



The New York Statewide Breastfeeding Coalition (NYSBC) is pleased to be able to offer scholarship(s) to qualified candidate(s) who are eligible to take the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) exam in September of 2026.

NYSBC is aware that disparities exist in the lactation professional ranks in New York State and we want to help improve the diversity of the profession in order to better serve families in our communities. NYSBC is strongly committed to supporting the next generation of lactation consultants and to inclusion, diversity and equity as core values, embracing meaningful participation from diverse stakeholders and actively soliciting varied viewpoints. *Therefore, at this time only BIPOC persons, individuals identifying as LGBTQ+, those with disabilities or those who work in IBCLC deserts in New York State are eligible to apply for the scholarship. All candidates must be New York State residents.*

The cost of taking the IBCLC exam may be a financial hardship for some candidates. We are offering need-based scholarship money (up to \$1000, including an exam prep course) to the IBCLC exam candidate(s) who score the most points on the application, and who will also meet with committee members for a virtual interview. The candidate must be taking the IBCLC exam for the first time. NYSBC will not pay for a retake of the exam. We anticipate that there may be a pool of interested candidates; therefore, only applicants who submit complete applications and all the supporting documents by the due date will be considered.

The scholarship award will be applied toward the certification exam application fee; the remaining funds can be put toward the purchase of study materials, and the cost of transportation, meals or lodging directly related to travel to the exam site. Receipts must be provided for reimbursement. Candidates must have already completed the required health science and lactation specific education and show evidence that they have or will complete the number of hours of lactation specific clinical practice required in the pathway to IBCLC exam eligibility they have chosen prior to the IBCLC May 31, 2026 exam application deadline. **Please review the International Board of Lactation Commission's website at <https://ibclc-commission.org/step-1-prepare-for-ibclc-certification/> for information on the three different pathways to IBCLC exam eligibility and the requirements.**

Our expectation is the candidate will live, work, and actively promote, protect and support breastfeeding in New York State for at least one year after attaining certification.