Baby-Friendly Designation Readiness Consulting

Last reviewed October 2026 · https://www.integralhs.com/baby-friendly-designation-readiness

What to have ready

Each item below ties to the GEC 6th edition or to BFUSA's designation pages and 2026 fee schedules, read October 2026.

- Your copy of the GEC 6th edition, the version BFUSA's release ties to assessment letters received on or after June 1, 2023 (BFUSA, GEC 6th edition release [https://www.babyfriendlyusa.org/news/bfusa-releases-updated-bfhi-guidelines-and-evaluation-criteria/], page opened October 3, 2026).
- Your current infant feeding policy and procedures, marked against the GEC benchmarks that BFUSA says the on-site assessment applies (BFUSA, Designation Process [https://babyfriendlyusa.org/for-facilities/designation-process/], page opened October 3, 2026).
- Staff training records that show competency verification for Step 2, the area where BFUSA's release describes a new competency-based approach (BFUSA, GEC 6th edition release [https://www.babyfriendlyusa.org/news/bfusa-releases-updated-bfhi-guidelines-and-evaluation-criteria/], page opened October 3, 2026).
- Your current phase on the 4-D Pathway (Discovery, Development, Dissemination or Designation) and the date you entered it (BFUSA, Designation Process [https://babyfriendlyusa.org/for-facilities/designation-process/]).
- A date for requesting the Readiness Interview, which the D4 page says to request within 2 months of entering the Designation phase (BFUSA, D4 Designation [https://www.babyfriendlyusa.org/for-facilities/designation-process/d4-designation/], page opened October 3, 2026).
- A date for requesting the On-Site Assessment, which the same page says to request within 8 months of entering the phase (same page).
- A data plan that produces four weeks of data collected within 2 months of the on-site assessment (same page).
- A budget for each phase. The 2026 fee schedule is built on a facility taking one year or less in each phase, adds the posted phase fee for each further year in a phase, and adds assessor fees and travel expenses if a re-visit is needed after an unsuccessful assessment (BFUSA 2026 4-D Pathway fee schedule [https://babyfriendlyusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026_4-DFee.pdf], page opened October 3, 2026).
- If you are already designated: your expiration date, since designation lasts five years, and your Annual Quality Improvement project (BFUSA, Designation Process [https://babyfriendlyusa.org/for-facilities/designation-process/], page opened October 3, 2026).