



midwest access project

Filling the Gaps ~ Training Providers in Reproductive Health

Midwest Access Project (MAP) envisions a society in which every person has access to comprehensive, high quality, patient-centered sexual and reproductive health care in their community. Our mission is to improve access to comprehensive reproductive health care by training providers in abortion, miscarriage care, contraception, and pregnancy options counseling. Rooted in the Midwest, MAP's innovative training model fills gaps nationwide in medical education and clinical training.

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An unmet need

Most medical and nursing training programs in the country do not provide adequate education in reproductive health. Some are restricted by conservative state laws or cultural norms, while many are housed in religiously affiliated hospitals that adhere to faith-based prohibitions against reproductive health training and procedures. As a result, fewer clinicians are trained to be abortion providers, fewer clinical support staff provide comprehensive pregnancy options counseling, and gaps in care and training widen.

MAP's unique approach to meet the need

Since 2007, Midwest Access Project has been developing programs to increase the accessibility of full-spectrum reproductive health care in the region. True to our mission, MAP continues to remove barriers by offering education and training opportunities for medical providers nationwide. **MAP is the Midwest's only on-the-ground nonprofit organization addressing training gaps.**

The cornerstone of MAP's mission focused work is its *Individual Clinical Training* program which arranges individually-tailored rotations for medical and nursing students, medical residents, practicing physicians, advance practice clinicians, and nurses. Since its founding, **MAP has provided clinical training rotations to more than 250 health care professionals.** MAP trainees come from all over the country and around the world.

Trainings range from one-day observations to month-long, hands-on rotations. MAP's training partners are established, high-quality clinics in Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas and Oklahoma including Planned Parenthood, Whole Woman's Health, carafem, and University of Chicago Ryan Center.

Demand for training far exceeds MAP's resources. MAP received 102 applications in 2019, accepted 47 for clinical training, and trained 32.

MAP's *Provider and Community Education* program offers workshops and didactic sessions on reproductive health care to educational institutions, community-based groups, and national and regional conferences. Presentation topics include contraception, all options pregnancy counseling, abortion care, and the impact of regional disparities on patients and providers. The program seeks to increase knowledge of comprehensive reproductive health care and inspire continued training.



MAP programs expand access to high quality comprehensive reproductive health care.

The January 2018 edition of *Contraception*, an international reproductive health journal, published an article detailing the effectiveness of Midwest Access Project's training model. Findings include:

- * Nearly all of MAP's alum provide full scope contraception and pregnancy options counseling;
- * Half of MAP alum provide abortion;
- * The majority work in the Midwest and are family physicians;
- * MAP trainees who had higher numbers of rotations and more hands-on experiences were significantly more likely to provide abortion;
- * MAP training increased their PREPARATION and INTENT to provide;
- * MAP alum are filling access gaps, advocating for reproductive health, and training others.

Midwest Access Project thanks its foundation and family fund partners:

- Argosy Foundation
- Best Portion Foundation
- Chicago Foundation for Women
- Conant Family Foundation
- Ellie Fund at the Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
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MAP's foundation partners and individual donors help sustain and grow its training programs.



Every donation advances MAP's mission.

* \$3,600 = one 10-day clinical rotation, which includes site fees, staff coordination time, supplies, and administrative costs.

* \$500 = trainer fee for one physician instructed clinical workshop.

MAP's impact is limited only by the resources it raises every year.

It's a simple equation. Increased resources = more training and expanded access. And expanded access to reproductive health care allows people to parent when they are ready, to prevent pregnancy with patient-centered contraception, and to receive high quality abortion care and miscarriage management services when the need arises.

With much gratitude,

Lynne Johnson
Executive Director