



Important Work-Study Application information

Birth Doula Work-Study positions are awarded on an ongoing basis. Contact BirthWell Directors for current deadlines.

*Please note, this is a **need-based** program.*

The work-study program is designed to eliminate cost barriers to doula training. It serves as an opportunity for you to pay for your doula training by providing birth doula services for under-resourced clients assigned to you by BirthWell Partners. *If cost is a concern but you do not wish to provide services in exchange for training, please contact us about payment plan options.*

The goal of this application is to determine your financial need, as well as to determine if you would be a good match for serving as a community doula in our program. If we do not offer you a work-study position, 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 current resume
3. A phone interview
4. A group activity

Written application submission: Applications may be submitted by email (info@birthwellpartners.org) or regular mail (976 Linwood Rd. Birmingham, AL 35222). Work-study positions are filled on an ongoing basis for workshops that take place several times a year.

Phone interviews: Applicants will be invited to a 10 to 20-minute phone interview with program directors. We will contact you to set an interview time.

Group Activity: in order for us to get to know you, and to assess if you would be a good fit for our program, we may hold a group activity for work-study applicants. People who do not attend will not be considered for a work-study position.

Work-study awards announced at least one month before the next training workshop.

Training Schedule: Work-study program awardees can choose an upcoming workshop date. You must commit to attending ALL days and classes of whichever session you choose.

A typical training schedule is:

Birth Doula Workshop including Intro to Childbirth Education for Doulas (regular cost \$600):

Thursday: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 1)*

Friday: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 2)*

Saturday: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 3)*

Sunday: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm *Doula Training Workshop (Day 4)*

Breastfeeding Class (regular cost \$50): **Wednesday: 8:30am to 12:30pm**

Perinatal Health Advocate Training (regular cost \$40): **Wednesday: 1:30 – 5:00 pm**

Volunteer Orientation (FREE): **Sunday: 4:00 - 5:30 pm followed by a doula potluck gathering**

For a schedule of actual training dates, go to <https://www.birthwellpartners.org/doula-training/upcoming-doula-trainings/>



Work-Study 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. To pay for their training, work-study participants commit to providing free services to under-resourced clients recruited by BirthWell Partners. In this way, doulas attend the births required for certification while gaining valuable on-the-job experience.

The full work-study award requires attending 3 births with a BirthWell client. If a full work-study recipient elects to attend a fourth birth, we will reimburse the cost of their DONA certification fees (\$210). A partial work-study award requires attending 2 births with a BirthWell client. A partial work-study recipient who elects to attend 1 additional birth will also qualify for reimbursement for DONA certification fees (\$210).

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

We provide the *study* part of the commitment, including:

- A comprehensive Birth Doula Workshop that fulfills all of the classroom education requirements for doula certification through DONA International, i.e. Introduction to Childbirth + Birth Doula Training Workshop + Breastfeeding Class for Doulas (\$650 value)
- Perinatal Health Advocate Training (\$40 value)
- BirthWell Doula Orientation
- Reimbursement for Birth Doula Certification Packet from DONA International (\$50 value), after completion of services and submission of paperwork for your first BirthWell client.
- Doula meetings/trainings throughout the year
- Mentoring and support from experienced doulas

Furthermore:

- BirthWell doulas who have attended the agreed-upon number of client births and submitted all required paperwork in a timely manner, can choose to attend one additional birth and be reimbursed by BWP for the cost of a one-year DONA membership and DONA certification application fee (\$210 value).
- Work Study Doulas who have completed services and are in good standing may be invited to become contract doulas with our program.

Work-Study Participants agree to do the following:

- Attend the Introduction to Childbirth Education/Birth Doula Training Workshop
- Attend the Breastfeeding Class
- Attend the Perinatal Health Advocate Training
- Attend the BirthWell Doula 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 12 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

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- Provide backup to other volunteers in the program
- **Complete and submit documentation for each client in a timely manner as outlined in volunteer procedures**
- 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 Work-Study 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 Work-Study Application Dates and Deadlines” on pages 1-2, **AND** “Work-Study Commitment Information” on page 3. _____

your signature her

Please tell us a little about why you need a work-study position: _____

Estimated yearly household income: _____

We offer full and partial work-study positions. If you are able to pay \$200 toward your training, we are able to make our funding go farther and train more doulas. Persons awarded full work-study positions agree to attend births for 3 BirthWell Partners clients within 12 months of training. Persons awarded partial work-study positions agree to attend 2 births within 12 months of training, depending on the amount they are able to contribute toward their own training.

I am applying for a PARTIAL work-study position. I will contribute \$200

I am applying for a FULL work-study position.

Work-Study recipients who are unable to complete their commitment must reimburse BirthWell Partners at a pro-rated amount.

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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? _____
 (Work-Study applicants 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? _____
 (Work-Study applicants will be asked to show proof of automobile insurance at their interview.)

Will you be able to attend all training and orientation activities? _____
 (Please check current training dates on our website)

Being easily reached by email and phone is a STRICT REQUIREMENT for being a BirthWell Partners work-study doula. 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.)

The *work* requirement for a work-study position is agreeing to provide birth doula services for under-resource clients assigned by BirthWell Partners. Services include two prenatal visits, being available "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 work-study position requires providing services for **3-4** people. Commitment for a partial work-study position is determined by the amount awarded. **Will you be able to attend all prenatal visits, attend births and attend all postpartum visits as assigned?** _____

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 for a birth within an hour of being called, any time of day, any day of the week. Looking at the calendar below, please mark the 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							

Your work commitment must be completed within 18 months of completing the training. If your ability to work 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 work-study position 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? _____

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

Phone interviews: Applicants will be invited to a 10 to 20-minute video/phone interview with program directors. Directors will contact you to schedule a time.

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 (205-222-0343)

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