

# PROVIDER TRAINING ON DOULAS



## Background:

Data on the experiences of Black women in healthcare point to inequities that contribute to disparities in health outcomes. In our 2021 report, **Doula Perspectives: Community-based Listening Sessions, Central Valley**, Black doulas validated what we know from other sources: doulas are not fully integrated into the hospitals, and trainings on doulas' scope of practice, could improve work relations between doulas and clinicians. Successful doula integration into the hospital's care model and recognition for their contributions in enhancing birth experiences, especially for Black women, can lead to decreasing birth inequities and improve retention rates among doulas.

## Goal / Mission:

Train 500 providers on doula's scope of practice to successfully integrate doulas in hospital birthing teams. Improve Black maternal birth experiences and outcomes by increased doula access, integration, and support in hospital settings.

## Intervention:

In preparation for the Medi-Cal reimbursement shift to support doulas, BWPC helps prepare licensed providers for the integration of doulas into the payor and hospital sphere. Our clinically informed web-based training aims to identify physician concerns, including reimbursement processes and hesitations in integrating doulas into birth teams. The training will address the identified knowledge gaps and create a curriculum that improves overall understanding of the doula's profession, and their impact on improving health.

## Approach:

**Our approach is centered on three pillars:**

- 1) Tackle knowledge gaps as to what doulas are/are not
- 2) Build consensus to accept doulas as part of the solution to improve health equity, and
- 3) Emphasize person-centered care by elevating the voices of birthing persons, and ensuring that power-sharing with birthing persons is central to developing a care plan.

## Methods:

- Identify and engage physician and/or nurse champions
- Identify & implement scalable solution
- Explore physician knowledge and attitudes towards doulas
- Create training curriculum

## Impact:

This exploratory Fresno based PDSA pilot will train physicians, nurses, and midwives at Fresno's high-volume birthing hospital, Community Regional Medical Center (CRMC). After completing the training, providers will have a more comprehensive understanding of doula's scope of work and benefits to maternal and infant health, thereby developing a more cohesive doula-clinician work relation. Having doulas integrated into birth teams will lead to more positive patient experiences, especially among Black birthing persons. Ultimately, BWPC will develop a scalable post-professional training method in the state of California. The year 1 pilot goal is to impact 350 birthing persons and their newborns.