



Workforce Development Certified Breastfeeding Specialist Intern Description

Reports to: Workforce Development Coordinator

Location: Hybrid Work Only

Internship Type: Unpaid

Hours per week: 15-20

Since 1974, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia (HMHBGA) has been the strongest statewide voice for improved access to healthcare and health outcomes for Georgia's mothers and babies. HMHBGA is the only organization in Georgia that focuses on the full spectrum of maternal and infant health concerns ranging from prematurity to maternal mortality. Georgia currently ranks amongst the poorest in the nation for maternal and infant health. While Georgia's provider shortage has been well-documented as a contributing factor to these disparities, less attention has been paid to the lack of perinatal support professionals serving families in the state. Research has demonstrated that the work of these professionals, including doulas, has improved maternal and infant health outcomes in regions where families can access their services.

In 2017, HMHBGA began convening a large cross-section of stakeholders narrowly focused on building the perinatal workforce, with a special concentration on doulas. The group soon formalized into the Georgia Doula Access Working Group (GDAWG) with a goal to improve maternal and infant outcomes in Georgia, through increased equitable awareness and access to full spectrum doula care for families, especially those with the fewest resources.

The group discovered that there was a significant shortage of doulas certified in the state, with less than 50 practicing at the time of the scan. Additionally, there was limited access to breastfeeding and childbirth education support. In response to this, the GDAWG recommended the establishment of a free to low-cost program to increase understanding of the credentialing processes, foster entrepreneurship and create economic self-sufficiency for participants living in high need areas. Additionally, this would expand access to this vital service to those most in need by trusted individuals representing the diverse and unique communities across the State.

To meet this need, HMHBGA established the Building Perinatal Support Professionals Project (BPSP) to increase the number of qualified perinatal support professionals serving communities most at risk for poor birth outcomes in Georgia. The year-long program provides financial assistance, training, and mentorship to participants to facilitate their certification in becoming a doula, childbirth educator, certified breastfeeding specialist, and Maternal Mental Health Providers.

Intern Responsibilities.

- Embrace the mission, vision, and strategic priorities of HMHBGA.
- Assist the Workforce Development coordinator with creating marketing materials/graphics.
- Engage in local events, collaborative meetings, and resource networks to increase awareness and participation in HMHBGA's services; Act as a liaison by presenting organization's mission.



- Assist the coordinator with evaluating program efficiency and ensuring proper data collection and submissions.
- Create resource tools and referral guides to disseminate across the State.
- Complete follow-up calls with BPSP program participants and clients.
- Assist in presentations, recruitment events, and other Coalition building activities as needed.
- Assist at Workforce Development scheduled trainings and workshops as needed.
- Attend webinars and conferences to increase knowledge of maternal and infant health or related topics.
- Connect families and perinatal professionals to available resources.
- Additional program relevant tasks as needed.

Minimum Qualifications.

- **Wanting to gain experience** working in a perinatal profession, nonprofit, public health, healthcare setting, maternal and child health, doula, lactation professional, maternal and child health advocacy.
- Must be well versed in the maternal health landscape of Georgia.
- **Wanting to gain project management experience.**
- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Attention to details and problem-solving skills, committed to follow-up and follow-through.
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- **Seeking mentorship in** perinatal profession, nonprofit, public health, maternal and child health, doula, lactation profession
- **Willing to learn.**
- **Ability to travel to the HMHBGA office** to work collaboratively with the Workforce Development Team, located at 2200 Century Parkway, Suite 460, Atlanta, GA 30345. Must have reliable transportation when called to the office.
- **Willing to spend 20%-30% of the time in the field,** attending events and making connections on behalf of HMHBGA. Guidance and training will be provided.
- **Willing to build relationships through multiple modalities** including but not limited to in person (when safety permits). via email, phone call, and video conferencing.

Please note this is an **unpaid internship opportunity**. You will be required to sign a contract agreement stating your understanding.

How to Apply.

Please follow these instructions exactly. Applications received that are not in the correct format will not be reviewed until they are received in the correct format.

Please email your current resume and a cover letter expressing your interest **INA SINGLE PDF FILE** addressed to: thecoalition@hmhbga.org with the **subject line:** "Workforce Development CBS Intern".

Please no phone calls. Only candidates selected for consideration will be contacted