

# **Trained Breastfeeding Educator Program**

## **What is a Trained Breastfeeding Educator (TBE)?**

- A Trained Breastfeeding Educator has completed two courses offered by Texas Health and Human Services WIC Program and can answer basic breastfeeding questions on anatomy of the breast, evaluate and assist moms with latch-on, and identify successful breastfeeding. TBEs possess a certificate stating they have successfully completed:
  - Principles of Lactation Management (POLM) or Lactation Principles (LP) and
  - Lactation Counseling and Problem Solving (LCPS) or Advanced Lactation Management (ALM)

## **How do I sign up for the classes to become a Trained Breastfeeding Educator?**

- To register for the classes, please visit [www.TALWD.org](http://www.TALWD.org).

## **Is there a fee or test to become a Trained Breastfeeding Educator?**

- There is a registration fee for each class but no other cost to receive a TBE certificate and no test to take.
- Attendees are responsible for travel expenses, lodging, meals and parking costs.

## **What does the TBE designation allow me to do?**

- By having the TBE designation, you are more knowledgeable in the area of lactation and are able to assist with basic breastfeeding education. Complex breastfeeding issues are not within this scope of practice and referrals should be made to a healthcare provider or an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) for further evaluation and treatment.
- In some cases, this designation may help you initiate a lactation program in your facility.
- Our courses follow the IBLCE Exam Blueprint and may help you further your education in becoming an IBCLC.

## **May I use "TBE" after my name?**

- No. There are many different titles applied to those who assist mothers and babies in the process of breastfeeding. There are two main types of programs - board certification programs and certificate programs. Board certification programs are accredited by the National

Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). These programs have measures in place to avoid conflicts of interest, have rigorous criteria, and strive toward standards of excellence. The standards of a certification program are assessed by the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) through an accreditation process.

- HHS WIC does NOT receive certification or accreditation by NCCA; therefore, a certificate holder is NOT awarded a professional credential and should NOT use an acronym or letters after their names upon completion of this program.

### **Does my TBE certificate expire?**

- Yes. The TBE certificate will expire five (5) years from the date you completed the first course whether it is POLM or LP.
- We encourage you to seek additional education and possibly pursue IBCLC certification within this 5-year period. Our courses do not provide all the education required to sit for the IBCLC exam.

### **Can I request these classes be done at my facility?**

- Yes and no. These classes are not offered 'by request'. These classes have a set schedule for the year with multiple instructors. The first class is offered 1-2 times every odd-numbered month. The second class is offered 6 times per year every even-numbered month.
- Your agency may ask to be placed on the list of potential hosts for a future calendar year. Host sites are typically booked 6-12 months in advance with cities decided upon 1-2 years in advance.
- The classes are offered annually in Austin/San Antonio, Houston area, and Dallas/Fort Worth.
- The other 3 locations are rotated on a regional basis:
  - North/Northwest: Amarillo, El Paso, Lubbock or Midland/Odessa
  - South: Corpus Christi, Laredo, McAllen, or Weslaco
  - East/Northeast: Beaumont, Longview, Nacogdoches, Tyler
- We are always looking for new places. Due to revision to the course design which includes a smaller class size, more agencies may qualify to host. If your agency isn't on the current list of locations, please feel free to apply to host.

### **I am unable to travel. Do you offer these courses online?**

- Unfortunately, no. We only offer the TBE classes onsite or in person.