



MATERNAL HEALTH
50-State Survey

State Laws Addressing Doula Scope of Practice

Increasing access to safe and effective doula care could decrease the high maternal morbidity and mortality rate in the United States. Doula services are woefully underutilized, as only about six to 10 percent of births in the country involve a doula.¹ Lack of coverage for doula services from both private and public health insurance functionally limits access to doula care principally to those who can afford the services out-of-pocket.² The narrow ability to make a living as a doula suppresses the number of doulas available and the racial and ethnic diversity of doulas. Understanding how state regulation of doula certification, care, and coverage affects availability of and access to doula services can shed light on opportunities and challenges to using doulas to improve maternal health outcomes.



Summary Matrix of State Laws Addressing Doula Scope of Practice

Enacted or adopted as of March 2023

State	Doula Definition	Postpartum Definition	Doula Certification Requirements		Coverage of Doula Services	Advisory Committees & Doula Representation	Availability of Doula Services in Corrections
			Purpose and Process of Certification	Eligibility & Training Requirements			
AL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
AK	Doula: "individual who assists a client during labor and provides support to the client, the newborn, and the client's family after childbirth." Alaska Admin. Code tit. 7, § 12.449.	-	-	-	-	-	-
AZ	Doula: "trained nonmedical professional who may provide continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to families before, during, and after childbirth for a period of one year	Postpartum: "six-week period following delivery of a newborn and placenta." Ariz. Admin. Code § 9-16-901.	The Director of the Department of Health Services shall grant certification to a doula who meets the statutory qualifications and pays the required fees (\$100 application fee, \$200 certification fee). The "doula certificate is valid for three years" and renewable. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-766.01 ; Ariz.	An individual is eligible if they are 18 years or older, have at least a high school diploma (or equivalent), complete the necessary first aid training, sign a code of ethics,	-	The doula community advisory committee is established with at least nine doulas, representing diverse and underrepresented communities, who each serve a term of two years, effective as of	



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	<p>after birth or in the case of loss and who may serve as a liaison between the birth parents and medical and social services staff to improve the quality of medical, social and behavioral outcomes." Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-766.</p> <p>A doula may practice in the state without being certified. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-766.07.</p> <p>State-certified doula: issued a certificate to practice as a state-certified doula in Arizona. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-766.</p>		<p>Admin. Code § 9-16-909... "Proof that an individual has current certification from a nationally recognized doula organization may substitute for certification." Ariz. Admin. Code § R9-16-902.</p>	<p>and pass fingerprint clearance. Ariz. Admin. Code § R9-16-902. An applicant must also provide documentation of at least 30 hours of in-person or hybrid instruction in core competencies (e.g., the childbirth process, grief, anatomy & physiology), approved written documentation of observing at least 1 birth after training and attending at least 3 births while serving as the primary doula and receiving an acceptable evaluation from the laboring mother and</p>		<p>September 29, 2021. The committee must develop a list of acceptable certification organizations, "[i]dentify classes that address culturally relevant doula practices," and review rules. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-766.02.</p> <p>—</p>	



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				<p>medical provider who assisted the laboring mother. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 36-766.03. Training can also be fulfilled by "[c]ommunity training in non-western doula practices" or "[o]ther related individual or experiential training or education," subject to review. Ariz. Admin. Code § 9-16-902.</p>			
AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CA	-	<p>Doula: reproductive health care professional. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 128560.</p>	-	-	-	<p>By January 1, 2024, reimbursement rates for doula services must be set. Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14105.201. In the 2024-2025</p>	<p>The California Pregnancy-Associated Review Committee (California's version of a Maternal Mortality Review</p>



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						Governor's Budget, doula services must be included in the plan for targeted increases to state Medicaid program payments or other investments. Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 14105.202.	Committee) must include at least one doula. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 123636.
CO	<p>Doula: "trained birth companion who provides personal, nonmedical support to pregnant and postpartum people and their families prior to childbirth, during labor and delivery, and during the postpartum period." Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25.5-4-506.</p> <p>-</p>	-	-	-	By July 1, 2024, the state must "seek federal authorization to provide doula services for pregnant and postpartum people to improve health outcomes [to those] who face a disproportionately greater risk of poor birth outcomes" under state Medicaid program. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25.5-4-506.	The maternity advisory committee is the state facilitated committee "composed predominantly of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color with maternity care experience as recipients." The state must also involve doula and potential doula stakeholders, including those who serve "Black, Indigenous, and other people of	--



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						color, refugees, non-English speakers, people living in rural areas, and people who were recently incarcerated," in the process of expanding doula services for those receiving state Medicaid assistance. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25.5-4-506.	



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CT	-	The Doula Advisory Committee is tasked with advising the Commissioner of Public Health on doula services and related matters. The Doula Training Program Review Committee is tasked with conducting review of doula education and training, creating a list of approved training programs, and recommending continued education. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 14.					



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DE	-	-	Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance must establish "a process for doulas to be certified and to enroll as participating providers, as well as a reimbursement rate for doula services that supports a livable annual income for full-time practicing doulas." Del. Code Ann. tit. 31, § 530.	-	Carriers providing health insurance under the state public assistance code must provide doula service coverage, including 3 prenatal visits, 3 postpartum visits, and attendance at labor and birth, starting January 1, 2024. Del. Code Ann. tit. 31, § 530.	—	Department of Corrections required to make reasonable accommodations for doula services to pregnant or postpartum women, within 6 weeks of giving birth, and in custody at Level IV or V. Del. Code Ann. tit. 11, § 6536A.
DC	Doula: "individual certified by the Board of Medicine to provide culturally competent and continuous physical, emotional,	Postpartum period: starts "on the last day of pregnancy" and lasts "through the	General certification: To practice as a doula, certification is required. D.C. Code § 3-1205.01. Certification is achieved by completing an approved certifying body	Individual must complete training program from national or international certifying group, as approved by	Medicaid, DC HealthCare Alliance, and Immigrant Children's Program health insurance	Requires both the Advisory Committee on Maternal Care Professionals and the Maternal Mortality Review	—



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	<p>and informational support to a birthing parent during pregnancy, labor, birth, and postpartum." D.C. Code § 3-1201.01.</p> <p>Medicaid reimbursement regulatory definition for doula: "nonmedical professional who assists a pregnant individual before, during or after childbirth, as well as the pregnant individual's partner and/or family, by providing information, physical assistance, and emotional support." D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 29, § 11299.</p>	<p>end of the calendar month in which [180] days after the end of the pregnancy falls." D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 29, § 11201.2.</p>	<p>training program participating in at least 3 births, and attaining a CPR certificate. D.C. Code § 3-1205.04.</p> <p>Medicaid certification: There are separate eligibility and training requirements for doulas to enroll in the state Medicaid program. D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 29, § 11202.</p>	<p>Department of Health, participate in at least 3 births, and have a CPR certificate for adults and infants. D.C. Code § 3-1201.01.</p> <p>Additionally, the individual must be at least 18, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, possess certification from a certifying entity, enroll as a Medicaid provider, and complete an orientation on billing. D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 29, § 11202.</p>	<p>coverage must "cover and reimburse eligible services provided by doulas." D.C. Code § 3-1206.72. Doula services are only eligible for Medicaid reimbursement if "recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner," (including from other doulas). D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 29, § 11201.</p>	<p>Committee to include one doula on each committee to offer advice on doula certification, practice, and maternal mortality rates in the District D.C. Code §§ 7-743.09, 7-671-03.</p>	
FL	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



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GA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ID	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
IL	<p>Perinatal doula: "trained provider of regular and voluntary physical, emotional, and educational support, but not medical or midwife care, to pregnant and birthing persons before, during, and after childbirth, otherwise known as the perinatal period." 305 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/5-18.10.</p>	<p>Postpartum period: up to 12 months post-birth, for home visitation services. 305 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/5-18.5.</p>	—	—	<p>State Medicaid program covers postpartum services from perinatal doulas. 305 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/5-18.10.</p> <p>Perinatal doula services and evidence-based home visiting services are covered by the medical assistance program. 305 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/5-18.5.</p>	<p>The Task Force on Infant and Maternal Mortality Among African Americans establishes best practices for decreasing "infant and maternal mortality among African Americans," with two doulas on the Task Force. 20 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5145/10.</p>	—



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IN	Doula: "individual who is trained and certified by a nationally recognized institution in providing emotional and physical support, but not medical or midwife care, to pregnant women before, during, and after childbirth." Ind. Code § 12-7-69.7.	—	—	—	Pregnancy services, including doula services, may be reimbursed under the state Medicaid program. Ind. Code § 12-15-5-7.	The doula reimbursement advisory board is tasked with recommending "reimbursement methodologies for doula services," with at least one member as a doula, doula administrator, or birthing professional. Ind. Code § 12-8-6.5-14.	—
IA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
KS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
KY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



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LA	<p>Doula: "individual who has been trained to provide physical, emotional, and educational support, but not medical or midwifery care, to pregnant and birthing women and their families before, during, and after childbirth." La. Stat. tit. 22 § 1059.1.</p>	—	—	—	<p>Any health coverage insurance plan "that provides health benefits for maternity services shall include coverage for maternity support services provided by a doula to pregnant and birthing women before, during, and after childbirth." Insurers "may establish additional credentialing standards" for doulas they contract with. La. Stat. tit. 22 § 1059.1.</p>	<p>The doula registry board must include various types of doulas and doula organization representatives. The chairperson of the board must be a practicing doula. La. Stat. tit. 22 § 1059.1.</p>	—



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ME	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MD	<p>Certified doula: "trained nonmedical professional who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to the birthing parent throughout the prenatal, labor, and postpartum periods who has received a certification to perform doula services" as approved by the Medical & Pharmacy Assistance Program. Md. Code, Health-Gen. § 15-141.4.</p> <p>Participating doula: "[m]eets the certification requirements" and "[i]s authorized by</p>	<p>Postpartum period: "begins immediately after childbirth" and lasts through 180 days. Md. Code Regs. 10.09.39.01.</p>	<p>Certification is for the state Medicaid program and requires proof of certification from a Department-approved organization. Md. Code, Health-Gen. § 15-141.4</p>	<p>Certified doulas must meet COMAR requirements, maintain up-to-date certification, and maintain adequate liability insurance. Md. Code, Health-Gen. § 15-141.4.</p>	<p>The state Medicaid program must cover doula services that are: (i) medically indicated; (ii) provided during the prenatal, labor and delivery, or postpartum period; and (iii) if provided over telehealth, meet state and federal requirements. This includes any managed care organization that participates in the state Program. Md. Code, Health-</p>	—	—



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	the Department to provide health care services to a Program recipient." Md. Code, Health-Gen. § 15-141.4.				Gen. § 15-141.4; Md. Code Regs. 10.09.39.06.		
MA	Doula: "qualified professional who provides non-medical emotional, informational, and physical support to individuals and families during pregnancy, delivery, and the post-pregnancy period." 130 Mass. Code Regs. 463.402.	Perinatal period: period of pregnancy, labor and delivery, and 12 months after delivery (no matter the outcome of the pregnancy). 130 Mass. Code Regs. 463.402.	Certification requirements are for state Medicaid program.	In-state provider: doula must be at least 18 years old, complete Health and Human Services trainings, demonstrate competency in "provid[ing] emotional, informational, and physical support to individuals and families during the perinatal period, regardless of the outcome of the pregnancy," provide proof of doula training and certification from a doula-certifying organization, and	State Medicaid program must provide and pay for doula services to eligible "members during the perinatal period," including "all medically necessary doula services for EPSDT members," perinatal visits, and labor and delivery support (in person or by telehealth), as recommended	Requires 2 doulas to serve on the Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Review Committee. Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 111, § 24O.	—



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				<p>"recommendations from at least three former clients" and "two different licensed health care providers." 130 Mass. Code Regs. 463.404.</p> <p>Out-of-state provider: doula must "be legally authorized to perform the services of a doula in their own state," participate in their state's Medicaid-equivalent program, and meet the out-of-state service provider conditions. 130 Mass. Code Regs. 463.401</p>	<p>by a physician or licensed practitioner. 130 Mass. Code Regs. 463.401, 463.403, 463.406–407.</p>		
MI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



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MN	<p>Certified doula: "individual who has received a certification to perform doula services from the International Childbirth Education Association, the Doulas of North America (DONA), the Association of Labor Assistants and Childbirth Educators (ALACE), Birthworks, the Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPPA), Childbirth International, the International Center for Traditional Childbearing, Commonsense Childbirth, Inc., Modern Doula Education (MDE)," or other state</p>	<p>Postpartum period: period of eligibility for state Medicaid program is 12 months post-birth. Minn. Stat. § 256B.795.</p>	<p>To be part of the registry of doulas, which includes any individual who submits an application, doula must submit evidence of certification from a certifying organization, and pay the required fee (\$185). Minn. Stat. §§ 148.996, 148.997.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>State Medicaid program "covers doula services provided by a certified doula." Minn. Stat. § 256B.625.</p>	<p>—</p>	<p>The Department of Corrections must provide doula services to every person incarcerated who is pregnant or gave birth in the past six weeks, if "services are provided by a certified doula without charge to the correctional facility or the incarcerated woman pays for the certified doula services." Minn. Stat. § 241.89.</p>



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	designated organization. Minn. Stat. § 148.995.						
MS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MO	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NV	Enrolled doula: enrolled "to receive reimbursement through Medicaid for doula services." Nev. Rev. Stat. § 422.27177.	—	Requirements for state Medicaid program.	The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy of the Department "in consultation with community-based organizations that provide services to pregnant women ..., shall prescribe the required training	Requires state "Medicaid coverage for doula services provided by an enrolled doula." To enroll, a doula must submit an application and prove completion of necessary	—	—



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			Purpose and Process of Certification	Eligibility & Training Requirements			
				and qualifications for enrollment." Nev. Rev. Stat. § 422.27177.	training and qualifications. Nev. Rev. Stat. § 422.27177.		
NH	Doula: "person trained to give women information, comfort and emotional support before, during, and after birth." N.H. Code Admin. R. Ann. Mid. 301.01.	—	—	—	Eligible state Medicaid program beneficiaries shall receive covered doula services. N.H. Rev. Stat. § 126-A:99.	—	—
NJ	Doula: "trained professional who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a mother before, during, and shortly after childbirth, to help her to achieve the healthiest, most satisfying experience	—	—	—	The state Medicaid program must provide, to qualified applicants, comprehensive maternity care, including doula care. N.J. Stat. § 30:4D-6.	The New Jersey Maternal Care Quality Collaborative "work[s] with the Governor's office to coordinate all efforts and strategies to reduce maternal mortality, mobility, and racial and ethnic disparities," with	—



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	possible." N.J. Stat. § 30:4D-6.					at least one member who is an expert in doula services. The Collaborative works with the state's Maternal Mortality Review Committee. N.J. Stat. § 26:18-3.	
NM	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NY	Doula: "trained person who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a pregnant person and the family of such pregnant person before, during or a reasonable time after childbirth," in a hospital, birthing center, at a home delivery, or in other	—	To register for state Medicaid program reimbursement, doulas must submit a copy of their "certification from a doula educational organization or by demonstration of satisfactory proficiency" and their name, address, phone number, email, and national provider identification number (if applicable). N.Y. Pub.	A doula seeking Medicaid reimbursement shall apply to be registered in the New York state community doula directory. N.Y. Pub. Health § 2594-c.	Doulas can seek state Medicaid program reimbursement by applying to be registered on the state community doula directory. N.Y. Pub. Health § 2594-c.	—	If available, a woman giving birth in custody of a correctional facility may receive assistance from a doula "during labor and delivery." N.Y. Correct. § 611.



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	community setting. N.Y. Pub. Health § 2594-a.		Health § 2594-c. No fee may be charged to register. N.Y. Pub. Health § 2594-b.				
NC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ND	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
OH	<p>Doula: "trained, nonmedical professional who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a pregnant woman during" antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum periods. Ohio Rev. Code § 4723.89.</p> <p>Certified doula: individual "hold[ing] a certificate issued ... by the board of</p>	—	<p>Doula is certified by a doula certification organization or has education and experience considered appropriate by the Board of Nursing. Ohio Rev. Code § 4723.89.</p>	—	<p>The state Medicaid program must "operate a program to cover doula services" provided by a doula who is certified and has a valid provider agreement. Ohio Rev. Code § 5164.071.</p>	<p>Within the Board of Nursing, there is a doula advisory board, with at least six members who are doulas with "valid certification from a doula certification organization," to provide general advice, guidance, and recommendations about doula certification and rules. Ohio Rev. Code § 4723.90.</p>	—



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	nursing." Ohio Rev. Code § 4723.89.						
OK	Doula (and birth worker): "trained professional who provides emotional, physical, and informational support services during the prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum periods," not to include medical care. Okla. Admin. Code § 317:30-5-1215.	Postpartum: doula services are eligible for 12 months post-birth. Okla. Admin. Code § 317:30-5-1215.	To qualify for state Medicaid reimbursement, doula provider must have one of the following certifications: birth doula, postpartum doula, full-spectrum doula, or community-based doula certification. The certification organization providing the certificate must be found at www.oklahoma.gov/ohca/ . Okla. Admin. Code § 317:30-5-1216.	Doula must be at least 18 years old, "[o]btain and maintain a National Provider Identifier (NPI)," and a state taxonomy number. Okla. Admin. Code § 317:30-5-1216.	"All Title XIX, CHIP, expansion adult, and Soon-to-be-Sooners (STBS) members who are pregnant or within the postpartum period are eligible for doula services." Okla. Admin. Code § 317:30-5-1215.	—	Penal institutions, detention centers, and county jails must provide pregnant inmates with access to certain persons during delivery, including a doula, as long as the doula is certified and the services are provided at no cost to the facility, with the inmate making arrangements for the services. Okla. Stat. tit. 57, § 4.2.



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OR	<p>Birth doula: "birth companion who provides personal, nonmedical support to birthing person and their families throughout a birthing person's pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum experience." Or. Admin. R. 950-060-0010.</p>	—	—	<p>Doula seeking certification must complete oral health training, have a CPR certificate, create a community resource list, attend at least 3 births and 3 postpartum visits, complete all state registry requirements, and get accepted into the registry. Or. Admin. R. 950-060-0040. The individual must also be at least 18 years old, not be on Medicaid provider exclusion list, pass a background check, and submit a letter of recommendation and evidence of working or volunteering as a</p>	<p>The state Medicaid program "will pay for birth doula services for any woman or pregnant person whose benefit package covers labor and delivery," as recommended by a physician or other licensed birth provider. Or. Admin. R. 410-130-0015. Managed care entity members are entitled to receive assistance to navigate the health care delivery system and to access support and resources,</p>	<p>Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Review Committee must include a doula. Or. Rev. Stat. § 432.600.</p>	<p>Doula program is established for pregnant and postpartum adults at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility to receive comprehensive doula services. Or. Rev. Stat. 311 § 1.</p>



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				<p>birth doula. Or. Admin. R. 950-060-0060. The training must include at least 40 contact hours of training from an approved training program, with at least 28 hours addressing core curriculum topics, 6 hours in cultural competency training, 1 hour of interprofessional collaboration, 1 hour of HIPAA compliance, and 4 hours of trauma-informed care. Or. Admin. R. 950-060-0150.</p>	<p>including doulas. Or. Admin. R. 410-141-3590.</p>		
PA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RI	Doula or perinatal doula: "trained professional	Postpartum period: 12 months post-	—	—	All individual or group health insurance	—	—



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	<p>providing continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a pregnant individual, from antepartum, intrapartum, and up to the first twelve (12) months of the postpartum period and who provide[s] assistance by referring childbearing individuals to community-based organizations and certified and licensed perinatal professionals in multiple disciplines." 27 R.I. Gen. Laws § 27-18-87.</p>	<p>birth. 27 R.I. Gen. Laws § 27-18-87.</p>			<p>contracts, individual or group hospital or medical expense insurance policies, and group policies in the state must "provide coverage for the services of perinatal doulas in accordance with each health insurer's respective principles and mechanisms of reimbursement, credentialing, and contracting." 27 R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 27-18-75, 27-18-79, 27-18-87, 27-18-92.</p>		



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SC	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TN	<p>Doula: "birth worker who provides child birth education, advocacy, and physical, emotional, and nonmedical support for pregnant and postpartum women before, during, and after childbirth and loss." Tenn. Code § 63-15-102.</p> <p>Community-based doula: "doula who serves pregnant women in a community in this state with a high rate of maternal or infant mortality and morbidity and whose services are tailored to the</p>	<p>Postpartum: "twelve-month period immediately following childbirth." Tenn. Code § 63-15-102.</p>	—	—	—	<p>There is a doula services advisory committee to advise the Department of Health to establish core competencies and standards for the provision of doula services and make reimbursement recommendations for doula services under the state Medicaid program. Tenn. Code § 63-15-103. The committee shall include 2 community-based doulas with experience</p>	—



State	Doula Definition	Postpartum Definition	Doula Certification Requirements		Coverage of Doula Services	Advisory Committees & Doula Representation	Availability of Doula Services in Corrections
			Purpose and Process of Certification	Eligibility & Training Requirements			
	specific needs of that community." Tenn. Code § 63-15-102.					providing services to Medicaid recipients in areas "with high rates of maternal and infant mortality" and 1 doula with "documented experience providing services to [M]edicaid recipients." Tenn. Code § 63-15-104.	
TX	—	—	—	—	The state Medicaid program shall provide reimbursement for enrolled doula provider services, for a doula who "is certified by a recognized national doula	—	—



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			Purpose and Process of Certification	Eligibility & Training Requirements			
					certification program approved by the commission" and gives case management services to children and pregnant women. Tex. Hum. Res. Code § 32.024.		



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UT	<p>Doula: "individual who: provides information and physical and emotional support" to pregnant or postpartum individuals and related to their pregnancy" and "is certified by one or more [approved] organizations." Utah Code § 49-20-422.</p>	—	—	—	<p>Pregnancy and childbirth services from a doula at a birthing center, provided to a qualified individual, are covered for any plan that starts between July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2026, under the Public Employees' Insurance Program. Utah Code § 49-20-422.</p>	—	—
VT	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
VA	<p>Doula: "trained nonmedical professional who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a</p>	<p>Postpartum: "period of pregnancy following birth." 12 Va.</p>	<p>Doula must receive certification from certifying body that is approved by Board of Health. 12 Va. Admin. Code § 5-403-20. "[A] nationally recognized organization that has a</p>	<p>Doula must "complete at least 60 hours of doula training," as provided by state-approved certifying body. 12</p>	—	—	—



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	<p>pregnant person during the antepartum or intrapartum period or during the period up to one year postpartum." 12 Va. Admin. Code § 5-403-10.</p> <p>Community-based doula: "doula who often has shared lived experiences and is trained to provide extended, culturally congruent support to families throughout pregnancy to include antepartum, intrapartum, during labor and birth, and up to one year postpartum," intended to improve health outcomes "for communities most affected by discrimination and disparities." 12 Va.</p>	<p>Admin. Code § 5-403-10.</p>	<p>doula certification [program] that reflects national best practices pertaining to community-based doula training and certification to establish certified doula training and education programs" will be approved. 12 Va. Admin. Code § 5-403-40.</p>	<p>Va. Admin. Code § 5-403-30.</p>			



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	<p>Admin. Code § 5-403-10.</p> <p>State-certified doula: "trained, community-based nonmedical professional who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a pregnant person during the antepartum or intrapartum period or during the period up to one year postpartum and who has been certified by a body approved by the Board." Va. Code § 32.1-77.1.</p>						



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WA	<p>Birth doula: "nonmedical birth coach or support person trained to provide physical, emotional, and informational support to birthing persons during pregnancy, antepartum, labor, birth, and the postpartum period. Birth doulas advocate for and support birthing people and families to self-advocate by helping them to know their rights and make informed decisions. Birth doulas do not provide medical care." Wash. Rev. Code § 18.47.010.</p> <p>State-certified doula: title reserved for those who are certified by the state</p>	<p>Postpartum period: 12 months, starting "on the last day of the pregnancy." Wash. Rev. Code § 18.47.010.</p>	<p>The Department of Health shall grant certification of an applicant who submits a complete application, completes competencies, "[h]as not engaged in unprofessional conduct" and is not subject to disciplinary proceedings, and pays the certification fee (\$190). Wash. Rev. Code § 18.47.020; Wash. Admin. Code § 246-835-990. The applicant must also prove completion of the education requirements. Wash. Admin. Code § 246-835-030.</p>	<p>Applicant must complete culturally congruent ancestral practices, training, and education, as well as an approved education program or ancestral pathway competency. Wash. Admin. Code § 246-835-015.</p>	—	—	<p>Department of Correction facilities and jails must make reasonable accommodations for doula services to inmates who are pregnant or gave birth within last 6 weeks, but they are not required to establish or provide funding for these services. Wash. Rev. Code §§ 70.48.135, 72.09.588.</p>



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			Purpose and Process of Certification	Eligibility & Training Requirements			
	requirements. Wash. Rev. Code § 18.47.040 ; Wash. Admin. Code § 246-835-005 .						
WV	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WI	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

This document was developed by Jordan Jekel, student attorney in the Public Health Law Clinic and members of the Class of 2024 at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, and reviewed by Kathleen Hoke, Law School Professor at Maryland Carey and Director of the Network for Public Health Law-Eastern Region. The Network promotes public health and health equity through non-partisan educational resources and technical assistance. These materials provided are provided solely for educational purposes and do not constitute legal advice. The Network's provision of these materials does not create an attorney-client relationship with you or any other person and is subject to the [Network's Disclaimer](#).

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¹ Molly Waymouth et al., *Advancing Equity in Maternal Health With Virtual Doula Care*, JAMA HEALTH F. (2024), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama-health-forum/fullarticle/2813864>; Mathilde Roux, *Expanding and Diversifying the Doula Workforce: Challenges and Opportunities of Increasing Insurance Coverage*, U.S. DEP'T OF LAB., WOMEN'S BUREAU (May 2023), https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/WB_issuebrief-doulas-v3.pdf.

² Nadia Lathan, *Though Doulas Are Now Covered by Medi-Cal, Barriers Exist*, U.C. BERKELEY (Oct. 24, 2023), <https://publichealth.berkeley.edu/news-media/research-highlights/though-doulas-are-now-covered-by-medi-cal-barriers-exist>.