Fall Doula Gathering Recap: A Time of Learning, Connection, and Ceremony

On November 20–21, 2025, 16 doulas trained and supported through grant-funded HOPE Consortium programming, gathered at Lake of the Torches Resort in Lac du Flambeau for a Fall Doula Gathering—two days filled with learning, reflection, cultural teachings, and meaningful connection. We are deeply grateful for the time and space we were able to share together.

Day One began with open office hours, offering doulas individualized support as they worked toward completing National certification requirements. This time allowed for thoughtful questions, problem-solving, and encouragement, meeting each person where they are on their doula journey. We then came together as a group to reconnect, share updates, and witness one another's growth, challenges, and accomplishments. Hearing these stories reminded us of the strength and dedication within this community and the powerful work being done to support pregnant women and their families throughout the HOPE Consortium service area.

The afternoon continued with education focused on Indigenous cultural traditions, grounding our work in respect, history, and lived knowledge. These teachings offered deeper context and understanding, strengthening our ability to serve special rural populations.

That evening, we gathered at a multi-purpose tribal lodge for a New Moon ceremony, a time for reflection, intention-setting, and renewal. Sharing this ceremony together created a sense of calm and closeness, followed by a shared feast.

Day Two brought continued learning, including a visit from a death doula who generously shared her experiences and insights supporting end of life care.

The gathering concluded with a Cedar Healing Ceremony, providing space for reflection offering a meaningful close to our time together, allowing participants to carry forward the lessons, connections, and intentions formed over the two days.

We are incredibly thankful for the doulas who participated and trainers who shared their time and wisdom. This Fall Gathering was a reminder of the importance of coming together to learn, support one another, and honor special populations that we work with.

This project is funded in part by Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc. (FHC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Rural Communities Opioid Response Program - Neonatal

Abstinence Syndrome (RCORP-NAS) award. The contents are those of the author. They may not reflect the policies of HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Fall Doula Gathering Participants and Trainers