



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) IBCLC Care Award

What is the IBCLC Care Award?

The IBCLC Care Award is a special recognition given to Hospital-Based Facilities and Community-Based Agencies that staff International Board Certified Lactation Consultant® (IBCLC®) certificants as part of the care team serving new families. The program is jointly sponsored by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE®) and the International Lactation Consultant Association® (ILCA®). Complete details and the online application are available at the award program’s website at www.IBCLCcare.org.

- To be eligible for the **Hospital-Based Award**, the facility must have one or more dedicated lactation consultant support positions with an IBCLC® as the required credential and a dedicated lactation program available at least 5 days a week, any evidence-based project started within the last two years that protects, promotes and supports breastfeeding and the IBCLC® credential, and provide documentation of breastfeeding training/updates within the last two years for nursing, medical and other health professional staff who care for new families and which is separate from the breastfeeding project.
- To be eligible for the **Community-Based Award**, the facility must have one or more dedicated lactation consultant support positions with an IBCLC® as the required credential and a dedicated lactation program available at least 2 days a week, provide a description of how the agency/program/clinic/office promotes, protects and supports breastfeeding, and provide documentation which includes a description of a project started in the last two years that promotes, protects and supports breastfeeding and/or the IBCLC® credential.

Successful applicants of the Hospital-Based Award and Community-Based Award will receive a certificate of recognition and will be listed in the IBCLC Care Directory starting April each year. Your award will be current for 2 years at which time we welcome you to apply again.

How do I know if my workplace is a Hospital-Based Facility or a Community-Based Agency?

This list below specifies which workplaces are hospital-based or community-based:

Hospital-Based	Community-Based
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals • Birthing Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health Agencies • Public Health Agencies/Departments



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthing Services • Medical Centers • Childbirth Societies • Health Systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Clinics • Surestart Children’s Centers • Community based Breastfeeding Drop-In Centers • Baby Cafes • Lactation Clinics • WIC Agencies • Ministries of Health • Community Based Health Providers • Public and Private Physician Offices and Clinics
<p>All applications, payment and correspondence for Hospital-Based Facilities will be processed at the IBLCE office in Virginia, USA.</p>	<p>All applications, payment and correspondence for Community-Based Facilities will be processed at the ILCA office in North Carolina, USA.</p>

Is there any cost associated with applying for the award program? When must my payment be sent and received?

Yes. There is a nominal \$50 USD administrative fee to apply for the Hospital-Based or Community-Based Award program and to be listed in the directory. Must be paid when you submit your application

When and how can I apply for my Hospital-Based Facility or my Community-Based Agency?

You can apply online at <http://www.ibclccare.org/award.html> from January 15, 2018 to February 16, 2018.

When will I hear from the Award program about whether my facility is approved or not?

Newly recognized Hospital-Based Facilities and Community-Based Agencies will be posted on the website by **April 27, 2018**. Facilities that are denied will be notified by the above dates.

The health system in my area has multiple hospitals and birthing facilities which would meet the criteria for this award. Do we apply for the entire system or for each separate facility?



Yes, most definitely. Each facility must apply separately with a \$50 cost applies to each application. There can be some differences by facility, and often be different contact information for supervisors, and different IBCLC certificants working at the facilities.

How many hours per week are required for the requirement of a "dedicated IBCLC program at least 5 days per week"? Is it a 40-hour program or could it be a part-time IBCLC position that provides lactation support a few hours a day for at least 5 days a week?

The hours per week are not a requirement to be approved for the IBCLC Care Award. For example, 2 hours per day of dedicated lactation support for at least 5 days per week would meet the requirement however dedicated lactation support must be for at least 5 days per week for the Hospital-Based Award and at least 2 days per week for the Community-Based Award.

Are children's hospitals eligible for recognition?

Yes. A children's hospital is eligible for the Hospital-Based Award program, and as long as all other criteria are met.

Can a physician clinic or public health clinic (such as a WIC agency [US] or Surestart Childrens Centre [UK]) be considered for recognition?

Yes, the Award program includes Community-Based Agencies as long as all criteria are met.

Can I apply for the award every 2 years?

Yes. If you are applying for a second or third time your project and training must be completely different and clearly stated on your application and be accompanied by the evidence. We would also like to know any outcomes to your previous project.

Our hospital is too small to employ an IBCLC, but we do a lot to support our breastfeeding mothers. Can we be eligible for recognition?

No. This program was specifically established to promote and advance the profession of IBCLC certificants, it currently only recognizes those facilities and organizations that have a dedicated IBCLC position on staff.

There are other programs available to honor the outstanding work of facilities in promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding. For example, the Baby-Friendly Initiative *For more information about BFHI contact UNICEF at www.unicef.org.*



My facility or agency is applying to achieve Baby-Friendly status. Can we use this as our project to apply for the IBCLC Care Award?

No, you cannot use the fact that you are applying for Baby-Friendly status as your project. However, you may use one of the projects that you have completed on your Baby-Friendly journey as a project on your IBCLC Care Award application. Evidence of your project must be provided.

Please note, all project ‘evidence’ must be included in your application. This includes, outlines of your training criteria, projects objectives, any project information, flyers, information sheets, training outlines, outcomes or stats etc.

For other questions, or if you are experiencing technical difficulties, please visit online at the contacts listed below.

Hospital-Based Facilities Contact:	Community-Based Agencies Contact:
International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE) award@iblce.org +1-703-560-7330	International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA) admin@ilca.org +1-888-452-2478