



Hello and Welcome.

This Certification Readiness Packet is designed to help you determine whether you are ready to enroll in INELDA's Certification Program and to prepare for a smooth registration process.

This packet is divided into two sections:

Section I: Assessing Your Readiness

Understand the purpose, requirements, and expectations of the Certification Program and reflect on your personal readiness to participate.

In this section, you will find:

- The core intention of INELDA's year-long Certification Program
- A summary of program requirements
- Guidance for assessing your personal readiness, including capacity and time commitment

Section II: Preparing to Register

Review the registration requirements, questions, and documentation needed to complete your registration.

In this section, you will find:

- Registration requirements
- Recognized end-of-life doula fieldwork (experience/direct service) and education
- Registration form questions
- Required documentation to prepare and upload during registration

After you have read and thoroughly reviewed this packet, you will be ready to register for the certification program. Additional information, including [required dates](#), [attendance](#) and [refund policy](#) are on our website. We highly recommend that you are familiar and in agreement with all policies of the program before registering. If after reading this entire packet and the website, additional questions or concerns arise, please email certification@inelda.org.

Thank you and we look forward to connecting with you,

INELDA

SECTION I:

The Core Intention of this Program:

When we show up in community, provide direct service, and practice self-awareness—we transform. INELDA's certification program is built on the principles of the INELDA Doula Approach and developed to build empowered, personally accountable end-of-life doulas who provide ethical, person-centered support. This year-long program is a journey through which doulas reflect on their unique model of care. Doulas will explore through the lens of the INELDA Doula Approach how they deliver care within their communities.

Our educators accompany you through the certification program as a doula, providing you with the autonomy to explore and navigate the interests you have as an end-of-life doula. We learn and gather in a community of practice. There are moments where the program will ask us to learn and unlearn, to move without knowing what comes next, and to release the outcome of what we think we will become—in order to see what we are actually becoming.

This program is both rigorous and transformative. By the end of the year each doula is asked to present a project on how their growth over the year has shaped and deepened their practice. The framework of the program moves you through an individual and collective growth experience.

Summary of Program Requirements:

To achieve recognition as an INELDA-certified doula, I am aware that I must complete the program requirements:

- Year-long active participation in the certification program (Google Classroom, peer groups practices, monthly meetings, quarterly assignments)
- Attend all live cohort sessions (2 allowed absences in the 12-month program)
- Quarterly assignments and final integration project
- Complete a minimum of 50 hours of fieldwork throughout the year
- Meet with your peer group actively to create a space of support for one another
- Active accountability and communication with your INELDA educator

Assessing your personal readiness for the certification program:

We hope that before you register, the answers to these questions are all “yes”. If not, we encourage further engagement in order to be more fully prepared.

- Have I completed an INELDA End-of-Life Doula training or a foundational end-of-life doula training with another organization along with INELDA's Bridge End-of-Life Doula training?
- If I trained with an organization other than INELDA for my foundational training, do I have access to my certificate of completion or other proof of completion and am I ready to provide that document in order to enroll in INELDA's Bridge End-of-Life training prior to the start of this program.?
- Have I completed a minimum of 30 hours of End-of-Life Doula experience in fieldwork and education? Examples of fieldwork experiences are in Section II.
- Do I feel confident in providing presence and practical support to individuals and their circles of care during end-of-life transitions and early grief?
- Have I had any personal or professional experiences with grief or death that have prepared me for this next step?
- Do I have end-of-life doula experience opportunities lined up for the next 12 months, or am I in the process of creating new opportunities to practice within the next 12 months?
- Am I willing to invest time in further developing my doula pathway during the year-long certification program?
- Have I considered how to organize my life tasks and responsibilities and what it will take for me to fully participate in the year-long program?
- Do I feel prepared to balance the emotional aspects of end-of-life doula experiences with self-care practices?
- Am I committed to remaining active and involved in providing direct service for the full duration of the year-long certification process?
- Am I prepared to submit documentation that demonstrates my fieldwork and educational experience? As well as my CV/Resume and contact information for two references.

Online learning considerations:

- Am I familiar with joining and participating in Zoom meetings?
- Do I have reliable access to a laptop or computer?

- Am I prepared to engage in a primarily asynchronous, self-paced learning environment delivered through Google Classroom?
- In my experiences with online learning, what have I found helps me to keep myself on task while balancing other life demands?
- When unexpected situations arise, how have I met challenges and moved through difficulties?
- Have I looked at all of the certification program dates specified, and am I able and willing to commit to all of these dates to complete the program?
- Do I have a basic familiarity with technology, or a support network to help me when I get stuck?

SECTION II:

Registration Requirements:

- Completion of an INELDA End-of-Life Doula Training or, if trained through another organization, have completed the INELDA Bridge End-of-Life Doula Training.
- CV or Resume
- Contact information for 2 References (name, phone number, email, relationship)
- Documentation of 30 hours of doula experience (20 hours of fieldwork, 10 hours of continuing education)
 - You may upload word documents, excel spreadsheets, or pdfs that attest to your fieldwork experience and education. We suggest that the hours you present are within the past two years. Please make this document ahead of time, so that when you begin the registration process, you can easily upload. The information we would like you to include is:
 - For fieldwork examples please include:
 - Date
 - Time Spent (ex: 2.5 hours)
 - Support/Service Provided
 - Person(s) Supported (examples: the person dying, circle of care, general public, specific population, etc.)
 - Briefly describe the support provided (1–2 sentences)
 - For education examples please include:
 - Person(s)/Orgs that information was received
 - Proof of registration/attendance
 - Educational content learned

Recognized End-of-Life Doula Fieldwork & Education

End-of-Life fieldwork includes a myriad of ways doulas are providing service and support to the various populations in their communities and beyond.

Fieldwork:

*Attestation to a minimum of 20 hours within the past 2 years**

End-of-life doula experiences include existing and newly generated opportunities through which doulas serve in the field by:

- Encouraging meaningful conversations about end of life and grief
- Educating and providing assistance with advanced healthcare directive and POLST
- Providing referrals to appropriate healthcare providers and community resources
- Providing non-medical methods and approaches that assist toward greater physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual comfort
- Supporting circles of care through the process of loss and grief
- Encouraging and facilitating informed decision-making
- Facilitating practical assistance with gathering of dying wishes, honoring rituals, memorials, celebrations of life, and end-of-life projects
- Educating about and supporting after-death care
- Encouraging respite for caregivers
- Offering presence during the last hours of life
- Supporting a dying person's dignity and autonomy
- Facilitating conversations about death, grief, and preparation for end-of-life
- Offering educational presentations about end-of-life care, preparation for end-of-life, the end-of-life doula movement, among related topics
- Facilitating workshops
- Facilitating Death Cafes
- Developing and realizing community outreach projects
- Advocating to advance the movement
- Mobilizing activism
- Leading community groups
- Forming and supervising volunteer teams
- Establishing collectives and collaborating with other doulas, death- and grief-workers
- Establishing community deathcare teams and collaborating with community members
- Dedicating to legacy and remembrance projects
- Specializing in branches of accompaniment not specific to bedside
- Supporting a choice to use MAiD
- Working with psychedelics at end-of-life

**It is important to note that we ask each doula to count the hours of fieldwork when actively in the role of doula. We understand that many doulas work in adjacent fields woven within deathcare but for this system of accountability, we hold this boundary. We also recognize that although we may not enact the role of doula in a transactional way with family or friends—we may simultaneously be acting as a doula. We honor the role paid or unpaid. We invite doulas to gather hours where they are enacting the role*

Education:

*Attestation to a minimum of 10 hours within the past 2 years**

Foundational end-of-life doula training is a prerequisite before certification. In addition to your initial foundational training, you will be asked to provide documentation for other training or education you have received.

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- End-of-life doula trainings beyond your initial foundation training*
- Webinars/Workshops/Classes focused on the field of deathcare, end-of-life, aging, mortality, grief, loss, serious illness, palliative care, community care, specific populations, hospice.
- Conferences/Symposiums/Seminars
- Academic courses
- CEU/CE self-study courses
- Peer mentoring groups
- Community of practice groups
- Additional/Adjacent Trainings supporting specific populations/unique needs

*If you have trained with INELDA, we will already have a record of your certificate(s) of completion. If you have trained with another organization, we will have that certificate on file from your process of registering for the Bridge training, along with confirmation that you have completed our Bridge Training.

We all enter this field through different pathways, so please note that the examples above are not the only forms of accepted End-of-Life Doula Experience. If you have questions about your specific experience, please email certification@inelda.org.

Registration Form Questions:

We are providing these questions in advance so you can prepare your responses thoughtfully. To ensure a smooth registration process, we recommend gathering your answers and any required documentation before beginning the registration form.

The registration process typically takes 45 minutes or less to complete. If you need to leave the form before submitting it, your responses will be saved for up to 10 days. After that time, any incomplete application data will be deleted, and you will need to begin the process again.

If you experience any difficulties, please contact us at registration@inelda.org.

Consent

- Have you reviewed the Certification Readiness Packet and acknowledge you are ready to pursue certification? **Required Question*
- To achieve recognition as an INELDA-certified doula, I am aware that I must complete the program requirements: **Required Question*
 - Year-long active participation in the certification program (Google Classroom, peer groups practices, monthly meetings, quarterly assignments)
 - Attend all live cohort sessions (2 allowed absences in the 12-month program)
 - Quarterly assignments and final integration project
 - Complete a minimum of 50 hours of fieldwork throughout the year
 - Meet with your peer group actively to create a space of support for one another
 - Active accountability and communication with your INELDA educator
- I am aware and agree to following refund policy: **Required Question*
 - We do not offer refunds for this program after 9/1/2026. For all refunds within the approved time-frame, a \$150 administrative fee will be deducted. Each cohort has a limited number of spaces, and our educators are deeply committed to providing dedicated support throughout the year. Transfers may be considered in cases of extenuating circumstances and will be reviewed on an individual basis.

- I understand that this training involves an exploration of my own mortality, and that my direct personal experiences with death, dying, grief, and loss may elicit strong feelings. **Required Question*
- I understand that end-of-life doula work requires the awareness and ability to separate my own beliefs, experiences, desires, etc. from the experience of the dying persons I serve. **Required Question*
- I understand that if I am actively grieving a death, it may be difficult for me to work with sensitive content and that I seriously consider postponing registering until I'm in a different emotional place. **Required Question*
- I acknowledge that I am prepared to engage in online learning and have support and access to a laptop or desktop computer. **Required Question*
- I am aware that I will be participating in a cohort-based learning environment. I am willing and ready to participate and be responsive alongside my peers. **Required Question*

About You

- Name: **Required Question*
- Name to place on your program certificate. **Required Question*
- Email: **Required Question*
- Phone: **Required Question*
- Address: **Required Question*
- Briefly share your motivation for becoming an INELDA-Certified End-of-Life Doula (300 word limit) **Required Question*
- Briefly share how you currently envision your impact on deathcare within your community (300 word limit) **Required Question*
- To begin the certification program, participants are expected to have end-of-life doula practice opportunities in place or be actively cultivating new opportunities to practice throughout the duration of the year-long program. Briefly describe the context(s) in which you anticipate practicing as an end-of-life doula. If applicable, please include details such as organizations, locations, and supervisor names. (300 word limit) **Required Question*

- Please upload your CV/Resume (.pages files are not supported) **Required Question*
- We may contact references as part of the review process. Please list TWO references who are familiar with your End-of-Life Doula (EOLD) practice or services below, including their name, relationship to you, phone number and/or email address. **Required Questions*

Fieldwork

- Briefly describe your experience providing direct services as an End-of-Life Doula e.g., a hospice or palliative care program, long-term care facility, private end-of-life doula practice or collective, community outreach setting, after-death support, etc. (300 word limit) **Required Question*
- How many hours of paid or unpaid fieldwork have you completed? (Minimum: 20 hours) **Required Question*
- Please upload any applicable documentation e.g., time sheets, letter from supervisor or client, etc. (.pages files are not supported) **Required Question*
- You may have experience contributing to the field of deathcare. If applicable, briefly list examples of your contributions e.g., publishing an article or book for professional or public audiences, completing a thesis/dissertation, engaging in advocacy or policy work, etc.. (300 word limit)
- If applicable, how many hours have you contributed to the field? (Minimum: N/A)
- If applicable, please upload any applicable documentation e.g., copy of book cover, article abstract, document linking to website or articles, etc. (.pages files are not supported)

Education

- Which foundational End-of-Life Doula training course have you completed with INELDA? **Required Question*
 - *Check all that apply*
 - End-of-life Doula Training
 - Hospice Doula Training
 - Bridge or Refresher

You will be shown all the training completion dates on file to ensure we are not missing any.

- Have you taken foundational End-of-Life Doula training with an organization other than INELDA? **Required Question*
 - Multiple choice
 - No, I have only trained with INELDA
 - Yes, I have trained with another organization in addition to INELDA

Please provide the name(s) of the organizations where you completed additional EOLD training. Include the month/year, city/location (in-person or online), and instructor(s)' name(s)

- In addition to your foundational End-of-Life Doula training, briefly list other relevant education or training you've completed e.g., conferences, webinars, seminars, workshops, academic or self-study courses with CEUs/CEs, peer groups, or communities of practice. (300 word limit) **Required Question*
- Excluding your foundational End-of-Life Doula training, how many hours of additional education or training have you completed? (Minimum: 10 hours) **Required Question*
- Please upload any applicable documentation e.g., certificates or proof of registration/attendance, etc. (.pages files are not supported) **Required Question*
- You may have some experience providing education in your community. If applicable, briefly list examples of your experiences providing education e.g., teaching academic courses, leading workshops or webinars, or offering community education through Death Cafés or public events. (300 word limit)

- If applicable, how many education hours (not included prep time) have you provided? (Minimum: N/A)
- If applicable, please upload any applicable documentation e.g., brochure, ad, flyer showing your name, date, time, etc. (.pages files are not supported)