

Current Efforts at Doula Medicaid Implementation: Updates, Challenges, and Best Practices Resources & Additional Reading

The National Health Law Program has been tracking efforts at expanding Medicaid coverage for doula care nationally and creating and sharing out our own resources on our [Doula Medicaid Project](#) webpage, which has a chart [tracking current state doula Medicaid efforts](#), including states that have enacted legislation and are in the process of implementing Medicaid coverage for doula care. We also have archives of our state doula Medicaid legislation charts from 2019, 2020, and 2021, available as [PDFs to download](#).

In May 2020 we published the results of a survey and series of focus groups of doulas across California. The survey and focus groups culminated in our publication of a report: [Building A Successful Program for Medi-Cal Coverage For Doula Care: Findings From A Survey of Doulas in California](#). We believe the findings and recommendations hold true for any state looking into Medicaid coverage for doula care. The report, as well as a series of fact sheets, timeline, and a [list of recommendations](#), can all be found at <https://healthlaw.org/resource/doulareport/>

In March 2022 we released our [California Doula Pilots Lessons Learned project](#), which collects a series of three publications, a panel discussion, and other resources around the implementation of ten doula pilot programs here in California focused on addressing racial health disparities, and in particular on providing free doula services to either Black pregnant and birthing people or Medicaid enrollees.

To learn more about the implementation of doula Medi-Cal benefit in California, please see the Department of Health Care Services page on [Doula Services](#), as well as information compiled by the [California Doula Access Listserv](#).

In April 2022, the [Community Doula Research Steering Committee](#) at UC Berkeley published a [final report](#), research prioritization [shortlist](#) and [full document](#), [two-page informational document](#), and [illustration](#) about community doulas.

[Advancing Birth Justice: Community-Based Doula Models as a Standard of Care for Ending Racial Disparities](#), by Village Birth International, Ancient Song Doula Services, and Every Mother Counts, has critical information on community-based doula care, advancing racial equity, and sustainable reimbursement.

In 2021, The Lily/Washington Post published a very informative series on Medicaid coverage for doula care: [State of Doula Care series](#). The series included articles specifically on the challenges in [Oregon](#) and [Minnesota](#) and reasons for the very low uptake of the benefit in both states. Additional data points from the series are also available [here](#).