

Working Together

The lactation profession is a lot like the nursing profession, in that it is full of people wanting to help other people. This is a wonderful thing and in the case of helping Florida breastfeeding mothers and babies there are a number of people doing just that. However, like nursing we must unite if we are ever going to be officially recognized as a part of the healthcare team. IBCLCs along with these breastfeeding advocates currently support Florida's mothers and babies:

Title	Education Time
Lactation Specialist/ BF Specialist	2 Days
Lamaze BF Support Specialist	15 Hours
Breastfeeding Counselor	2 Days
Breastfeeding Educator Certified Breastfeeding Educator	3 Days 15 sessions
WIC Peer Counselor La Leche League Leader	26 Hours 1 year of self study/ training
CLE Certified Lactation Educator CLS Certified Lactation Specialist	40-45 hours total (8 clinical hours)
CLC Certified Lactation Counselor	40 hours

Working together to recognize this true profession begins with seeking legislation that helps give all Florida mothers and babies, rich or poor, better access to breastfeeding support. Legislation requires that we take an objective look at what we want the standard minimal level of competency to be. Other professions have high standards of competency:

Title	Education Time
Medical Doctor	11 years minimum College including clinical hours
Physical Therapist	Minimum of 5 years College including clinical hours
Registered Nurse	Minimum of 3 years of College including clinical hours
Registered Dietician	Minimum of 4 years of College including clinical hours

In our profession, only IBCLCs are required to fulfill the highest standards in lactation, which are above and beyond what the above categories require. At the minimum IBCLCs must complete one of these pathways to qualify to sit for their board examination every 10 years to prove that they are current and competent to help mothers and babies:

PATH 1	PATH 2	PATH 3
14 Health Science Courses	14 Health Science Courses	14 Health Science Courses
90 Hours of Lactation Specific Education	90 Hours Lactation Academic Program (5 programs in US)	90 Hours of Lactation Specific Education
1000 Clinical Hours As a paid or volunteer Recognized Health Professional (physician, nurse, dietician) and /or Recognized Mother Support Counselor WIC Peer Counselor or Le Leche League Leader	300 Hours under Direct Supervision IBCLC who has recertified	500 Hours under Direct Supervision IBCLC who has recertified.

Licensure will allow mothers to receive reimbursement and be more successful at breastfeeding. Of course IBCLCs need the rest of you to help mothers with us and we also need many of you to become IBCLCs. As it stands right now Florida does not have enough IBCLCs to help all the mothers the U.S. Surgeon General has advised is necessary per 100 births. Many of you have the experience and the heart that it takes to help Florida mothers and babies we just need you to join with us and to become IBCLCs so that breastfeeding rates will continue to rise to the level where we all know they need to be. So, please sign our petition and thank you for helping Florida's Breastfeeding Mothers and Babies!

Survey:

<http://www.change.org/p/florida-s-legislators-support-licensure-of-ibclcs-in-florida>

And remember to take our survey so you can be heard:

<http://licensedibclc.com/pdf/IBCLCWEBPAGE-TAKE-THE-SURVEY.pdf>