS), who along with CEO and co-founder Lori McClung created The ACS Fund for Women and Girls in 2024. “We are proud to support them and help them remain nimble and responsive with our unrestricted gift.”

### A Force for Women’s Health

In addition to providing services, Preterm continues to advocate for reproductive health and justice, and acts as the lead plaintiff in a number of lawsuits challenging problematic state laws even in the wake of Ohio’s 2023 constitutional amendment codifying the right to an abortion. Ongoing debates serve to confuse people about what is legal in Ohio, often stoking fear and stigma that, Lewis says, “criminalizes pregnancy.” In response, Preterm constantly works to get accurate messages out to women who need them most.

Preterm’s patients have benefited from some legal decisions, including the removal of Ohio’s mandatory 24-hour waiting period for abortion care. That means Preterm’s clinical team can provide patients with abortion counseling and procedures in one visit for the first time since the 1990s.

While an amazing development, this change required significant administrative work to restructure scheduling, staffing, and patient flow.

For the ACS Fund, the grant to Preterm was an easy decision. “Preterm has always been a leader in women’s health and re Join Us in Supporting productive justice, and they continue to lead the way in breaking down barriers and standing up for access to quality care. They are vital to women in Ohio and beyond, and we are proud to support them,” McClung said.

#### Join Us in Supporting Women & Girls with a Gift to the ACS Fund



The ACS Fund for Women & Girls is held at the Community Foundation for Lorain County. Donate online via the [Community Foundation website](#).

If you’d like to make a donation through another fund or make a gift of something other than cash, please contact Jamie Simoneau, [jsimoneau@peoplewhocare.org](mailto:jsimoneau@peoplewhocare.org), 440.984.7390.

If you’d like to make a multi-year pledge, please email Lori McClung, [lori@advocacyandcommunication.org](mailto:lori@advocacyandcommunication.org).

**Thank you!**