



## **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, and it is a win-win for doulas and clients: You will receive comprehensive training, mentoring, and matching with doula clients to obtain the hands-on experience that will prepare you for community doula work and meet DONA certification requirements for birth doulas. At the same time, the BirthWell clients you serve will receive one-on-one support that has the potential to improve both maternal and infant health outcomes.

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 virtual/Zoom interview

**Written application submission:** Work-study positions are filled on an ongoing basis for workshops that take place several times a year. Applications may be submitted by email ([info@birthwellpartners.org](mailto:info@birthwellpartners.org))

**Virtual/Zoom interviews:** Applicants will be invited to a 10 to 20-minute Zoom interview with program directors. We will contact you to set an interview time.

**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):

**Friday: 9 am – 4:30 pm Doula Training Workshop (Day 1)**

**Saturday: 9 am - 4:30 pm Doula Training Workshop (Day 2)**

**Sunday: 11 am - 6:00 pm Doula Training Workshop (Day 3)**

**Friday: 9 am - 4:30 pm Doula Training Workshop (Day 4)**

**Saturday: 9 am – 5:30 pm Doula Training Workshop (Day 5)**

***Breastfeeding Class*** (regular cost \$50): **Sunday: 1 pm to 5 pm**

***Perinatal Health Advocate Training*** (regular cost \$40): **Monday: 9 am – 1:30 pm**

***Volunteer Orientation*** (FREE): **Monday: 6:30 pm – 8 pm**

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

### **Work-Study Commitment**

BirthWell Partners Work-Study is a win-win for doulas and clients: You will receive comprehensive training, mentoring, and matching with doula clients to obtain the hands-on experience that will prepare you for community doula work and meet DONA certification requirements for birth doulas. At the same time, the BirthWell clients you serve will receive one-on-one support that has the potential to improve both maternal and infant health outcomes.

A full work-study award requires attending 3 births with BirthWell clients. A partial work-study award requires attending 2 births with a BirthWell client.

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

BirthWell Partners Agrees to Provide:

- 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)
- A Perinatal Health Advocate Training (\$40 value) & ACTT Workshop
- A Doula Orientation to working with BirthWell Clients
- Reimbursement for the Birth Doula Certification Packet from DONA International (\$50 value)
- Monthly meetings to assist you with meeting certification requirements through DONA International
- Mentoring and support from experienced doulas
- Reimbursement for a one-year DONA membership and certification application fees (\$210 value) when full work-study recipient has attended 3 client births and submitted all required paperwork in a timely manner. (A partial work-study recipient is not committed to attending 3 births, but may elect to attend 1 additional birth to receive this reimbursement.)

Work Study Participant Agrees to:

- Attend the *Introduction to Childbirth Education for Doulas* course
- Attend the *Doula Training Workshop*
- Attend the *Breastfeeding Class*
- Attend the *Perinatal Health Advocate Training & ACTT Workshop*
- Attend the *Doula Orientation*

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- Attend at least half of the monthly doula meetings (2023 meetings will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month from 6:30 – 8 pm)
- 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.
- Keep BirthWell staff updated about Covid vaccination status. Vaccination is not required in order to attend births with BirthWell clients (although it is strongly encouraged). However, BirthWell clients are asked about their preference regarding their doula's vaccination status and BirthWell is committed to respecting these preferences.
- Update staff regarding contact with doula clients and promptly notify staff if a situation arises in which doula is unable to fulfill a commitment to a client.
- Provide birth doula services to the required number of BirthWell Partners' clients (3 for full work-study/2 for partial work-study) within 12 months of attending the classroom training. Services include 2 prenatal visits, birth support, and 2 postpartum visits.
- Arrange backup with another doula in the program for each client doula is assigned
- Provide backup to other doulas in the program (Note: if you attend a birth as a back-up, it counts toward your required births)
- Complete and submit documentation for each client in a timely manner as outlined in volunteer procedures. In order to count a birth as "attended," we must receive all required documentation (client services agreement, prenatal visit forms, birth data, postpartum visit forms). If doula provides services but does not provide documentation, we cannot count the birth towards the work-study commitment.
- 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 pages 2-3. \_\_\_\_\_

*your signature here*

**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.**

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

I am applying for a FULL work-study position.

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### Language skills:

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

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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.)

Are you vaccinated against COVID-19? \_\_\_\_\_

(Vaccination is not required but is strongly encouraged.)

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](http://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** people. Commitment for a partial work-study position requires providing services for **2** people. **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 12 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.**

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**Tell us about your short- and long-term goals with regard to birth work \_\_\_\_\_**

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*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.? \_\_\_\_\_**

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**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 your application?**

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**Zoom 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 application and resume via email (preferred method) to:  
[info@birthwellpartners.org](mailto:info@birthwellpartners.org), or via mail to 976 Linwood Rd., Birmingham, AL 35222.

**Questions? Call:** Dalia Abrams, Program Director (205-614-3297)

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