



cobalt

Advancing Abortion Access
and Reproductive Rights

2021 **Cobalt Annual Report**



Cobalt is a grassroots, statewide Colorado organization that advances abortion access and reproductive rights. Our organization began in 1967 when Colorado became the first state to allow safe, legal abortion. Cobalt believes nothing should stand between you and your health decisions, which is why we are dedicated to fighting for systems, structures and policies that protect reproductive rights and guarantee comprehensive, universal access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

cobaltadvocates.org

Letter from Cobalt President Karen Middleton: A Challenging and Productive Year



Dear Friends,

I don't need to tell you what a challenging year 2021 was, physically and emotionally, for all of us. Yet despite the challenges, Cobalt has much to be proud of as we build on our mission of protecting and expanding abortion rights for all. We are meeting the moment with action and building for the future.

The Cobalt Abortion Fund saw incredible growth in the number of clients it served, as abortion restrictions in other states saw more and more people seeking care here in Colorado. We networked with abortion funds and support networks in other states to connect patients and providers. We have never turned away a client and never will.

Our non-profit 501c3 and political 501c4 arms also saw explosive growth. And in an exciting new development, we announced TWO endowments, one for the Cobalt Abortion Fund and one for the Cobalt Foundation to expand our work advancing abortion access statewide.

And as Cobalt President, I was able to step away this fall for a sabbatical to renew and re-energize. I will use that new energy to focus on Cobalt's future. **Cobalt is strongly positioned with the institutional knowledge and political strategy needed to dig in and lead.** I hope you will join me.

In Solidarity,





“Cobalt stands guard against the endless attacks on reproductive rights that we face in Colorado and across the West. We need organizations like Cobalt to stand up for EVERY person’s right to make healthcare decisions that are right for them without politicians interfering. As a mother, I am so grateful for Cobalt and all the partners holding the line every day, keeping Colorado a safe place to access abortion care.”

Katie Borden, C3 Board Member and Chair of the Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee

COBALT’S PURPOSE, MISSION AND VALUES

Purpose: We envision a world where your health decisions are free from stigma, politics and systemic barriers

Mission: We actualize policies, structures and attitudes that secure unassailable reproductive autonomy and abortion access

Values: We are courageous, unified, principled and rooted

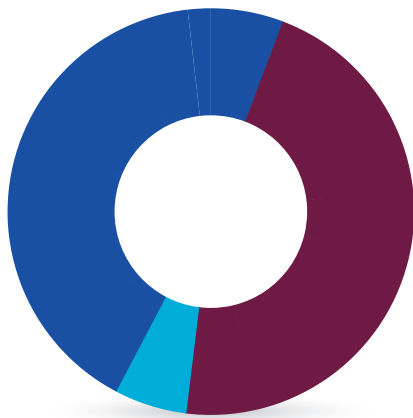
Courageous: We establish a bold direction, set audacious goals and then do what it takes to achieve them. This includes employing innovative tactics, confronting obstacles directly, and having difficult conversations when needed.

Unified: Nobody can achieve unassailable autonomy until we all do. If one person’s freedom over their own body is threatened, that impacts us all. We actively seek programs, strategies and collaborations that are led by, beneficial to and reflective of all genders, races, and backgrounds.

Principled: We are ruthless about the accuracy and reliability of the information we curate, investigate, and share. We treat our partners, members and allies with the same respect, providing credible, fact-based information in a timely and trustworthy manner.

Rooted: We understand that each individual’s health autonomy is at the core of our vision. To guide that focus, we work deeply with impacted communities. We are in constant relationship with the providers, advocates and impacted individuals to understand their unique needs and amplify their stories.

**In 2021, Cobalt raised \$1.55M,
exceeding our goal of \$1.42M for the year.**



8%

8% of that total comes
from special events,
the majority of which
happened online in 2021

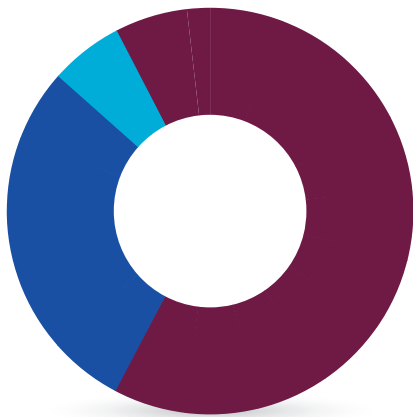
44%

44% of that total comes
from grants

48%

48% of that total comes
from individual donors

Financial Breakdown by Entity



8%

8% of income went to Cobalt Advocates,
the 501c4 political arm of the organization
that makes the Small Donor Committee,
Political Action Committee, and all of our
other direct political action work possible

28%

28% of income went to the
Cobalt Abortion Fund, directly
paying for clients' access to
abortion care in Colorado

64%

64% of income went to The Cobalt Foundation, the
engine of the organization that makes all of the
programmatic work possible such as practical support,
education efforts statewide, digital engagement, and
the running of Cobalt as a whole

The Cobalt Foundation is the engine of the organization that powers all of the programming that we do: advocacy, outreach and education statewide, civic engagement, voter turnout, practical support and cash assistance for abortion access, collaboration with our regional and local coalition partners, and taking care of our Cobalt family.

**Since 2012, Cobalt's annual budget
has grown by 278%**

COBALT STAFF, BOARD, VOLUNTEERS

10 Full-Time Staff • 4 Part-Time Staff
28 Board Members • Many Volunteers



In 2021, an anonymous longtime supporter included Cobalt as part of her legacy commitment to reproductive rights and education, creating an endowment for the Cobalt Foundation called **The**

Health Education Fund for Reproductive Health Care.

Held in partnership with The Denver Foundation, this fund will honor this donor's memory by ensuring that Cobalt can expand our work and our reach statewide, and continue to advance abortion access and reproductive rights well into the future. Establishing an endowment now contributes to Cobalt's strategic plan, reflects our feasibility study efforts, and fosters the overall stability of the organization. We are deeply grateful for her family's support.



"I serve on Cobalt's Board because Black women are constantly left out of women's reproductive rights. We are working to change that."

Portia Prescott, C3 Board Member

Highlights from 2021

1150

clients

\$206,000+

provided in pledges

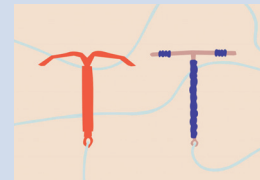
\$7,000

spent on practical support: gas, hotels, grocery delivery, and direct cash assistance

2

Two telemedicine partnerships created: **Hey Jane** and **Just The Pill**. This is a game changer for rural Coloradoans and those traveling from other states.

Our first post-abortion long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) grant opportunity was a success.



The Cobalt Abortion Fund has never turned away a client.



“We served 22 clients with \$25,000 in LARC funding from the first Caring for Colorado grant. Devices ranged from \$500-1000 in cost. We piloted with two independent providers who identified patient need based on factors such as: little or no insurance, low income, teen/youth, or undocumented status.”

Amanda Carlson, Abortion Fund Director



“An individual’s inability to choose when to have children or not is at the headwaters of an individual’s future – education, employment opportunities, economic security and more. Seeing the impact as a pre-Roe teen of the injustice of no-choice- my personal mission of choice was formed. Through the decades, I have engaged with organizations supporting the freedom of choice. Cobalt and their Abortion Fund is one of those organizations. Cobalt advocates for access to all facets of healthcare, which includes abortion care. Cobalt offers that voice in policy and candidate work. And The Cobalt Abortion Fund, and the new Cobalt Abortion Fund Endowment, ensure that no one is refused access to abortion care – a constitutional right.”

Melissa Johnsen, Abortion Fund Council member

Cobalt Abortion Fund News

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! The new **Cobalt Abortion Fund Endowment** is being held in partnership with The Denver Foundation. Started in 2021 with the support of seven generous donors, it is currently at \$167,000 with a goal of growing to \$1M over the next few years. The Cobalt Abortion Fund Endowment will continue to provide financial assistance to abortion patients now and forever. Please consider adding the Cobalt Abortion Fund Endowment to your annual giving and estate plans.



Cobalt Abortion Fund Brunch

Club - this series of small house parties started in 2021 and will continue in 2022 and beyond. Would you like to host a brunch in support of abortion access? Email info@cobaltadvocates.org and we'll help you get the party started.



The Impact of SB8 in Texas

- Since State Bill 8 went into effect in Texas on September 1, 2021, 75% of Cobalt's practical support funding has gone to support people traveling from Texas to Colorado for abortion care.
- In that same time frame, 33% of Cobalt Abortion Fund recipients were from Texas.
- Cobalt works closely with providers, abortion funds, and practical support organizations through the Regional Abortion Alliance to help streamline care for clients who have to travel for abortion care.



Abortion Provider Appreciation Day - March 10

Each year, Cobalt assembles gift baskets for our abortion providers - you can help! Please email info@cobaltadvocates.org to get involved in this project.

Cobalt Advocates (501c4)

**ABORTION
SHOULD BE**
SHAME FREE
STIGMA FREE
BARRIER FREE

#AbortionIsEssential #BansOffOurBodies cobalt

**PROTECT
ABORTION
ACCESS**

cobalt

***Your right
to abortion
should not
depend on
your zip code***

cobalt

Exponential Member Growth

Cobalt's statewide membership has grown from **68,000** in 2019 to **173,000** in 2021 thanks to various outreach efforts.



Honor RBG and Become a Cobalt Advocate. Visit cobaltadvocates.org today to get your tote!

Small Donor Committee (SDC) – Donors can give a maximum of \$50 per person, per year, which gets pooled together to support allied candidates in their run for elected office.

Cobalt formally endorses



Michael Bennet U.S. Senate
Jared Polis Governor
Phil Weiser Attorney General
Jena Griswold Secretary of State
Dave Young Treasurer

Early Endorsements announced in December 2021

Scorecard Report

100%

100% of all reproductive rights bills that passed had bipartisan support.

94%

94% of General Assembly members voted for at least 3 proactive bills.

52

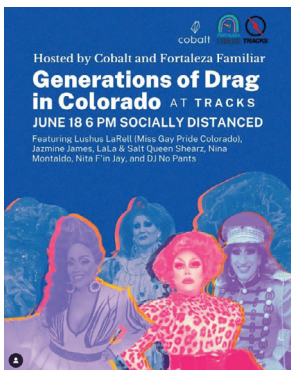
52 General Assembly members achieved the special designation "Cobalt Advocate" for a 100% legislative score and taking an additional action to protect reproductive rights.

"Getting involved with Cobalt was a no-brainer. I've been an advocate for reproductive rights for as long as I can remember. It started when I was young, and watched my grandmother advocate for sexual education. I questioned why it was such a battle to earn the right to teach something so fundamental in our schools. It just seemed like common sense. My worldview was shaped by this understanding, and it transferred into my unflinching support for abortion access and reproductive rights. It just makes sense that you should be in control of your own body. No one else should get to decide that for you."



Sam Gilchrist, C4 Board Member

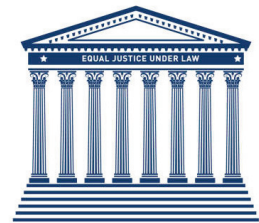
Although COVID-19 curtailed much of our in person outreach we did manage to participate in the Juneteenth Festival and the Colorado Black Arts Festival.



Cobalt partnered with Fortaleza Familiar for an all-ages drag show called “Generations of Drag in Colorado” because reproductive rights don’t exist in a vacuum. They are inextricably linked to collective liberation for all people. Queer rights are reproductive rights. The rights of Indigenous, Latinx, and other people of color are reproductive rights. Youth rights are reproductive rights. Learn more about Fortaleza Familiar today!



An Eye on the Supreme Court

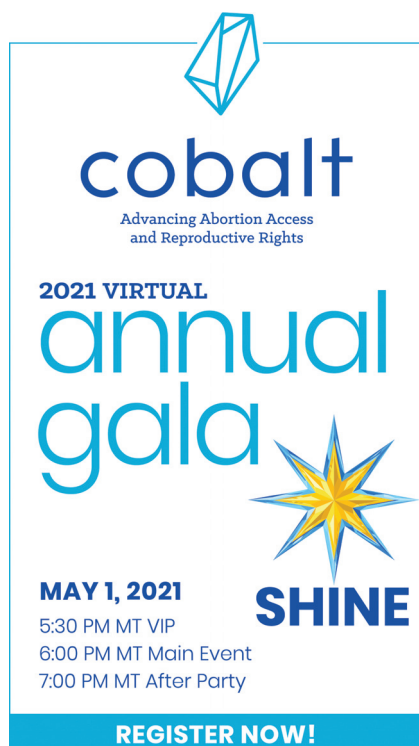


Cobalt staff remain vigilant: oral arguments happened on Dec. 1 in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case that could threaten the future of *Roe v. Wade*.

Gala

The 2021 Cobalt Virtual Gala's theme was **Shine!** and raised \$135,000 for Cobalt's political work.

The 2022 Cobalt Gala will be in-person on March 26, 2022. Tickets and table sponsorships are available now!



Creative ways to give:

Please reach out to Jaime@cobaltadvocates.org for more information

- Appreciated stock
- Retirement plan beneficiary designation
- Required Minimum Distributions
- Howard Gelt Memorial Fellowship
- Gala sponsorship
- Silent auction donations
- Host a fundraising event
- Become a monthly donor
- Consider a gift to the **Cobalt Abortion Fund Endowment** or the Cobalt Foundation Endowment, **The Health Education Fund for Reproductive Health Care**, now as as part of your estate plans!
- Share your personal story – Why are you passionate about reproductive rights? You can submit your story here: stories@cobaltaf.org

Ways to get involved:

- Write a letter to the editor (Cobalt can help you!)
- Talk about abortion access among friends and family
- Advocate on the issue during Lobby Day at the State Capitol
- Join the Medical Advisory Committee
- Join the Lawyer's Committee for Reproductive Rights
- Join a community committee – let us know your interest areas and we'll help you find the right fit – info@cobaltadvocates.org
- Join the conversation on social media: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram @CobaltAdvocates
- Share your story: stories@cobaltaf.org



THANK YOU to every single person and organization that has joined us in our mission and helped Cobalt succeed.

In many annual reports, you'll see a prestigious list of donor and Board member names. Cobalt has decided not to list these names for privacy and security reasons. We thank you ALL for your support and commitment to advancing abortion access and reproductive rights.

2021 featured a handful of informational and engaging webinars:

Black Women & Reproductive Herstory with **Shyrisa Dobbins**

Join Shyrisa Dobbins, civil rights attorney and reproductive justice advocate, as she discusses the heroic and often perilous reproductive journeys of Black Women in the United States, from enslavement's lack of autonomy to our present day reproductive justice movement and beyond.

22 FEB
WEBINAR 12 PM MST

Redistricting's Impact On Colorado's Communities Of Color

Join Cobalt, Dusti Gurule of COLOR, Senator Julie Gonzales, Representatives Yadira Caraveo, Leslie Herod, and Iman Jodeh for more on redistricting and Colorado's communities of color and how you can participate in the process.

04 AUG
WEBINAR 12 PM MST

A MESS IN TEXAS

Join Cobalt and hosts Dani Newsum and Justine Sandoval as they examine the recently passed Texas anti-abortion law, the state legislators who approved it, the governor who signed it, and highlight the real people who will suffer because of it.

14 SEP
WEBINAR 12 PM MST

Resilience & Reproductive Rights

Part 1: Building our collective power

Thinking globally, acting locally for abortion access

Join us as we discuss the abortion rights landscape with domestic and international advocates.

28 SEP
WEBINAR 11 AM MST



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