2020 was an incredibly difficult year, and this was certainly no exception in the struggle for abortion access. Now the leading cause of death in America, COVID-19 has taken nearly 500,000 lives and affected countless more. Nationally, this has been unfolding across a backdrop of white nationalist attacks and people’s uprising against fascism and white supremacy. Here in Louisiana, the death and economic loss of the pandemic was exacerbated by an historically active hurricane season. Amidst all of these crises, abortion access has faced legal threats from the appointment of Justice Barrett and the passage of Amendment 1 in Louisiana.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit BIPOC families the hardest. Of the 140,000 job losses faced in December, all of them were suffered by women, and a disproportionate number were Black and Latina women. Because of the newfound hardships caused by the pandemic, NOAF launched its Practical Support program in April, providing funding for the often prohibitive costs outside of the abortion itself.

This past year, NOAF pledged $325,852 towards abortion procedures, with an average pledge of $334 and a median of $290. Its largest pledge was $2400. Since the onset of the Practical Support program, NOAF has made 447 individual pledges to 249 clients, totaling $32,178 for costs such as transportation, child care, and lodging with an average pledge of $70 and a median of $40. NOAF’s clients travelled an average of 91 miles and a median of 64 miles. Nearly 20% of NOAF’s patients travelled over 150 miles one-way, with one patient travelling 1156 miles one-way to receive their abortion.

NOAF’s patients ranged in age from 12 to 47. The average patient was 28 years old, and 41% of patients were minors. This year, a staggering 52.4% of NOAF’s patients were unemployed and 59.2% of patients were on Medicaid. There was an overall increase in these numbers as the year progressed, demonstrating the ongoing influence of COVID-19.

NOAF made an impact all across the country this year, partly as a result of the Practical Support program. It helped fund abortions in 8 states and DC, 14 cities, and 17 clinics. Additionally, 13.6% of NOAF’s patients were from outside of Louisiana, and only 18.6% of patients were from New Orleans itself.

Thank you so much for your continued support of NOAF and to the commitment to providing abortion access.