



2023 Impact Report



Birthworkers of Color Collective



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Rooted in community, activism, & centering BIPOC.



About Us

Today, a woman is more likely to die from complications of pregnancy and birth than her mother was a generation ago. Black and Indigenous women are 2 and 3 times more likely than white women to die from complications of pregnancy and birth.

Since 2017, our comprehensive doula training program has successfully supported over 350 individuals, including community leaders, respected elders, and youth across the U.S., Guam, and internationally. Our core commitment revolves around uplifting people of color that are often overlooked and left behind due to systemic biases.

Community is at the heart of our work. Training doulas of color goes beyond addressing the equity gap in maternal and infant health; it serves as a catalyst for bolstering economic stability and expanding opportunities within our doula network and their respective communities. Our approach to birthwork is rooted in a social justice lens, enabling us to create a broader impact that transcends individual clients and fosters meaningful systematic change.



Letter from Our Founder

On behalf of Birthworkers of Color Collective, I'd like to express heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for all of our incredible funders, individual donors and sponsors that have supported us this past year. Your investments played a significant role in BWOC achieving a major milestone, as we've officially opened our first (of many to come) brick & mortar and expanded our collective across the globe.

Without a doubt your generosity and support has helped - and will continue to help center the critical work of prioritizing LGBTQIA+ inclusive and Black, Indigenous, People of Color initiatives and our constant innovation to expand our advocacy reach and create safe spaces that are culturally relevant and intentional.

We look forward to your continued investment and support.

Thank you for choosing to support perinatal and infant health.

Thank you for your support of this collective.

Thank you for being in community with us.

Thank you to the indigenous people who steward the lands we are on.

Thank you to our ancestors, elders, community, and collective who have made this work possible.



With Love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stevie Merino". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Stevie Merino

Co-Founder & Executive Director

Our Team

Staff

Stevie Merino - Executive Director/Co-Founder

Christina Lares - Abortion Doula Program Coordinator

Diamond Moseley - Development Specialist

Board of Directors

Natalie Shovlin Bankole - Co-Chair

Emerita Bustos - Co-Chair

Maria G. Lozano - Treasurer

Erin A. Wimberly - Secretary

Brittany Lewis - Board Member

Advisory Board Members

Alexandrina Agloro - Academic Advisory

Jadah Parks Chatterjee - Medical Advisory



**Birthworkers of Color
Collective**

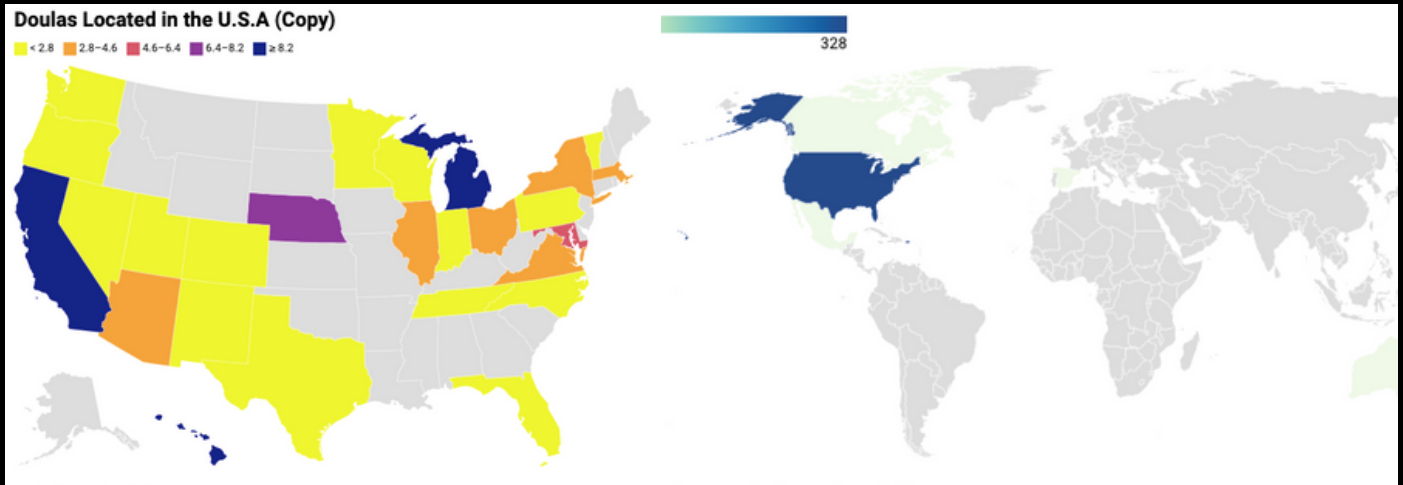
Our Demographics

BWOCC stands out as one of the few doula training programs with the most diverse individuals in our network. Our intentional approach to our collective has emphasized the important of our membership truly being reflective of the diversity that exists under the BIPOC umbrella. Our unwavering commitment lies in serving people of color, undocumented people, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, those who do not speak English or it is their second language, and marginalized communities overall to ensure representation and cultural relevance in birthwork.

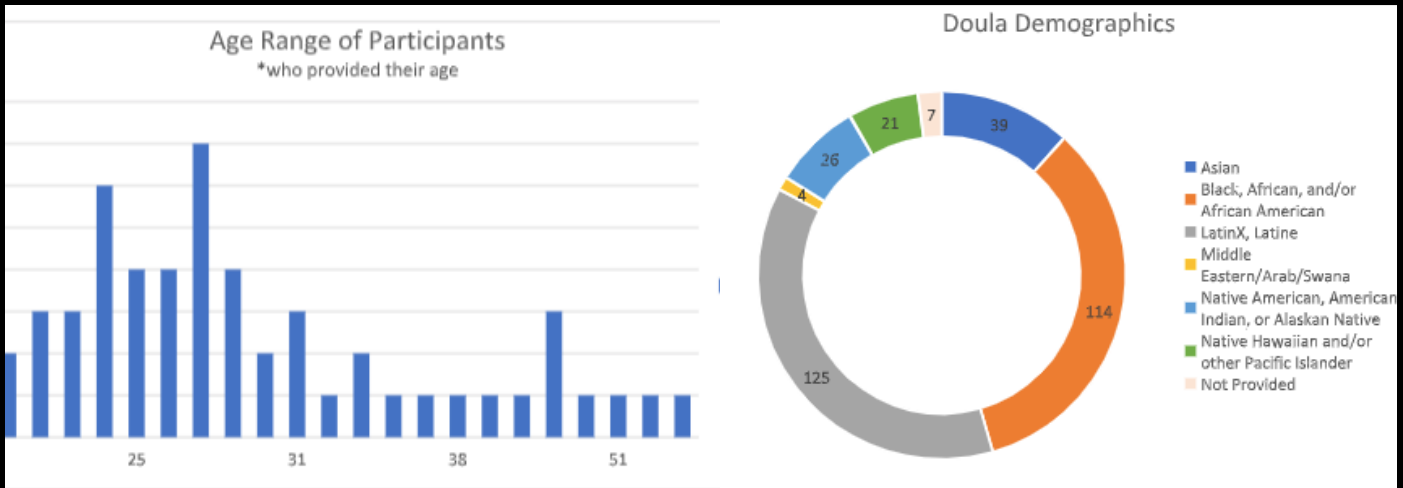


Our Demographics

With a network comprising over 350 doulas, we've provided support across the United States, Guam, and we are positioned to expand our network internationally.



IN DEC 2023 WE HOSTED A FULL SPECTRUM TRAINING IN GUAM, RESULTING IN 17 PEOPLE TRAINED TO SUPPORT AS DOULAS



81%

OF OUR COLLECTIVE SPEAK LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

51%

OF OUR COLLECTIVE MEMBERS REPRESENT LGBTQI+

8%

OF COLLECTIVE MEMBERS IDENTIFY AS TRANS AND/OR NONBINARY

“While I do want to support my clients individually and support them to have positive experiences, I also want to impact our disparities and dismantle white supremacy and the medical industrial complex.

— Stevie Merino

Our Collective

The foundation of our collective is based on advancing equity, by creating a training curriculum that focuses solely on improving the outcomes and experiences of BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ persons. Not only does this increase support for the birthing people of these communities and their family units, it creates space for community members to have opportunities to become paid doulas as well as being able to continue to rely on the support of the collective, if they so choose. Consistently, we organize educational events, webinars, and community gatherings to engage youth, individuals, and elders. We strive to highlight the interconnectedness of perinatal experiences and health outcomes with larger societal issues. Normalizing these conversations and securing backing from all community tiers remains crucial for all of our futures and ultimate liberation.



13 COHORTS
IN-PERSON/VIRTUALLY

192 SCHOLARSHIPS
PROVIDED

10 MEDI-CAL PAVE PORTAL
TRAININGS



MEDI-CAL PAVE PORTAL TRAINING FOR DOULAS



Thursday, March 16
4PM to 5:30 PM PST
Virtual
CA doulas Learn how to
register as a Medi-Cal
provider via PAVE portal



City & State



MEDI-CAL/ MEDICAID DOULAS

Birthworkers of Color Collective hosts/co-hosts regular trainings to support birthworkers in navigating the Medi-Cal/Medicaid provider application and certification process.

BWOCC is an approved doula training organization for Michigan and Maryland Medicaid doula services. We are an approved medi-cal group provider in California.

CITY OF CUDAHY

Thanks to a partnership with the city of Cudahy mayor Daisy Lomeli, Diaper changing tables are now installed in all park restrooms in the city of Cudahy!

We are looking forward to building more supportive and invested partnerships in our cities and continue envisioning and actualizing all the ways we can support pregnant, birthing, postpartum people, parents, families, and the community now and in the future.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Birthworkers of Color Collective continues to offer training and educational outreach to community members, organizations, and healthcare providers to promote a culture of support, advocacy, and reproductive justice for marginalized communities.



ABORTION DOULA PROGRAM

Reproductive justice encompasses not only the right to access safe and legal abortion but also the right to have children, the right to parent in safe and supportive environments, and the right to make decisions about one's body free from coercion or discrimination.

Abortion doulas play a crucial role in addressing barriers to reproductive justice by providing emotional, informational, and practical support to individuals navigating the complex landscape of abortion care.

In 2023 alone we have accomplished:

- Increased accessibility to abortion services for marginalized communities by training over 60 abortion doulas and 43 full-spectrum doulas
- Provided training and education to Physicians, Residents, and other Health Professionals
- Strengthened community networks and grassroots advocacy for reproductive rights and justice

Abortion doulas are a lifesaving cornerstone in the framework of reproductive justice. Their role extends beyond the clinical setting, addressing the multifaceted challenges individuals face when seeking abortion care.

We extend our gratitude to Essential Access Health for their support in championing initiatives that promote reproductive justice, and we remain committed to expanding our efforts to ensure equitable access to comprehensive reproductive health care for everyone.


Since 2017, Birthworkers of Color Collective has led 4 Abortion Doula Trainings and all of our 350+ doulas are trained in abortion support.



Guam Training

Disasters are linked to premature rupture of membranes, premature labor, and delivering low birth weight babies. Moreover, societal factors can exacerbate their vulnerability to economic impacts post-disaster, limiting their access to crucial healthcare resources.



 Our doula training in Guam was the first doula training ever. The island has had 1 doula for years and now has 17 newly trained doulas, with the majority being CHamoru. Our training serves as a crucial support system for pregnant, birthing, and postpartum individuals and their families, especially in the wake of Typhoon Mawar, which devastated the island and worsened the scarcity and accessibility of birthing support and resources. With the closure of the only standalone birth center, there's an even more urgent need for culturally relevant doulas and birthing resources.

We remain dedicated to training more community members, being a primary resource on the island, and are committed to offering essential support to the community.



In The Press

Rhetoric of Health & Medicine Vol. 6, No. 2, pp.
“Redefining Our Own Center”

What Do Doulas Do – And How Can I Find One In LA?
Published Mar 14, 2022 12:25 PM - Updated Sep 18, 2023

With inequalities faced by pregnant black women in white-dominated hospital settings, Long Beach based Birth Workers of Color Collective provide support and advocacy for POC
Signal Tribune - JUNE 3, 2020

Canvs Rebel: Meet Stevie Merino
Published August 28, 2023

low Research Online "Redefining Our Own Center":
An Interview with Stevie Merino
Published June 9, 2023

Doula Stevie Merino supports families, builds community through
Press TelegramKindness: birthwork
Published September 14, 2023

Manaotao Sanlagu: Stevie Merino
Published March 31, 2023

Long Beach Business Journal
Awareness, affordability remain challenges for parents of color to access doulas

2023 Donors

Thanks to the generosity and active support of our donors, BWOCC has undergone remarkable growth, resulting in an increased capacity, expanded training offerings, and a diversified funding base. We are deeply grateful for their contributions and amplification of our efforts and wish to thank all of our BMHW23 Sponsors!

Champion Donors

Kaiser Permanente

Blue Shield

Aster

**Long Beach Health Equity
Department**

Best Start Central Long Beach

Long Beach Forward

Essential Access Health

Liberty Hill Foundation

**Mount Saint Mary's University -
Center for the Advancement of
Women**

Charles Drew University

Goldhirsh Foundation

The Victoria Project

Groundswell

Thirdwave Fund

First Five Los Angeles

Creating Healthier Communities

Nurse Chatterjee Consulting

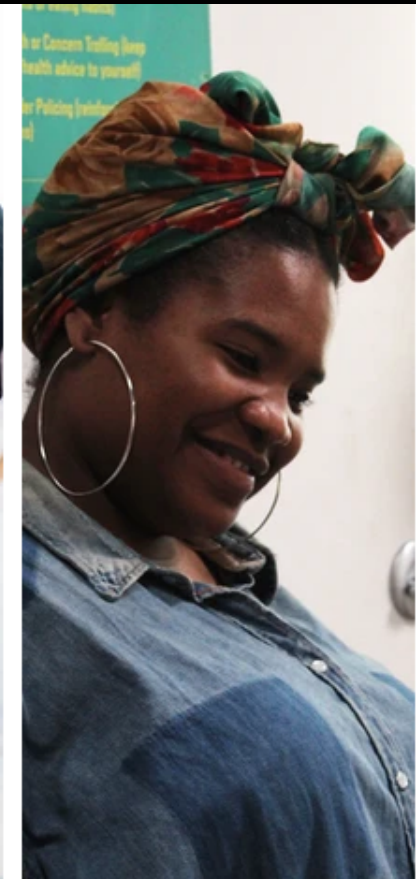
Quinn Lundberg

**Los Angeles County African
American Infant and Maternal
Mortality (AAIMM) Prevention
Initiative**





We are rooted in advocacy, systems change, and creating a better, more just world.







Connect with us

 birthworkersofcolor.com

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Birthworkers of Color
Collective