

Additional Context to USLCA's Change in Guiding Principles

Who are we?

The United States Lactation Consultant Association is a leader in advancing the lactation profession and advocates for the valuable contribution of lactation care providers on the healthcare team and other community health settings. A trusted source of continuing education and professional development, USLCA and its members strive to improve the health and well-being of children and families.

As a leading voice for lactation care providers and their role in maternal and child health, USLCA recognizes that the strength of its leadership is in promoting the profession and implementing programs that embrace, encourage and support professional advancement of care providers across the professional spectrum from students and counselors/educators to International Board Certified Lactation Consultants.

What is our mission?

USLCA exists to support the advancement of the lactation profession and lactation care providers for the health of families across the country.

USLCA will actively and visibly initiate effective programs that attract interest and participation from lactation care providers throughout the country, support pathways to achieving professional advancement, including seeking the IBCLC credential, and assertively encourage access and availability to lactation care in communities everywhere.

What is our vision?

Families in every community will have access to professional lactation care to form a foundation for a lifetime of optimal health and wellness.

USLCA envisions a United States where appropriate lactation care from trained lactation care providers is available to all families in all communities including access to lactation caregivers across the full spectrum of lactation care providers.

As an organization, what are our core values?

Organizational "core values" suggest how an organization will behave and serve as a guidepost to how it will achieve its mission and vision. USLCA's core values recognize that promoting maternal and child health requires unwavering support for the advancement of the lactation care profession through

education, training, inclusion, and awareness. With a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion at its core, accomplishing this requires implementing and sustaining programs that provide a pathway to achievement from basic counseling to credentialed International Board Certified Lactation Consultants for all who aspire, including those in underrepresented and historically marginalized communities.

The U.S. Lactation Consultants Association is a:

- **Leader** in advancing the community of lactation care providers through professional development, mentoring and advocacy;
- **Welcoming, inclusive, member-driven** association providing opportunities for professional development and advancement of all lactation care providers;
- **Trusted** source of relevant information;
- **Advocate** for lactation care providers and the important role they have on the healthcare team;
- **Connector to and convener** of other organizations and individuals which seek to improve the health and well-being of families everywhere.