

Legacy's doula program- frequently asked questions:

Legacy Health Systems is recruiting a diverse and skilled group of doulas to provide prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum doula care to Medicaid clients through Legacy clinics. Email doulas@lhs.org if you don't see your questions answered below.

What are the requirements to contract with Legacy? Doulas will need to:

- Be listed on the State THW Registry. Please see [Steps and Resources for Doulas Applying to the THW Registry](#) for more information.
- Have proof of individual malpractice insurance. Doulas can get affordable [malpractice insurance through CM&F](#).
- Provide proof of full vaccination for COVID-19. Find a [COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon here](#) if you still need to start or complete your vaccination.
- Complete the Legacy Doula Program application

What does it mean to be “contracted”? Doulas will be Independent Contractors, not employees. Independent contractors are not limited to working with one organization so doulas could work independently as needed. Legacy doulas will connect with clients through the Doula Program Coordinator and provide continuity of care prenatally, through birth and postpartum.

This is not a hospital shift doula model. For the full Medicaid billing fee, the doula must provide and document: two prenatal visits, birth support, and two postpartum visits with the client. Doulas can provide prenatal and postpartum care in the patients homes or clinic space (if desired). Virtual visits and birth support are approved by the state if a doula cannot provide in-person support for public health reasons. Legacy-contracted back up doulas are available if needed and the fee will be split appropriately. Legacy reimbursement payments will be provided to the contracted doula on a monthly payment cycle to reduce wait times for pay-outs.

Is there a minimum number of births required? Legacy does not require a minimum/max number of births each month/quarter so that doulas can provide the best, safest care for our patients and our community. Legacy understands that most doulas work best when they can manage their own case load and off-call breaks based on their own capacity.

Do you have to be a Legacy-contracted doula to be a birth doula at a Legacy Family Birth Center?

No. Non-contracted doulas can still support private clients who are birthing at Legacy hospitals but they would not be able to access the client leads, payment, and other benefits available to Legacy-contracted doulas.

Why is the Medicaid fee so low for doula services? Midwives and OBs are (also) reimbursed significantly less for delivering a baby under Medicaid than under private insurance in the U.S. There are tremendous disparities in care between people who can afford a private doula and people who can't. It is exactly the people who can least afford a private-pay doula, who would often benefit the most from doula care. If you got into this work to help families have safer and more equitable birth experiences, regardless of their income or status, then this Medicaid doula program is one way to help doulas do that.

