



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

May 2025

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**We welcome newcomers to our
events and meetings**

Donate Here

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Everything is Changing

At the start of the Memorial Day weekend, we received memorable news. Four of the six Planned Parenthood facilities in Iowa will close, including the one here in Cedar Rapids! This will mark a dramatic change in our activities in the long-term, but there is still plenty to do to create a culture of life that values each human life.

KEEP PRAYING! DO NOT STOP! When an organization shrinks, there's room for further collapse. Most people may have missed the news that the Omaha Planned Parenthood will cease performing abortions. An independent abortion provider may continue in that area, but Planned Parenthood will have just 2 sites in Nebraska, neither of which will perform abortions! Even CALIFORNIA is reducing funding to Planned Parenthood! KEEP PRAYING!

We encourage people to contact their lawmakers regarding the matter of defunding Planned Parenthood, which can be accomplished during the federal budget reconciliation process. This bill's passage through the U.S. House is part of the reason the local site will not reopen.

Register for the bus to Des Moines! There is a link on the next page to reserve your seats! I expect a great event, knowing the recent news.

Upcoming Events

First Mondays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (1st Mondays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Sun, Jun 15
All Day

Father's Day

Sat, Jun 21
All Day

Iowa March for Life

Save the date for the March for Life at our state's capitol!

Register: <https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Jun 27
Opening – 2 p.m.

Linn County Fair: Community Day

Check back for details in the future.

JOIN US FOR THE IOWA MARCH!



Join the Coalition for Life of Iowa bus to the **Iowa March for Life** in Des Moines! We leave Cedar Rapids at 9 AM and get back about 5:30 PM. The bus is only \$25/person. Please reserve your seat at:
<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site>
Questions/need financial assistance? Email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com



We will not rest until abortion is no longer legal!

The Iowa March for Life is an opportunity to proclaim the value of all human life and advocate for the protection of life in our law.

Saturday, June 21, 2025

12:00-1:00pm Educational Booths & Music

Iowa State Capitol Rotunda

1pm Rally • 1:45pm March for Life

Governor Kim Reynolds & Attorney General Brenna Bird, Legislators, & Pro-Life Leaders have been invited. We will march around the Iowa State Capitol and Supreme Court Buildings.



Knights of Columbus
Iowa State Council



Dubuque County
Right To Life, Inc.

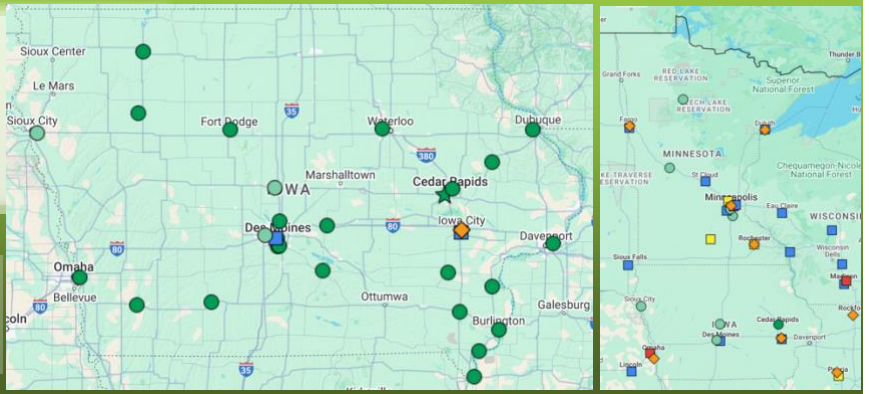


Iowa RIGHT TO LIFE



Major PP Closures!

Iowa closures since 2000,
and current regional map



Planned Parenthood of the North Central States announced numerous closures on Friday, May 23, 2025. They announced the need to close sites due to the federal government funding cuts. They strategically announced the closures and planned layoffs just before a long, holiday weekend. It was also soon after the U.S. House passed the reconciliation bill, which was the main obstacle to the passage of the first bill to cut significant funding from Planned Parenthood (PP). The U.S. Senate still has a chance to vote on the bill, but is more likely to pass it. If the Senate fails to pass it, then things may not be so dire for PP. This could be their next rallying point, especially with it happening just a week and a half before their local fundraiser.

Many of the closures were easy to predict. In some cases, they are passing blame unjustly. Funding isn't their only issue, but I'll step through the sites they are closing to lay out some insights. The locations being closed include: Urbandale, Sioux City, Cedar Rapids, and Ames. In Minnesota, they will close: Alexandria, Bemidji, Apple Valley, and Richfield.

Urbandale, Iowa

This closure shouldn't even count! Yes, this site was open 52 hours per week, and it's a site in a suburb of Des Moines, which seems like a major closure. Two years ago, PP announced the "temporary" closures of three sites, along with the return of abortions to Cedar Rapids that was expected soon afterward. Two of the temporary closures were permanently closed within weeks. The other was the Des Moines site that performed surgical abortions.

Around that time, they also said they planned to expand their other Des Moines site to enable it to absorb all of the clients from their Urbandale site. Their announcement at that time made it clear they intended to close the Urbandale site within a year of upgrading their other site. They recently provided tours of that other site to their supporters to show off their completed upgrades. Thus, the closure of their Urbandale site was part of their plan, but they are blaming it on politics. In the process, they created a mega site in Des Moines.

Sioux City, Iowa

Their Sioux City site was closed several years ago when Sue Thayer led the way to closing tons of western Iowa PP sites. After Sue died, the PP site reopened, since they still owned the property. This is why I prefer to see their properties sell in order to know it's permanent.

This site was one of their weaker sites in Iowa. The site used to be open roughly half-time (approximately 20 hours per week). They managed to hire enough staff to open for 40 hours per week a few months ago. The expansion was so recent that it still seemed weak.

Prior to the enforcement of Iowa's Heartbeat Law, that site allowed PP to give abortion pills to women from South Dakota, which didn't have abortion providers. Once the Heartbeat Law was enforced, that site didn't provide the value it used to offer the business. When I saw the looming cuts, I figured this would be one of the first sites to close.

Major PP Closures (continued)

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Another site that made sense to close was right here in Cedar Rapids. Although this is the second-largest city in the state, the site was closed for over 1.5 years, ever since roughly the time they claimed they would start doing abortions. Last year, they sought to fix issues with the facility.

They had an issue with their foundation. They also encountered some other issues, and their projects fell behind schedule. They had planned to renovate the interior, despite ripping out 100% of the renovations they performed just 4 years prior. Their donors really wasted their money when it came to that project.

While running into obstacles with the project, they also saw the likelihood of a rough time politically when it looked like their candidates wouldn't win the 2024 election. Then, various rounds of funding cuts and other life-affirming orders were made.

If they had been open without any of these issues lingering, they may have found justification to keep the site open. But the timing was perfect to close the site. It was turning into a money pit at the same time they needed money. It only made sense to close the site.

Since it's been closed for 1.5 years, and the list of sites they plan to close apply to the next 12 months, it

wouldn't make sense to finish renovations and reopen just to close it down again. So at this point, we consider it permanently closed. However, the U.S. Senate still has the reconciliation bill to address, and PP still owns the Cedar Rapids property, which is not in a normal condition to sell it.

Each of the sites listed so far were among sites we identified as weak sites worth praying about. The list of sites we identified as weak in Minnesota also had closures.

Ames, Iowa

On the stronger list, Ames was the stand-out in Iowa. It's the only site in Iowa where they performed surgical abortions. Ames is a college town. This is a major victory for the pro-life movement.

It makes sense, though. Ames is close to Des Moines, and they had just upgraded the site in Iowa's capital city. It makes more sense to close Ames, but that was the site that really required government funding cuts to close it, since it wasn't a weak site.

Iowa Summary

Des Moines and Iowa City sites will remain open. But these are the ONLY two sites in the entire state for PP. Emma Goldman Clinic is still open in Iowa City. All of these cities are along I-80. PP went from having over 20 sites in Iowa in 2011 to no more than 2 within the next year.

Bemidji, Minnesota

After several other closures in northern Minnesota, Bemidji was the only site remaining north of the sites in Duluth and Moorhead (near Fargo). Bemidji is a college town, and it's in a north-central location. It was often open half as many hours as a typical PP site, but it increased hours as other sites closed.

Alexandria, Minnesota

Alexandria was only open a few hours per week, too, but also increased hours after they moved to a new location in the past year or two. This was the other site that seemed likely to close if one just had to close two sites in Minnesota.

Apple Valley & Richfield

The Twin Cities have many sites, and Apple Valley and Richfield are both southern suburbs of the cities. Closing these sites still preserved their core sites in the middle of the cities, including their mega site in Saint Paul.

Minnesota Summary

PP closed two predictable sites, and two within a metro area that could easily offload clients to other sites.

Overall Summary

The affiliate will close 8 of 23 sites to operate 15 sites across 5 states. Minnesota has 10, Iowa has 2, Nebraska has 2, South Dakota has 1, and North Dakota has none! 🍷



June Activities

We have more activities in June than we used to have. After the Dobbs ruling struck down Roe vs. Wade, June became a month for a march for life. We also wanted to reach more of the public by having a booth at the Linn County Fair, which we began doing last year.

Iowa March for Life

With the announcement of the closing of the majority of Planned Parenthood sites in Iowa, this year's Iowa March for Life could be quite a celebration! It's even more monumental when later news indicated that the Omaha Planned Parenthood would stop performing abortions, just across our border. When even the very pro-abortion governor of California realized he needed to make budget cuts that would include cutting funds to Planned Parenthood in his state, it's clear that the abortion industry is taking many hits. Yet, they are still committing more abortions than ever. We still need to remain active to solidify the gains in protecting life and to maintain the momentum of protecting more lives and not forcing us to fund the killing.

Last year we organized a bus to bring anyone interested to the event in Des Moines. We are doing that again this year.

Do you want to join us in a statewide event at the Iowa Capitol building in this time when there is so much good momentum? The QR code on this page provides access to our site where you can register for seats on the bus. Invite a friend!



You'll get to hear from a variety of pro-life leaders from across the state and within our state government. Around here, you often just hear from us. It also allows you to see what other groups exist and what they are doing to advocate for life. Join us!

Linn County Fair

A few years ago, we started to think about reaching more people beyond the normal pro-life audience. We decided we could start with the Linn County Fair. Two years ago, we inquired about it after the booths were all taken, so we had to wait until last year to try again. We were there, and we thought it would be good to be there again this year.

This year, we're offering more interactive activities. The activities provide for more children to do that they should enjoy.

We hope to continue to build on what we do each year at the fair, so we can do even more in future years. We want to engage with people of all views so we aren't just preaching to the choir. We hope more people help with that.

Come and visit us on Friday, June 27th before 2 p.m. It's the only day of the fair that we have a booth, and it is only part of the day. So, visit us while you can! We'd love to see you there! 🍷



Government Update

National

As mentioned last month, the reconciliation bill is working through the process to get passed. The U.S. House has since passed the bill 215 in favor to 214 against. It passed by just a single vote. Every vote matters. Now, it goes to the U.S. Senate.

The U.S. Senate has a wider margin to pass the bill, and they have more pressure to pass the bill to avoid having to start over. They want to get the bill to the president by the 4th of July. If it passes, then the closures in Iowa will almost certainly all occur. If it fails to pass, then Planned Parenthood could try to keep some sites open.

Reconciliation bills do NOT require the 60 votes to end debate, and they can pass by a simple majority. If there is a tie vote, then the vice president will vote. He is likely to pass the president's priority bill.

The bill would remove Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid reimbursements for a 10-year period, unless a future administration changes it.

Iowa

This year's legislative session has concluded in Iowa. The only pro-life bill listed in our newsletter in March that passed is SF175, which was sent to the governor. The bill addresses the presentation of fetal development in schools.

Iowa's Heartbeat Law and prior state funding cuts have had a serious impact on PP. This made it easier for Iowa to have over half of their sites close in the coming year.

Delaware

Delaware is now the eleventh state to permit assisted suicide. It is yet another reminder that there are multiple threats to human life. So often, they allow it for those near death. There is no reason to involve more people in causing a death intentionally. The final months of life can bring struggles, but it can bring out the most charitable works from those helping the person in their final days. It's a great time to demonstrate the dignity of human life, rather than denying it by hastening death.

Missouri

Missouri lawmakers passed a referendum to try to reverse the referendum that voters passed last year that stripped pro-life protections of children in the womb. Voters will have a chance to pass or reject this before it can take effect. The Missouri Supreme Court reinstated safety standards. This bans abortions, since no abortion providers meet the basic standards.

Keep Praying

Pray for the protection of human life throughout the states. Pray for the closure of the businesses that kill for money. Pray for the protection of life to prevail in the legislative sessions across the country. Even when pro-lifers are in positions to set public policy, it's possible that others will prevent them from achieving good things. We need to pray and to contact lawmakers to let our voices be heard. The abortion industry tends to adapt, but there's a real chance a significant amount of their funding could be eliminated. It's important to achieve results this year! 🙏

Pro-Life Challenge



Please pray for God to work in the lives of people, in particular:

For people to prioritize the value of human life;
Students for Life in Iowa;
lawmakers & judges;
religious leaders

VOLUNTEER



Help Us!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!



Recent Events

Bridgehaven Gala

Bridgehaven had their gala in early May. There was quite a bit of information presented about just how easy it is to acquire abortion pills online. The process is very sketchy, though. One ends up approving international payments, since businesses tend to avoid the full jurisdiction of the United States. When pills arrive, they lack the information needed to know what to take and when.

As sketchy as the process appears, many women still seek abortion pills this way. It leaves them without a medical provider to oversee the process that takes at least one human life when it works as intended, and can take more lives when things don't go as planned.

Even Planned Parenthood's report of their national activities show that they committed more abortions last year than they had ever done before. They adapt. It's critical to provide life-affirming help and alternatives. Bridgehaven has done so much good for many decades.

Mother's Day

As we have done for many years, we offered mothers real, long-stemmed roses on Mother's Day. We loved seeing the smiles on such a beautiful day. We noticed some of the roses lost petals faster than usual, but most of them were fine. We always try to provide feedback to our supplier in cases like that so we can help ensure the best quality in the future.

Mothers do so much for us. During pregnancy, we each bond with our mothers in ways unique to the bond between mother and child. We hear her voice and recognize it while still in the womb. While the bloodstreams remain separate, some cells including stem cells pass from the child into the mother, and those cells may remain with our mother for the rest of her life. She carries a little bit of you for life.

Mothers nurture us so much soon after birth. They help us become so much of who we become. It's such an honor to provide a beautiful rose to the woman who has done so much for us. Thank you. 🌹

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Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people who might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

Did you spot some issues with this newsletter that really bug you? Then perhaps you'd like to help edit it. Contact us to see how you can help.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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