



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 go to the IBLCE office in Virginia, USA.</p>	<p>All applications, payment and correspondence for Community-Based Facilities will go to 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?

There is a nominal \$30 USD administrative fee to apply for the Hospital-Based or Community-Based Award program and to be listed in the directory. **All check payments must be received no later than February 24, 2017. If payment is not received by February 24th, your application will be considered incomplete and ineligible for review.**

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 9, 2017 to February 17, 2017.

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 28, 2017**. 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?



Each facility should apply separately, because there may be some differences by facility, and there will most likely 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, two hours per day for at least 5 days per week would meet the requirement. As long as the job is dedicated to give lactation support only during that time 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 falls within the criteria for the Hospital-Based 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?

Yes, the Award program is now expanded to include Community-Based Agencies. As long as all criteria are met, community agencies can be eligible for recognition and listing in the directory.

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. We would also like to know if there are 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?

Because this is a program specifically established to promote and advance the profession of IBCLC certificants, it currently only recognizes those facilities 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 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.*

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.

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