



September 1, 2026

Knowledge Brief: Licensure of IBCLCs in Nebraska
Focus: All Breastfeeding Support Providers
Prepared by: The Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition

Greetings!

After careful consideration, the Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition (NE BFC), in collaboration with our IBCLC 407 Committee, has submitted a Letter of Intent to apply for IBCLC licensure to the Nebraska Health and Human Services Department. If our letter is accepted, we will submit an extensive application to be recommended for licensure under the Nebraska 407 Credentialing Review Process. If our application is approved, a recommendation will be sent to the Nebraska Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee. If passed out of committee, a recommendation for licensure would go to the floor of the Legislature for a vote. This is a long and complex process, and we want to make sure that all stakeholders in this decision are aware of why and how we are pursuing licensure and how this might impact our colleagues in breastfeeding support.

Why Licensure?

It is standard practice for health care providers to be licensed by the state of Nebraska. This protects the public by assuring that the provider has met certain standards. It also brings a provider into the licensed health care team for improved collaboration and referrals.

It is hard to think of a member of the health care team who is not licensed. Physicians, nurse midwives, nurses, mental health therapists, dietitians, dentists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, dental hygienists, acupuncturists, massage therapists, pharmacy technicians.....even veterinary technicians are licensed!

When a profession is licensed, to practice that profession, you must be licensed. For example, an RN cannot represent themselves as an RN unless they are licensed.

An increasing number of new mothers have chronic illnesses (obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, autoimmune disorders) that are impacting their breastfeeding experiences. In addition, 10% of Nebraska babies are born prematurely. Both of these breastfeeding populations require complex problem solving and risk appropriate care.

At the same time, incorporating clinical lactation care into the licensed health care team promotes collaboration and referrals within this team. Other than a Breastfeeding Medicine Specialist (a physician with additional education in human lactation), an IBCLC has the highest level of lactation education and specialized clinical hours.

What Does This Mean for Other Breastfeeding Support Providers?

Nebraska families benefit tremendously from access to breastfeeding support from a wide range of providers. WIC Peer Counselors, Family Support Specialists, La Leche League Leaders, Community Breastfeeding Educators, Community Health Workers, Doulas, CLCs, and CBSs all contribute to a vital network of support for families.

IBCLC licensure will not interfere with these levels of care, nor will it require that these providers seek licensure. In addition, members of the perinatal health care team who are licensed in another capacity to care for mothers and babies (e.g RN, MD, or CNM) will not be impacted. IBCLCs who are licensed in another capacity (e.g. as an RN) will not be required to “double license.” However, licensure of IBCLCs will increase awareness of all levels of breastfeeding support and may better integrate lactation care into the licensed health care team. Licensure may also encourage employment opportunities for non-RN IBCLCs, thus improving access for some families.

In April 2026, Nebraska passed LB 912, which included the adoption of the Community Health Worker Training Endorsement Act. Under the Act, Nebraska will establish training programs and promote consistent standards of practice for those under the CHW umbrella. Public health advocates are actively working to establish state certification to improve access to preventative education and support. Under the developing CHW certification programs, a breastfeeding support provider could potentially qualify for Medicaid reimbursement if they choose.

We welcome your input and encourage you to ask questions and provide feedback by reaching out to NE BFC (info@nebreastfeeding.org) or to Ann Seacrest, NE BFC – IBCLC 407 Committee (annseacrest@ars-health.com).