

The Rootead CBD program is a HealthConnect One doula education program curated by community members to be specific to birth culture in Kalamazoo and aligns with Rootead's ethos of "reclaiming the village." We will meet for 20 weekly sessions to cover specific topics in depth, while keeping classes interactive and heart-based. Class sessions are accompanied by brief assignments, hands-on training in the community, as well as ongoing mentoring.

This program is offered to community members at no financial cost, however there is a substantial investment of time and effort. HealthConnect One requires completion of 17 *specific* sessions out of the 20 total for certification completion. Class sessions will be held on Saturdays from 11 am - 3:30 pm, with breaks for movement and lunch. Our first cohort starts October 5 and runs through spring 2025 with some breaks for holiday observances. We will accept up to 20 applicants per cohort.

Most of the class sessions will be held in person at Rootead Enrichment Center in downtown Kalamazoo. However, since some virtual sessions may be substituted for expected poor weather conditions and assignments are accessed through an online portal, reliable internet access is crucial to completing certification.

Certification through this program is one step for doulas to become eligible to accept Michigan Medicaid payments, as the HealthConnect One curriculum and certification has already been approved by MDHHS.

Participation in Rootead's CBD program does not guarantee employment or contractual work with Rootead's Red Birth Green doula collective. The Red Birth Green team continuously evaluates the need to hire and will take applications as needs arise, prioritizing doulas who have shown their commitment to the work by completing the CBD certification.

Thank you for your interest in Rootead's Doula Program. We estimate it will take 10-15 minutes to complete this application. Please note this application will close September 8 for the first cohort starting October 5, 2024.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is the cost of Rootead's Community Based Doula training program?
 - a. There is no financial cost of this program to participants, however there is a significant time and energy investment.
2. Will I have a job at Rootead at the end of the training program?
 - a. Doula work at Rootead is not a guaranteed outcome of the training program. However, we do continuously evaluate the needs of the program and community and will notify certified doulas when we have an opportunity to join the collective.
3. Can I work as an independent doula at the end of the training program?
 - a. Yes, you may work independently after you are certified.
4. Is this program in-person or virtual?
 - a. We will meet face-to-face most weeks and reserve virtual sessions for bad weather.
5. When does class meet?

- a. Saturdays from 11 am to 3:30 pm, starting October 5. We will not meet for class on November 23, December 21 & 28. The last day of class will be March 8 and our graduation ceremony will be March 29th.
- 6.** What happens if I miss a class?
 - a. If you miss a class other than sessions 1, 4, or 20, you will not be eligible for certification.
- 7.** What is required for certification through the program?
 - a. Attend the required class sessions, complete all assignments, and participate in hands on training and observations in the community.
- 8.** Do I need to do anything before I apply to the program?
 - a. Some familiarity with birth is suggested, but there is no required experience or educational background.
- 9.** How many applicants will be accepted?
 - a. We will accept a minimum of 8 students and a maximum of 20.
- 10.** I live outside of Kalamazoo. Can I apply to the program?
 - a. You may apply to the program but be aware of the need to have reliable transportation to attend in-person sessions. Due to our local connections and community networks, Kalamazoo residents will be prioritized.
- 11.** Will I be able to accept Medicaid clients after this training?
 - a. Gaining certification through this program is one step in the process of accepting Medicaid payments for clients.
- 12.** Can I bring my children?
 - a. Babes-in-arms (3 months or younger) are welcome to join, however other arrangements should be made for older children so your attention is not divided. We are exploring funding for a childcare stipend for participants.
- 13.** I am interested in the program, but this fall is not great timing for me. Will you hold another training?
 - a. We hope to hold 1-2 trainings per year. Please keep in touch for updates on our training schedule.