



Important Scholarship Application Dates and Deadlines for 2019 Trainings

BirthWell Partners awards Birth Doula Training Scholarships once a year. Your application must be received by February 18th, 2019, in order to be considered for a scholarship for one of our 2019 trainings.

*Please note, ours is a **need-based** scholarship.*

Our scholarship program is an opportunity for doulas to “pay” for their training by attending births for under-resourced families in our service area. Therefore, the goal of our assessment is to determine your need, and also to determine if you would be a good match for serving as a community doula with our program. If we do not award you a scholarship, that does NOT mean you wouldn’t be a GREAT doula. Only that you are not a good fit for our program needs. We still encourage you to attend one of our doula workshops, and would be happy to work with you on setting up a payment plan.

Applicants will be assessed based on:

1. A written application
2. A phone interview
3. A group activity

Written application submission deadline: February 18th, 2019. Application may be submitted by email (info@birthwellpartners.org) or regular mail (976 Linwood Rd. Birmingham, AL 35222). All applications must be received by February 18th. Late applications will not be reviewed.

Phone interviews: Applicants will be invited to a 10-20 minute video/phone interview with program directors. Please indicate your preferred interview time on your application. Directors will contact you by 2/19 to assign your interview time. Available times are:

- 2/20/19 between 9-10 am
- 2/21/19 between 7-8 pm
- 2/22/19 between noon and 1pm
- 2/25/19 between 3:30-4:30 pm

Group Activity: in order for us to get to know you, to assess if you would be a good fit for our program, we will hold a group activity on February 28th, 6-9pm (location TBD). All applicants must participate.

Scholarship awards announced: March 4th

Last day to reply in acceptance of scholarship: March 7th

Registration deadline for non-scholarship participants: March 25th, Sept. 9th

Training Dates: Scholarship recipients can choose which training to attend. You must commit to attending ALL dates of whichever session you choose.

SPRING Training (registration deadline 3/25):

1. *Birth Doula Workshop including Intro to Childbirth Education for Doulas:*
Thursday, April 4th: 8:30am – 5:00 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 1)*
Friday, April 5th: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 2)*
Saturday, April 6th: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 3)*
Sunday, April 7th: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 4)*
2. *Breastfeeding Class:* Wednesday, April 10th: 8:30a to 12:30p
3. *Perinatal Health Advocate Training:* Wednesday, April 10th: 1:30 – 5:00 pm
4. *Volunteer Orientation:* Wednesday, April 10th: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

FALL Training (registration deadline 9/9):

1. *Birth Doula Workshop including Intro to Childbirth Education for Doulas:*
Thursday, September 19th: 8:30am – 5:00 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 1)*
Friday, September 20th: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 2)*
Saturday, September 21st: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 3)*
Sunday, September 22nd: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 4)*
2. *Breastfeeding Class:* Wednesday: September 25th: 8:30a to 12:30p
3. *Perinatal Health Advocate Training:* Wednesday, September 25th: 1:30 – 5:00 pm
4. *Volunteer Orientation:* Wednesday, September 25th: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Training location:

East Lake United Methodist Church
7753 1st Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35206



Scholarship Commitment Information

We provide comprehensive training, mentoring, and hands-on experience that will prepare you for community doula work. Our program is based on a win-win premise. In return for training, scholarship recipients commit to providing pro-bono services to low-income clients recruited by BirthWell Partners. In this way, doulas attend the births required for certification while gaining valuable on-the-job experience.

You are not prohibited from taking private clients while fulfilling your scholarship commitment. In fact, we encourage you to begin establishing your private doula practice as soon as you feel you are ready.

The BirthWell Partners scholarship includes:

- Classroom Education that fulfills all of the classroom education requirements for doula certification through DONA International, i.e. Doula Training Workshop and Breastfeeding Class for Doulas (\$550 value)
- Perinatal Health Advocate Training
- Volunteer Doula Orientation
- Reimbursement for Birth Doula Certification Packet from DONA International (\$50 value), after completion of services and submission of paperwork for one client.
- Doula meetings/trainings throughout the year
- Mentoring and support from experienced doulas
- Reduced admission to our doula retreat
- Volunteers in good standing who have completed paperwork for DONA certification will additionally be reimbursed for the cost of a one-year DONA membership and certification application fee (\$210 value)

Scholarship recipients agree to:

- Attend the Introduction to Childbirth Education/Birth Doula Training Workshop
- Attend the Breastfeeding Class
- Attend the Perinatal Health Advocate Training
- Attend the Volunteer Orientation
- Follow the DONA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Birth Doulas
- Check and respond to messages (email, phone, or text) within a 24-hour period of time, and stay in regular communication with program staff. Update staff regarding contact with doula clients and promptly notify staff if a situation arises in which the doula is unable to fulfill a commitment to a client
- Provide birth doula services to required number of BirthWell Partners' clients within 18 months of attending the training. Services include 2 prenatal visits, birth support, and 2 postpartum visits
- Arrange backup with another volunteer in the program for each client the doula is assigned
- Provide backup to other volunteers in the program
- Complete and submit documentation for each client in a timely manner as outlined in volunteer procedures
- Attempt to follow up with clients by phone/text/email at designated intervals and provide follow up reports
- Work a table at a health fair or community event at least 4 hours during the 12 months after training
- Represent BirthWell Partners in a professional manner at all times



Date: _____

Birth Doula Training Scholarship Application:

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

County: _____ **Email:** _____

Age: ____ (minimum age 21)

I am/have been: (check all that apply)

___ Parent ___ Single Parent ___ Teen Parent ___ Low income

I am currently:

___ Student: type or major _____

___ Employed: Job Title _____ Employer _____

Racial/ethnic group(s):

___ African-American ___ Asian ___ Caucasian ___ Hispanic ___ Native American

___ Multi-racial ___ Other (please specify) _____

I have read and understood the introductory three pages of this document, including: “Important Scholarship Application Dates and Deadlines for 2019 Trainings” on pages 1-2, **AND** “Scholarship Commitment Information” on page 3. _____

your signature her

Please tell us a little about why you need a scholarship: _____

Estimated yearly household income: _____

We offer full and partial scholarships. If you are able to pay something toward your training, we are able to make our funding go farther and train more doulas. Persons awarded full scholarships agree to attend births for 6 BirthWell Partners clients within 18 months of training. Persons awarded partial scholarships agree to attend between 3-5 births within 18 months of training, depending on the amount they are able to contribute toward their own training.

[] I am applying for a PARTIAL Scholarship. I can contribute \$ _____

[] I am applying for a FULL scholarship

*Scholarship recipients who are unable to complete their commitment
Are expected to reimburse BirthWell Partners at a pro-rated amount.*

BirthWell Partners Community Doula Project

Language skills:

If you speak another language, including American Sign Language, please list it below:

Do you have reliable transportation accessible at ALL times of day and night? _____

Do you have a valid Driver's License? _____

(Scholarship recipients will be required to show a valid driver's license at their interview.)

Do you carry minimum automobile liability insurance as required by the State of Alabama? _____

(Scholarship recipients will be asked to show proof of automobile insurance at their interview.)

Will you be able to attend all training and orientation activities? _____

(to see dates, go to: <http://www.birthwellpartners.org/doula-training/volunteer-orientation/>)

Being easily reached by email and phone is a STRICT REQUIREMENT for being a BirthWell Partners Volunteer. Important information is disseminated through email. Client assignments and follow up information are communicated by phone. Do you check email frequently (daily except on weekends and holidays), and are you available by phone during regular business hours? _____

Do you intend to fulfill all of the requirements towards Doula Certification? _____

(Please visit www.DONA.org for more information on doula certification requirements.)

A condition of receiving a scholarship is agreeing to provide birth doula services on a volunteer basis. If awarded a scholarship, you must commit to providing volunteer doula services for low-resource pregnant people. Services include two prenatal visits, being available for the "on-call" for the month surrounding the client's due date, attending the birth as labor support, and providing two postpartum visits. Commitment for a full scholarship is providing services for **6** people. Commitment for a partial scholarship is determined by the amount awarded.

Providing doula services for a client requires being readily available during the weeks before and after the due date. This means that for two weeks before and three weeks after the estimated due date, you will have the ability to leave to a birth within an hour of being called, any time of day, any day of the week. Looking at the calendar below, please mark what times of day/days of the week in a **typical week**, when you feel you will be able to leave within an hour of being called, and be available to stay with a client for as long as 24 hours?

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6am-10am							
10am-2pm							
2pm-6pm							
6pm-10pm							
10pm-2am							
2am-6am							

BirthWell Partners Community Doula Project

Volunteer work must be completed within 18 months of completing the training. If your ability to volunteer as a doula within this timeframe is limited for any reason (i.e., childcare concerns, school or work conflicts, travel plans, transportation limitations, current pregnancy, etc.), please explain/list.

Tell us about your short- and long-term goals with regard to birth work _____

*The following questions give us an idea of your experience/familiarity with birth thus far.
Please note that having prior birth experience is not required for scholarship consideration.*

Have you had any experience attending births of family members, friends, etc.? _____

Have you ever taken a series of Childbirth Preparation Classes? _____

If so: What method was taught? _____ Where was the class held? _____

How many hours did it last? _____ How long ago was it? _____

Comments: _____

Have you read any books on the subjects of pregnancy, natural childbirth, or breastfeeding?

Please list. _____

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Where or from whom did you hear about this program? _____

Is there anything else you would like us to take into consideration when reviewing this application? _____

Phone interviews: Applicants will be invited to a 10-20 minute video/phone interview with program directors. Directors will contact you by 2/19 to assign your interview time. Please indicate your preferred interview time:

- 2/20/19 between 9-10 am 2/21/19 between 7-8 pm
 2/22/19 between noon and 1pm 2/25/19 between 3:30-4:30 pm

Please attach a resume with your application.

We sometime find it helpful to speak to people who know you personally and/or professionally. Please provide us with 3 references that we may contact. At least 2 should be professional references. Please do not list family members as references.

1. Name: _____ Your relationship to this person? _____
How long has this person known you?: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone Number: _____
2. Name: _____ Your relationship to this person? _____
How long has this person known you?: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone Number: _____
3. Name: _____ Your relationship to this person? _____
How long has this person known you?: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone Number: _____

Submit applications via email (preferred method) to: info@birthwellpartners.org, or via mail to 976 Linwood Rd., Birmingham, AL 35222.

Questions? Call: Dalia Abrams, Director of Program Operations (205-614-3297) or Susan Petrus, Director of Business Operations (205-538-3297)