



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) IBCLC Care Award

What is the IBCLC Care Award?

The IBCLC Care Award is a special recognition given to hospitals, birthing facilities, and birthing services that staff International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) as part of the care team serving new families. To be eligible, the facility must have a currently certified IBCLC on staff, a professional lactation support program available 5-7 days a week, evidence of having completed a breastfeeding or lactation consultant promotion/support project, and breastfeeding training for staff within the last two years. Successful applicants will receive a certificate of recognition and will be listed in the IBCLC Care Directory starting January each year. 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.

Is there any cost associated with applying for the award program?

Currently, there is no charge for applying for the award program and to be listed in the directory.

When and how can I apply for my facility?

You can apply online at www.IBCLCcare.org/award.html from September 1 through November 30 each year. Facilities being honored will be listed in the directory each January following the application period.

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

Newly recognized facilities will be posted on the website in early January each year. Facilities should receive a congratulatory or denial letter by mid- to late-January.

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

Each facility should apply separately, because there may be some differences in criteria, and there will most likely be different contact information for supervisors, and different IBCLCs working at the facilities.

How many hours per week are required for the requirement of a "dedicated IBCLC program 5-7 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 5-7 days a week?

The hours per week are not a requirement to be approved for the IBCLC Care Award. For example, two hours per day for 5-7 days per week would meet the requirement. As long as the job is protected to give lactation support only during that time for 5-7 days per week it is considered dedicated.

Are children’s hospitals eligible for recognition?

Yes. A children’s hospital falls within the criteria for the award program, and as long as all other criteria are met, can be eligible for recognition and listing in the directory.

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

Not currently. During the inaugural year of this award program, the focus will be on hospitals and birthing facilities or services. After the first year, the program may be expanded to include private practices, public health groups, and other organizations or employers.

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?

Because this is a program specifically established to promote and advance the profession of IBCLCs, it currently only recognizes those facilities that have certified IBCLCs on staff. Other programs are available to honor the outstanding work of facilities in promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding. For example, the Baby-Friendly Initiative recognizes facilities that meet the evidence based practices in the “Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding,” and many breastfeeding coalitions and advocacy groups recognize facilities that go above and beyond the call of duty in promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding. *For more information about BFHI contact UNICEF at www.unicef.org.*

For other questions, visit <http://www.IBCLCcare.org/contact.html> for an online contact form or contact:

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*****For technical difficulties, please contact IBLCE by email or phone.*****