

## **Baby Café USA Training program (BCBC) FAQs**

- **What is a BCBC?**

A Baby Café Breastfeeding Counselor who has been trained at a Baby Café by the Lead Facilitator, and fulfilled the requirements of the program. The Lead Facilitator mentors and guides the student through gaining clinical and counseling skills.

- **What role(s) can a BCBC fulfill once she is certified?**

Once certified, BCBCs are prepared to:

- Facilitate a Baby Cafe meeting and continue to volunteer under their mentors
- Fill a paid staff position of a Tier 2 or 3 Café.
  - A solo BCBC cannot independently run “cafe meetings”
- If a Baby Cafe is not available where she lives, she might start one through BCUSA, or apply to function as part of another organization
  - (WIC, LaLeche ) *within the scope of their BCBC certification.*
- The scope of BCBC certification is aligned with LLL and CLC practice scopes.
- The hours spent in the program qualify for the counseling hours necessary to take the IBCLC exam

As long as she maintains certification, the BCBC will have continued access to the Baby Café resource bank, and hopefully will maintain a relationship with the mentor and IBCLC associated with that Baby Cafe. Our hope is that many BCBCs will continue their education to become IBCLCs, work within Baby Cafes, or might qualify for positions similar to those currently filled by CLCs and other certified lactation counselors.

- **How many hours of training are required before the counselors are considered certified?**

Candidates will be required to regularly attend their Baby Cafe for approximately 100 hours within 18 months. This will vary depending on the candidate’s prior knowledge and experience.

The candidates must demonstrate competency in the clinical skills outlined in the curriculum, as well as master the key elements of counseling, group facilitation, and taking relevant history notes. Competency is monitored through each student's tracking sheet by the mentor. *Exceptions would only be made for illness or other compelling reasons.*

- **Once certified, are there any requirements for hours of continuing education?**

Recertification will require a minimum of 18 breastfeeding CEUS in 3 years.

- **What is the first step?**

Start attending a Baby Café and speak to the facilitator about your interest. She will contact the BCUSA curriculum coordinator, and start the process by obtaining an application

- **What is the process for handling violations and what are the consequences of violating the policies?**

The organization Baby Cafe USA has in place an internal board review process for revocation of licensure of a Baby Cafe- revocation or denial of BCBC certification will follow the same process requiring all issues/complaints to be examined and recorded in writing, and will be reviewed by the Baby Cafe USA board.