



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; a dedicated lactation program available at least five days a week; an evidence-based project started within the last two years that protects, promotes, and supports breastfeeding and the IBCLC® credential; and documentation of breastfeeding-focused training separate from the breastfeeding project which was provided within the last two years for health professional staff who care for new families.
- 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; a dedicated lactation program available at least two 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](#) each year. Awards will be current for two years at which time applicants are welcome 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 Centres • Birthing Services • Medical Centres • Childbirth Societies • Health Systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Health Agencies • Public Health Agencies/Departments • Health Clinics • Surestart Children's Centres • Community-based Breastfeeding Drop-In Centres • 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.</p>	<p>All applications, payment and correspondence for Community-Based Facilities will be processed at the ILCA office.</p>

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



Yes. There is [an administrative fee](#) to apply for the Hospital-Based or Community-Based Award program and to be listed in the directory. This fee 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/about>. Please check the website for application dates.

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 the end of **April/May of each year**. Facilities that are denied will be notified by that time as well.

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 must apply separately in order to capture potential differences in supervisor(s) and/or employees holding the IBCLC credential. Please note that the administrative fee applies to each application.

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.

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

Yes, these centers are considered Community-Based Agencies.

Can I apply for the award every two years?

Yes. If you are applying for a second or third time, you must apply with a new project and training. This must be clearly stated on your application. We would also like to know any outcomes from your previous project(s).

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, so it currently recognizes only 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 Hospital 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 and/or project objectives; project information; flyers; information sheets; training outlines; outcomes; and/or related statistics.

If you have other questions, please contact the person associated with your award 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) info@ilca.org