

## Doula Scope of Practice Working Group Information

[Public Act 21-35, An Act Equalizing Comprehensive Access to Mental, Behavioral, and Physical Health Care in Response to the Pandemic](#), requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to conduct a scope of review process regarding the concept of doula certification.

The Department will convene a working group that includes doulas and others who may be interested in or impacted by doula certification in Connecticut. The group will provide insight and recommendations that will be compiled into a report that is due to the State Legislature by February 1, 2022.

Public Act 21-35 defines a doula as “a trained, nonmedical professional who provides physical, emotional and informational support, virtually or in person, to a pregnant person before, during and after birth”.

Among the topics that will be covered in this process are:

- The public health and safety benefits that may be achieved if doulas become certified in Connecticut;
- The impact that doula certification will have on public access to health care;
- The education, training and/or examination requirements and any relevant requirements that would qualify a doula for certification in Connecticut;
- The extent to which doula certification may impact existing relationships within the health care delivery system; and,
- The anticipated economic impact of the request on the health care delivery system.

Prior to convening the working group, the Department is collaborating with community partners who have been gathering information on doula certification and training nationally and in Connecticut. This information will provide a foundation for the working group’s discussions.

The Department anticipates that the working group will begin meeting in late October or November through no later than the end of January 2022. Meetings are open to the public and will have a remote option or held remote only.

In anticipation of this working group, any entity may submit an impact statement regarding the concept of state certification for doulas. Any impact statement submitted should be related to the topics above, or whether such entity agrees or disagrees with the concept of doula certification, and an explanation of why. There is no page limit for impact statements, but they are typically brief and no longer than a few pages.

Impact statements and other inquiries should be sent no later than October 1, 2021 and preferably by email to:

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