# **Scholarship Overview:** Increasing Diversity in Breastfeeding Support

The Breastfeeding Coalition of Delaware (BCD) strives to **protect, promote, and support** **breastfeeding in Delaware** by imparting current and evidence-based information and skills to enable parents, families, health practitioners, and community leaders to make informed decisions.

Research tells us that breastfeeding is the optimal nutrition for babies. However, black infants and infants in low-income families are less likely to be breastfed than white infants.

More women can achieve their breastfeeding goals if they have available, affordable and culturally competent support. To address disparities in breastfeeding, the Breastfeeding Coalition of Delaware aims to increase racial, ethnic and language diversity among breastfeeding supporters in Delaware, including peer counselors, Certified Lactation Counselors (CLCs), IBCLCs (Internationally Board Certified Lactation Consultants) and others. Diversity at all levels of support is important.

Consistent with the mission of the National Association of Professional and Peer Lactation Supporters of Color (NAPPLC), the BCD is offering scholarships to cultivate a more diverse community of peer and professional lactation supporters. Scholarship awards will be based on demonstrated commitment to providing breastfeeding support to diverse communities, and the intention to work as a professional or peer lactation supporter in Delaware. Scholarship preference will be given to persons pursuing a career in lactation and/or persons already in a career that serves the public in which lactation education and certification will offer further support for underserved breastfeeding families, especially Spanish-speaking families, families of color and or families of low-income.

**Scholarship Options:**

The number of scholarships provided will be determined by the number and type of applications, as well as available funding.

1. Scholarships will cover tuition for the 90-hour Lactation Consultant Training Program offered by Lactation Education Resources (LER). This is an in-depth online training program in lactation and breastfeeding management that prepares students for the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE) exam to become an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). Scholarship recipients must have computer access and internet skills sufficient to complete the online training.
2. Scholarships will cover the cost of the IBLCE exam to become an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), as well as study materials. Candidates must have completed all exam prerequisites prior to applying for this award, and must submit your acceptance letter for the exam.
3. Scholarships will cover tuition for the 40-hour Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) training, study materials and exam.
4. Scholarships will cover tuition at a 16-hour Milk Mob Breastfeeding Champion training.

**Requirements:**

* Demonstrated financial need.
* Experience with and/or strong desire to work with underserved populations. (“Underserved population” may be defined by race, ethnicity, language spoken, geographical area, income, age, etc.)
* Strong desire to assist mothers with achieving their breastfeeding goals
* Identify as a minority group, and/or live or work with an underserved population
* Must complete proposed training or exam within one calendar year from receipt of scholarship.
* Scholarship recipients must attend five coalition meetings within the year of the scholarship.
* A letter of recommendation speaking to the applicant’s character, interest in the training, and likelihood to use his/her skills to support an underserved population. Letters should come from a current IBCLC, CLC, peer breastfeeding supporter, or breastfeeding family the applicant has supported. (If the applicant cannot get a letter from one of the above options, a letter from a healthcare professional, clergyperson, or non-family member will be accepted.)

**Preference will be given to:**

* People of color, women, LGBTQ individuals, people with disabilities
* People who proficiently speak a language other than English
* People with high-school or associate degrees seeking to further their education
* People serving underserved populations in their current job who could expand their role to include breastfeeding support
* People offering breastfeeding support to underserved populations in their current job, whose employer agrees to expanding their role after certification (e.g. peer supporter who will be retained as an IBCLC through hiring)
* People who can use the additional training to earn an income

**Application:**

If you meet the above requirements, please complete the attached application by February 15, 2019. Scholarship recipients will be notified by March 15, 2019.

**For more information on the training options:**

* Lactation Consultant Training Program:<https://www.lactationtraining.com/lactation-consultant-training-program>
* IBLCE exam: <https://iblce.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Which-IBLCE-Pathway-is-Right-for-Me.pdf>
* CLC Training: <https://centerforbreastfeeding.org/lactation-counselor-training-course/lactation-counselor-training-course/>
* Milk Mob Training: <https://themilkmob.org/the-outpatient-breastfeeding-champion-program/>

\*\* Scholarships may not be sold, transferred or assigned and are not convertible to cash.



**Scholarship Application:** Increasing Diversity in Breastfeeding Support

**First Name:**

**Last Name:**

**Mailing address:**

**City/Town:**

**State:**

**Zip code:**

**Email address:**

**Phone Number:**

**Please note the training opportunity you are requesting a scholarship for:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships will cover tuition for the 90-hour Lactation Consultant Training Program offered by Lactation Education Resources (LER). This is an in-depth online training program in lactation and breastfeeding management that prepares students for the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE) exam to become an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). Scholarship recipients must have computer access and internet skills sufficient to complete the online training.

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships will cover the cost of the IBLCE exam to become an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), as well as study materials. Candidates must have completed all exam prerequisites prior to applying for this award, and must submit your acceptance letter for the exam.

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships will cover tuition for the 40-hour Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC) training, study materials and exam.

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships will cover tuition at a 16-hour Milk Mob Breastfeeding Champion training.

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please describe)

**Please indicate your race, ethnicity or cultural identity:**

**Do you speak a language other than English?** Yes No

**If yes, what language(s)?**

**If yes, at what level do you speak the above language?**

\_\_\_ Basic

\_\_\_ Conversational

\_\_\_ Intermediate

\_\_\_ Fluent

**Are you a member of the Delaware Breast Feeding Coalition?** Yes No

**If you have credentials, please list them here:**

**Please list your education history:**

**Why are you interested in a career in breastfeeding support?**

**How will this scholarship further your career plans?**

**What qualities, work experience, and/or volunteer experience do you have that will help you serve effectively as a breastfeeding professional or peer support person within a diverse and underserved community?**

**Please describe how you will use the knowledge and skills you gain through this scholarship.**

**Please describe your financial need for this scholarship.**

**Sign (or type) your initials here to indicate:**

* You have answered all questions accurately.
* You will participate in a phone interview if requested.
* You have emailed your letter of recommendation to [info@delawarebreastfeeding.org](mailto:info@delawarebreastfeeding.org)
* You have emailed your letter of acceptance for the IBCLC exam if that is the scholarship option you are applying for (email to [info@delawarebreastfeeding.org](mailto:info@delawarebreastfeeding.org))

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (initials)**

**By submitting this scholarship application, and if awarded a scholarship, you agree to the following. You:**

1. Will contribute to the DE breastfeeding support community by working with underserved communities for at least one year after training.
2. Acknowledge that this scholarship covers only the training, study materials, and exam fees as listed above. You are responsible for travel, food, and lodging expenses.
3. Confirm that one year after completing the course or exam, you will submit a one-page report and photos sharing the breastfeeding support you have provided.
4. Authorize the Breastfeeding Coalition of Delaware to use photos or videos submitted by you for educational and breastfeeding promotion purposes.
5. Confirm that you are the person/subject of the photos or videos submitted, and are authorized to share the images or video.

**Sign (or type) your full name here as your signature:**

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