

# WHAT ARE YOU INVESTING IN?

Midwives in the Bay Area have begun to raise their fees, and we think it's important to discuss why we charge what we charge and what you are investing in by working with us. We want our families to see the true value in the care we provide, while also doing our part to make care accessible to all.

The community standard for an entire course of care in the Bay Area ranges from ~\$8000-10,000+. Below are some of the components we consider when determining our fees:

- We are on-call for your 24/7, 365 days a year, just like a physician or anesthesiologist (except we don't get time-off, paid vacation, benefits, retirement, etc.)
- We cannot travel far from our clients (more than an hour or so) unless we are off-call. Given that our client due windows are 5 weeks long (from 37-42 weeks), off-call time is rare. If we do want a vacation or have a family emergency, we must arrange for another midwife to provide coverage (who we then have to pay to do so and then we also forfeit attending your birth).
- Our phones must be charged, in a service area, and with us at all times in the event of a labor call or any emergency from our clients during their course of care, even if we don't have clients in their "due window"
- Licensing fees and continuing education requirements
- Absence of liability insurance (often cost-prohibitive or does little to protect us unless we have it until your child reaches the age of 18)
- Years of rigorous training and unpaid apprenticeship, as well as multiple clinical exams
- A second, well-qualified midwife at your birth who must also be on-call for your birth and maintain skills and training. This person is also legally responsible for the lives of your and your baby, just as your primary midwife is.
- Business licenses, self-employment taxes, fees, medical equipment, medications, emergency supplies, and online medical records
- Maintaining emergency readiness at all times, including skills drills and continuing competency
- Frequent and extended home visits and Telehealth visits (which save you time and effort, gas, wear and tear on your vehicle, etc.) that allow for thorough, individualized care (far beyond standard appointment times)
- Ongoing emotional support, reassurance, and availability throughout pregnancy, labor, and postpartum
- Intentionally low client load to ensure availability, attentiveness, and safety for each family
- Holding space for complex experiences (fear, trauma, decision-making, uncertainty) in a way that's continuous—not shift-based
- And...we are holding the lives of you and your baby in our hands!

We hope this offers helpful insight into our care and the values behind it. Choosing your provider is a meaningful decision, and we're here to answer any questions as you explore what feels right for you.