



Black Led Community Doula Program, Frontline Doulas, Improves Health Outcomes By Decreasing Infant and Maternal Mortality Among Black Families

January 16, 2024 – LOS ANGELES: Frontline Doulas, a Black-led community doula program and leading perinatal health organization, is pleased to announce the release of their Impact Report detailing key insights and best practices in support of Black Birthing families and the success of their Community Doula Champions Project funded by Westside Infant-Family Network (WIN) and LA County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH).

Since its inception in the spring of 2023, the Community Doula Champions Project has brought in 700 birthworker registrants for their Medi-Cal Doula Enrollment Training and awarded \$16,000 in awards to Black and BIPOC community doulas. Additionally, this effort raised awareness and provided education to South L.A. Families about the benefits of doula care and the new Medi-Cal doula benefit available to all Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Additionally, the Impact Report, available for download [here](#), offers a detailed overview of the organization's initiatives, projects, and outcomes, showcasing the positive influence it has had on improving health outcomes for Black families. Highlights include:

- A reduction to **0% of preterm births** among families who received Frontline Doula program services, a **reduction to 7% low infant birth weight** for Black women.
- A **43% decrease of cesarean births** among those who received Frontline Doula services and decreased anesthesia used during the intrapartum period.

In a 2021, HealthNet analysis, Frontline Doulas found that half of the clients they served had a general dislike of hospitals, or had concerns about not being heard by hospital staff, and experienced an increased potential for unnecessary interventions. Clients also desired to have their birth plans followed, bodily autonomy [respected] in the birthing process, and for providers to help safely deliver a healthy baby.

To address these concerns and prioritize family-centered culturally competent care, Frontline Doulas offers a free nationwide doula hotline, trains and employs doulas of color through their community doula programs. Last year, Frontline Doulas awarded 12 doulas through their Community Doula Champions Project with a \$1,000 award and education on how to become an approved Medi-Cal provider.

"I am the first person in my family to give birth at home [to my knowledge]," said mother and Frontline client Alycia "Many of the women in my family told me I wouldn't be able to do it. I am grateful that I chose the [Frontline Doulas] birth team I did because, with their support and guidance, I did it. Having a doula like Etecia allowed me to learn new things about myself, my body, and what I am capable of."

Created in 2019, Frontline Doulas improves birth and postpartum outcomes in LA County and has supported more than 726 Black families by providing evidence-based community doula programming and mentorship, creating income streams for Black/African American birthworkers. To date, the community-based doula program has served more than 218 birthing families in Los Angeles County and 508 individuals via the nationwide Frontline Doula Hotline in 15 states, including California, Texas, and New York.



About Frontline Doulas – Frontline Doulas is a perinatal health program that connects and supports Black families with Black doulas. Frontline Doula’s goal is to decrease perinatal health disparities and increase positive health outcomes during pregnancy and in the first year of life in the Black community. To learn more about Frontline Doulas’ work in the community, visit www.frontlinedoulas.com or bit.ly/CommunityDoulaChampions and follow them on social media at [@frontlinedoulas.com](https://www.instagram.com/frontlinedoulas.com).