

JOB DESCRIPTION: Breastfeeding Peer Support Person

General Description:

A breastfeeding peer support person is a paraprofessional who prepares mothers for the birth experience, offers emotional support, and provides basic breastfeeding information to women during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period.

Qualifications:

- ✓ Currently breastfeeding or has breastfed one or more child for at least six months.
- ✓ Enthusiastic about breastfeeding and wants to assist other mothers enjoy a positive birth and breastfeeding experience.
- ✓ Shares the culture and speaks the common language of the majority of the clients served.
- ✓ Able to establish a nurturing, caring presence with women and family members.
- ✓ Able to work a minimum of five hours per week.

Required Training:

- ✓ Completion of breastfeeding peer counselor training classes (provided).
- ✓ Completion of birth doula training classes (provided).
- ✓ Reading of relevant books or materials about breastfeeding.
- ✓ Completion of PreventionPays text messaging training (provided).

Duties:

- ✓ Provide basic birth and breastfeeding information and support to pregnant women and new mothers, including information about the benefits of breastfeeding, the best ways to establish breastfeeding, how to overcome common barriers, and prevention of common problems.
- ✓ Lead or assist with perinatal breastfeeding classes and support groups.
- ✓ Counsel and follow up with pregnant and breastfeeding women who are clients of the project's medical practices by telephone, text messaging, group meetings, or personal contact.
- ✓ Refer breastfeeding women to appropriate providers according to established protocols of the project practices so as not to exceed the peer support person's scope of practice. Referrals may include, but are not limited to, physicians, nurses, lactation consultants, nutritionists, public health programs, and social service agencies.
- ✓ Abide by the Healthcare Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) by keeping client information strictly confidential.
- ✓ Attend NCBC project meetings as required.
- ✓ Maintain up-to-date birth and breastfeeding knowledge through reading, conferences, or continuing education classes as required by supervisor.

Supervision:

The breastfeeding peer support person will be supervised by the project's Regional Grant Coordinator and Grant Coordinator.