



# ANNUAL **REPORT** 2024

Inspiring Professional Growth and  
Advancing Advocacy for the International  
Board Certified Lactation Consultant

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## Inspiring Professional Growth and Advancing Advocacy for the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant



### National Lactation Consultant Alliance

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for reading the 2024 National Lactation Consultant Alliance's (NLCA) Annual Report. Our theme of *Inspiring Professional Growth and Advancing Advocacy for the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant* reflects NLCA's continuing commitment to advocating for the IBCLC®. We constantly and consistently endeavor to carry out our mission of empowering and advocating for holders of the IBCLC® credential throughout the healthcare system, in legislation, and in policy. We look to ensure access for families to clinical lactation care delivered by the IBCLC® and improve access to the profession for individuals from underrepresented groups. We prioritize safety for breastfeeding families through the promotion and clarification of the role of holders of the IBCLC® credential. Our Center for Lactation Equity works to build an inclusive lactation community that understands, appreciates, and values equity, diversity, and cultural humility. We look forward to joining with you to create a lasting impact on the lactation consultant profession and the families we serve.

### 2024 Board of Directors

Our all-volunteer board members donate their time to carry out the vision and mission of NLCA. Our board members possess valuable knowledge, expertise, and experience in clinical lactation care, public health, law, policy, advocacy, marketing, social media, and education.



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RN, IBCLC  
*President*



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*Vice President*



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Center for  
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State Advocacy  
Committee*

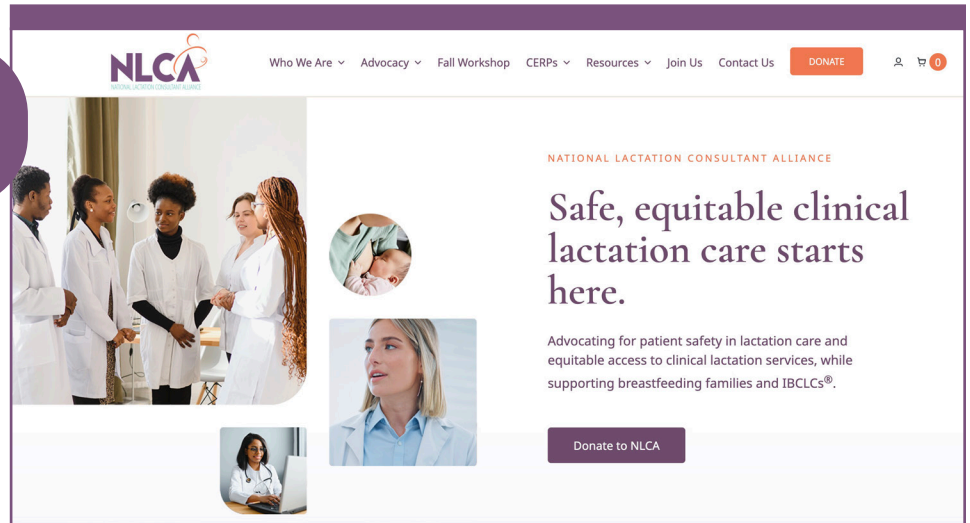


## Funding

NLCA is a 501(c)4, non-profit social welfare organization and is operated exclusively to promote social welfare. Our funding comes from donations, our Ally program, and our educational offerings. NLCA is an organization that meets its obligations under the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes. Importantly, your donations support our mission out in the field as all our work is conducted by volunteers, not paid employees or outside contractors.

# NLCA has a new look!

Check out our new website! Our new look is modern, with increased functionality allowing you, our visitors, to better navigate the site and communicate with us.



## The IBCLC® in Law and Policy

NLCA takes every opportunity to provide comments to state and federal health agencies as well as on state and federal bills filed in legislatures. Take a look at our list below to see a sampling of what we commented on:

### Federal Bills:

- S1594, Social Determinants for Moms Act
- S948, Healthy Moms and Babies Act
- S4005, Keeping Obstetrics Local Act
- S4773, Health Equity and Accountability Act
- HR 8715, NEST Act
- HR7744, Infant Formula Made in America Act

### State Bills:

- Massachusetts, H3626 An Act to Improve Access to Breastfeeding Care
- North Carolina, S467 Omnibus Act
- New Hampshire, SB337 Doula and Lactation Provider Certification
- Rhode Island, H7882 Lactation Consultant Practice Act
- Rhode Island, S2379 Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
- Louisiana, SB300 Health Insurance Coverage of Pregnancy and Postpartum Healthcare Services

### Agencies and others:

NLCA was in contact with the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Connecticut Public Health Committee, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, the National Center for Education in Maternal Child Health, US House Committee on Ways and Means-Subcommittee on Health, Senate Subcommittee on Investing in a Healthier America, commented on the inclusion of maternal health data in the US Core Data Interoperability Standards + (USCDI+), the Advisory Committee on Infant & Maternal Mortality, and the Food and Nutrition Service on Implementation of the Access to Baby Formula Act of 2022 and Related Provisions (WIC comments).

NLCA also had a letter to the editor published regarding ankyloglossia and the IBCLC® in the journal *Pediatrics* from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

See: <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/154/2/e2024067605/198022/Identification-and-Management-of-Ankyloglossia-and>

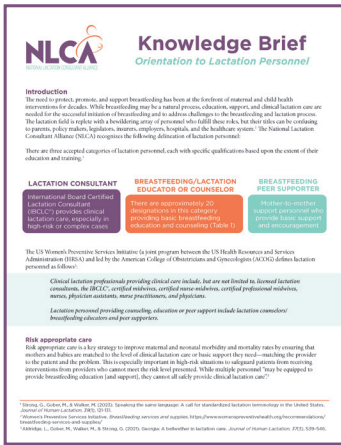
## Licensure of the IBCLC®

NLCA considers licensure of the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant integral to patient safety and the provision of risk-appropriate clinical lactation care to childbearing families. Licensure of qualified IBCLCs® facilitates clinical lactation care that is safe, affordable, and equitable. NLCA's State Advocacy Committee provided education and consultation regarding IBCLC® licensure and hosted quarterly meetings for the multiple state teams working on this issue. Massachusetts is the latest state to enact licensure for the IBCLC®.

## Publications

Building on the importance of IBCLC® licensure, NLCA published its position paper on *Licensure of the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant*. The position paper explores the need for licensure, the benefits, the challenges, and includes 27 references. Advocates can use this document in their work advancing the IBCLC® profession, in securing reimbursement for clinical lactation care services, in efforts to improve families' access to clinical lactation care, and to enhance access to the profession.

New in 2024 is our *Knowledge Brief* series of publications on issues pertinent to IBCLC® advocacy.

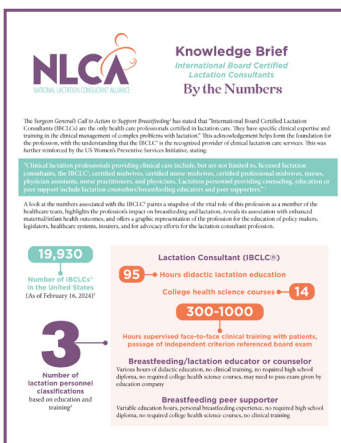
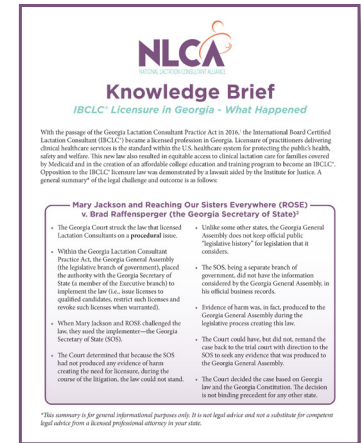


### Knowledge Brief: Orientation to Lactation Personnel

This Knowledge Brief clarifies the various lactation personnel in the lactation field. The lactation field is replete with a bewildering array of personnel who fulfill various supportive or clinical roles, but their titles can be confusing to parents, policy makers, legislators, insurers, employers, hospitals, and the healthcare system. This document offers clarity of lactation personnel and is suitable for use in IBCLC® advocacy efforts. See <https://nlca.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/NLCA-Knowledge-Brief.pdf>

### Knowledge Brief: IBCLC® Licensure in Georgia

This Knowledge Brief highlights the impact of the Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act, passed in 2016. The Act established the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant as a licensed profession in Georgia, aligning it with the standard practice of licensing clinical healthcare providers across the U.S. A general summary of the lawsuit and its outcome is provided in this document. This brief also highlights the significant gains in the numbers of IBCLCs® after state licensure of the profession. See <https://nlca.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Knowledge-Brief.pdf>



### Knowledge Brief: International Board Certified Lactation Consultants: By the Numbers

The Surgeon General and U.S. Women's Preventive Services Initiative recognize International Board Certified Lactation Consultants as the only healthcare professionals certified in clinical lactation care. With nearly 20,000 IBCLCs® in the U.S., their specialized training, including clinical hours and board certification, distinguishes them from other lactation personnel. IBCLCs® improve breastfeeding outcomes, enhance maternal-infant health, and reduce healthcare costs—saving Medicaid \$2.33 million in one state alone. Their presence in NICUs is linked to reduced rates of necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) and improved infant health. These findings highlight the critical need for IBCLCs in healthcare systems and policy planning. See <https://nlca.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Knowledge-Brief-By-the-Numbers.pdf>

## Educational Workshops

NLCA conducted educational workshops on various topics pertinent to the IBCLC® profession. Our workshops provided CERPS and continuing education credit for IBCLCs®, nurses, and dietitians. Topics typically discussed ethical considerations in clinical lactation practice and were unique among lactation-related offerings. These workshops and individual webinars are available for purchase on the NLCA website here: [https://nlca.us/content-restricted/?r=3708&wcm\\_redirect\\_to=page&wcm\\_redirect\\_id=3708](https://nlca.us/content-restricted/?r=3708&wcm_redirect_to=page&wcm_redirect_id=3708) and <https://nlca.us/fall-workshop/>

## FALL WORKSHOP

### Ethics in Research and Mentorship

November 12  
1:00pm-4:00 pm EST



## Clinical Alerts

NLCA issued clinical alerts to inform clinicians of important news that can affect their practice and/or their patients. These clinical alerts are provided from time to time as issues arise that are pertinent to clinical lactation practice.

## Newsletters

NLCA published 24 newsletters this year, informing subscribers of NLCA's advocacy work on behalf of IBCLCs®, as well as providing announcements, presenting clinical information, and informing readers of actions they can take to advance the lactation consultant profession. Readers are always encouraged to pass on these newsletters to colleagues and invite them to subscribe to this complimentary offering from NLCA. The newsletter archives can be found at <https://nlca.us/resources/newsletters/>.

## Ally Program

NLCA's Ally Program offers colleagues an opportunity to support NLCA and receive a package of perks designed just for you. Our allies receive discounts on college course tuition, discounts on lactation related books, discounts on NLCA educational offerings, quarterly office hours with the president of NLCA, a special Ally "badge" to display, and of course all the rest of NLCA's products and services. NLCA's 56 Allies extend the reach of NLCA and are provided with a special opportunity to connect with NLCA. Allies can sign up at <https://nlca.us/ally/>.

Imagine if...  
every  
breastfeeding  
family received  
consistent,  
competent  
clinical  
lactation care?





## Center for Lactation Equity

NLCA's Center for Lactation Equity works towards strategies that will build an inclusive lactation community that understands, appreciates, and values equity, diversity, and cultural humility. One of the methods through which the Center seeks to do this is through scholarship opportunities for IBCLC® candidates who are part of populations that are under-represented in the clinical lactation care community. Each scholarship funds participation in the specified education program offered by Lactation Education Resources. Scholarship recipients receive educational hours with the goal of qualifying for the IBCLC® certification exam offered by the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners.

The Center for Lactation Equity facilitated Town Halls in 2024, inviting discussion and input regarding issues surrounding the lactation consultant profession. These were wonderful opportunities for engaging conversations on important and sensitive topics in the lactation field.

## Looking to the Future

After a year of successful advocacy for the IBCLC® profession, NLCA looks forward to continued progress in 2025. In the new year NLCA will prioritize activities that continue to advance the profession, achieve recognition and respect for the IBCLC®, place the IBCLC® in legislation and policy, improve access to the profession for underrepresented communities, and increase families' access to clinical lactation care provided by the IBCLC®

NLCA's Center for Lactation Equity has been holding town halls, to hear from IBCLCs and IBCLC candidates about areas in which to focus our efforts toward increasing equity in the field of lactation. We've been listening! We've narrowed down some key issues that have come up most often and are now going to have some topic specific Town Halls. We would especially love to hear from people who are in underserved communities, under-represented populations, and who work with marginalized persons. Please join us to give your input on these topics, discuss actionable ideas, and help inform our next steps!

The Center for Lactation Equity  
wants to hear from you!  
**Town Hall**  
9 Eastern 6 pm Pacific  
April 10, 2024

*How can access to clinical hours be improved, especially for populations that are under-represented in the IBCLC field?*



# STAY CONNECTED IN 2025!

We want to connect with you in 2025 and here's how.

- **Become a NLCA Ally.**

We know you work hard to achieve professional excellence and NLCA offers advocacy and support to help you do so. By joining our Ally Program, you can also support the work that NLCA does on behalf of the clinical lactation consultant. We wish to recognize your substantive contribution to the lactation field and to NLCA's mission by offering you something special. Our allies receive discounts on college course tuition, discounts on lactation related books, discounts on NLCA educational offerings, quarterly office hours with the president of NLCA, a special Ally "badge" to display, and of course all the rest of NLCA's products and services.

See the NLCA website to join NLCA's Ally Program: <https://nlca.us/ally/>

- **Sign up for the NLCA newsletter.**

Our complimentary newsletter is issued twice each month and contains news of NLCA's advocacy efforts, clinical issues of interest, and advocacy opportunities. Once on our mail list you will also receive periodic clinical alerts regarding timely issues that affect clinical lactation practice. Go to our website at [www.nlca.us](http://www.nlca.us) and sign up!

- **Connect with us on social media. Follow NLCA on:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NLCAAlliance>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nlca.us/>



- **Check our website for news and opportunities. [www.nlca.us](http://www.nlca.us)**

- **Support our work.**

NLCA operations are sustained by donations made by generous supporters. Please consider donating to NLCA. Visit our website and click the "donate" button or Venmo @NLCAAlliance. We appreciate your support!



[www.nlca.us](http://www.nlca.us)