Abortion Care Network Membership Criteria

General Abortion Care Network (ACN) membership criteria, definitions, eligibility guidelines, and exceptions are listed below. These membership criteria may change from time to time at ACN’s sole discretion.

**ACN Member Definition**

An “ACN member” is a clinic, organization, or individual that has completed the ACN membership application process, signed the membership agreement, and has been approved by the ACN membership committee and/or ACN Board of Directors in accordance with ACN Membership Guidelines.

**ACN Members Are:**
- Independent abortion clinics, organizations, and providers of independent abortion care services within the 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, United States Commonwealths, and Territories¹; and/or
- Independent clinics, organizations, and individuals dedicated to the advancement, innovation, and/or advocacy for abortion access with/or for independent abortion care providers, and/or reproductive health providers, and/or allies within a community, region, or locale; and/or
- Independent abortion clinics, organizations, and individuals working towards abortion clinic sustainability, innovation, resilience, and/or equity in clinic leadership, business practices, management, and/or employment practices; and/or
- Independent abortion clinics, organizations, and individuals engaged in arts, culture, media, advocacy, research, and/or policy related to abortion access, reproductive justice, rights, and/or health; and/or
- Independent abortion clinics, organizations, and individuals working towards broader partnership, coalition, and or equity in leadership models, business practices, management, and/or employment practices;
- And/or independent abortion clinics, organizations, and individuals actively participating in ACN Campaigns, Membership events, and/or ACN Board of Directors or committees.

**All ACN Members:**
- Must complete a membership application and be approved by the Board of Directors and/or board-designated ACN membership committee.
- Must sign and agree to abide by the ACN Membership Agreement
- Make annual dues payments relative to the size of their practice or organization.
- Have demonstrated a commitment to supporting ACN’s vision, mission, and values by advancing abortion access and/or independent abortion care providers, the people, and the communities they serve to ensure that all people have access to dignified and exceptional abortion care and reproductive healthcare services.

¹US commonwealths: Puerto Rico (Caribbean), and Northern Marianas Islands (Pacific) (former Trust Territory of the United Nations elected by plebiscite to join the U.S.) US Territories (various types): Guam (Pacific) (physically part of the Marianas Islands but politically separate) American Samoa (Pacific) U.S. Virgin Islands (Caribbean) ("U.S." to distinguish from the neighboring British Virgin Islands)

*Members who joined ACN before 2015 may have gone through a different criteria or eligibility process to join ACN and/or submitted different initial membership documentation than described above.*
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ACN Membership Categories

ACN offers membership to independent abortion and/or reproductive healthcare clinics, ally organizations, and individuals. Meeting membership criteria makes an applicant eligible for membership; it does not guarantee ACN will approve an applicant to be a member. Membership decisions are within the sole discretion of ACN. Specific membership criteria for these categories are as follows.

Clinic Membership:

To help meet ACN’s mission of ensuring meaningful abortion care access within the United States, ACN offers clinic memberships. Clinic memberships are available to the following types of organizations:

- Independently owned organizations, including abortion and/or reproductive healthcare clinic(s); hospitals; private physicians’ offices; telemedicine or telehealth providers.
- Taxable and non-taxable entities are eligible for clinic membership, provided they are independently owned.

Ally Membership:

Ally organizations and individuals help ACN meet its mission by sharing expertise and perspectives with the independent abortion care community. Ally memberships are available to the following types of organizations and individuals:

- Reproductive rights, justice, and health organizations aligned with ACN’s mission, vision and values;
- An organization, law firm, or company aligned with ACN’s mission of expanding abortion access;
- An organization, campaign, coalition, and/or collective engaged in arts, culture, advocacy, research, and/or policy related to abortion access, reproductive justice, rights, and/or health.
- Individuals who are independent providers and are not affiliated with an existing ACN member.
- Individuals who previously worked for independent abortion providers and/or within the reproductive health, rights, or justice (or related) community without existing ACN member affiliation.

Clinics, organizations, or individuals that are not eligible for ACN membership are:

- Planned Parenthood, Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Planned Parenthood Consortium of Abortion Providers (CAPs), or their affiliates are not eligible members, as they are not independent clinics and their experiences and needs thus differ from those of the independently owned organizations ACN serves.
- News/media organizations, news media outlets, publications, or others working primarily as reporters or journalists.

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