



BIRTHWISE MIDWIFERY SCHOOL

Midwives of Color Access Program

2017 Guidelines

Goal of the Access Program:

As a way to play a small part in addressing the disparities in birth outcomes among Black mothers, people of color, and their babies, Birthwise Midwifery School offers a program to decrease financial barriers for applicants of color.

The goal of the Midwives of Color Access Program is to increase the number and presence of midwives of color in the midwifery profession by providing direct support and financial resources for aspiring midwives of color whose presence may have an immediate effect on birth outcomes in their community and nationwide. We feel it is imperative that communities have access to health providers who understand what it means to be a person of color in America and how the stressors of systemic racism can contribute to unfavorable birth outcomes if the disparities are to be corrected. Birthwise would like to help make midwifery training, and ultimately midwifery care, more accessible to the people who need it most.

Eligibility Criteria

Participants in this access program will be chosen using the following criteria. Applicants must:

- a) Identify as a person of color that desires to incorporate respectful birthing practices into their community.
- b) For those without a prior college degree, applicants must be eligible for a Federal Pell Grant as determined in the FAFSA application process OR
- c) For those with a prior college degree (Bachelor's, Masters, or Doctorate), applicants must demonstrate financial need through the FAFSA application process.
- d) Share a philosophy of birth and midwifery that is compatible with Birthwise and demonstrate familiarity with and/or involved in birth work prior to admittance to Birthwise.
- e) Meet all the admission requirements as outlined in the Birthwise catalog and be accepted into the program.
- f) Maintain satisfactory academic progress, as outlined in the Student Handbook, in order to continue receiving the scholarship.
- g) Must have proficiency in the English language.

Current students may apply for this scholarship at any time during their enrollment at Birthwise and if awarded it would apply to future semesters.



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Please fill out the application below. Write a 2-4 page double spaced essay addressing the statements and questions below. Return to Birthwise by **June 30, 2017**: Birthwise Midwifery School Attention: Student Affairs Coordinator, 24 S. High St. Bridgton, ME 04009

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please address the following in an essay:

- How you meet the above eligibility criteria.
- The importance of diversity in midwifery education and practice.
- What it takes to succeed in midwifery education.
- Your profession goals as a midwife and how those goals relate to the community you want to serve.
- Any barriers you face in pursuing a midwifery education that you would like the Scholarship Committee to take under consideration.
- How will receiving this scholarship assist you with your goal of becoming a midwife.



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Midwives of Color Access Program Application 2017

How does the Access Program work?

The intent of this program is to remove the financial barriers to enrollment at Birthwise by committing to meet the participants demonstrated financial need through an integrated financial aid package. This is not an award of a specific amount of money, or a specific percentage of the total tuition, but rather is an individualized aid package that will continue for the duration of the student's enrollment at Birthwise and can change semester to semester.

Once the participant completes a FAFSA application and the Title IV award is received by the school, a financial aid package will be created that will cover the student's demonstrated financial need for tuition, books and fees required (based on estimates). Awards to students enrolled in the Community Program will also cover the estimated cost of housing for each of the academic sessions in Bridgton.

This aid package may include Federal Student Loans (Stafford Loans), Pell Grants, and a Birthwise Grant and together will cover the estimated educational expenses the student will have. For example:

Example Financial Aid Package, 2017-18

Estimated Educational Expenses:

• Books	\$1000.00
• Housing for Community Students (6 sessions)	\$1100.00
• Class fees:	\$180.00
• Tuition \$6400.00 per semester (2016-17)	\$12,800.00

Total Estimated Educational Expenses 2016-17: \$15,080.00

Example Aid Package:	Stafford Loans--	\$5,500.00
	Pell Grant--	\$4,300.00
	Birthwise Grant	\$5,280.00

Total Award per year: \$15,080.00



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Frequently Asked Questions

When is the Application Due?

- June 30, 2017

How many Access Program participants are chosen each year?

- We will choose up to 4 Access Program participants per cohort.

What are the Responsibilities of the participants in the Access Program?

- Participants will be held to all policies and standards expected of all Birthwise Midwifery Students that are stated in the Enrollment Agreement and Academic Policies.
- Participants must maintain satisfactory academic progress as outlined in the Birthwise Academic Policies in order to maintain the scholarship.

How can I submit my Midwives of Color Access Program Application to you?

- Email: Student Affairs Coordinator at studentaffairs@birthwisemidwifery.edu
- Mail: Birthwise Midwifery Attention: Student Affairs, 24 S. High St. Bridgton, ME 04009
- Fax: 207.647.5919

Will I have to interview for the scholarship?

- An interview will be conducted in person, or skype as the final step in the selection process.