

Guide for Clients and Referrers of the Access Fund

DOULA UK ACCESS FUND APPLICATION PROCESS

1.	<p>To apply to the Access Fund, you will currently be experiencing disadvantage and financial hardship.</p> <p>Applicants will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be referred by their healthcare professional (GP or midwife) via our online application form https://doula.org.uk/apply-to-the-access-fund/ (We also accept applications from social workers and charitable partners) • To provide proof of financial hardship e.g. proof of receipt of benefits or no recourse to public funds (this is uploaded along with the application form) • To meet at least one of the other criteria (Lone parent, Black or Asian, Mental health diagnosis, Fleeing domestic violence, Homeless or in temporary housing, In the Social Work system, Registered disability, Survivor of trafficking or abuse) • Choose either birth support or postnatal support
2.	<p>Once the application is received, Doula UK will respond within 6 weeks to notify the client and the referrer of the outcome of the application. (If the due date is sooner we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible)</p>

IF THE APPLICANT IS SUCCESSFUL

1.	<p>If successful, Doula UK will ask the applicant to find an Access Fund Approved Doula to support them. The applicant will need to use the 'Find a Doula' search box on our website (www.doula.org.uk) and enter the first part of the applicant's post code and then tick the box 'Offers Works Via the Access fund'. If the search tool does not show any doulas in your local area, please widen your search to the surrounding areas.</p> <p>When contacting a doula, the applicant must state that they are looking for either a birth or postnatal Access Fund doula.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: Only Access Fund Approved Doulas can support via the Access Fund so it is essential that only the Doulas listed in the 'Offers Works Via the Access fund' search are contacted.</p>
	<p>IF AN APPROVED ACCESS FUND DOULA CANNOT BE FOUND – Please contact the Access Fund Coordinator (accessfund@doula.org.uk) as soon as possible and Doula UK can assist further.</p>

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2.	<p>When an Access Fund Approved Doula has confirmed they can provide support, the applicant must email the Access Fund Coordinator to provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - full name of the Access Fund Doula - applicant's home address - contact number <p>A voucher for either birth or postnatal care will be issued to the applicant via email.</p>
3.	<p>The doula will remain in contact with the applicant directly. Once the doula has supported the applicant's birth OR provided 20 hours of postnatal support, the applicant must give the voucher (or provide the voucher number) to the doula so they can receive payment directly from Doula UK.</p>
<p>Amy Kufuor <i>Business and Operations Support</i> admin@doula.org.uk</p> <p>Kim Sterling-Haig <i>AF Coordinator</i> accessfund@doula.org.uk</p> <p>Leila Baker <i>Team Leader</i> teamleader@doula.org.uk</p>	