



For Immediate Release

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Birth Doula Workshop Aims to Increase Access to Services for Families Insured by Medicaid

Scholarships Available for Those Interested in Doula Training

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – A training workshop will be held this summer in Traverse City that is designed to increase the number of birth doulas supporting families and individuals who are insured by Medicaid. A limited number of scholarships are available for those interested in the training, which will take place Aug. 8-11.

The four-day workshop will be conducted by Jessica English, of [Heart + Soul + Birth Pros](#), and is an approved birth doula workshop through [DONA International](#), a leader in evidence-based doula training, certification and continuing education.

Participants who complete the workshop will be eligible to become a certified doula through DONA International, if they choose to complete the remaining steps for certification. Program participants can also apply for Medicaid approval in Michigan that will allow them to receive payment for services provided to families and individuals insured through Medicaid, which reimburses \$1,500 per birth and \$100 per visit for birth doulas.

The training is offered at no cost, due to community funding provided by Regions 2 & 3 Perinatal Quality Collaborative, and is held in partnership with District Health Department #10 and the Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay.

Program applicants must live in one of the following counties: Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim, Leelanau, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Otsego, Alpena, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Roscommon, Ogemaw or Iosco.

“Birth doulas play a crucial role for many families, and we are thrilled to offer this great opportunity to support birthing mothers in the region,” said Robin Hornkohl, coordinator of the Great Start Collaborative of Traverse Bay. “With more doulas practicing in our region, mothers in our community will have greater access to personalized care, allowing them the flexibility to choose what’s best for their families.”

Seats are still available. The application process will be open until all slots are filled. Applications may be submitted online at [Heart + Soul + Birth Pros](#). View a [program flyer online here](#).