

[COVID Information Commons \(CIC\) Research Lightning Talk](#)

[Transcript of a Presentation by Jeff Grann \(Credential Engine\), October 2020](#)



Title: Collaborative Research: COVID-19, human milk and infant feeding

[Jeff Grann CIC Database Profile](#)

NSF Award #: [2029584](#)

[YouTube Recording with Slides](#)

[October 2020 Webinar Information](#)

Transcript Editor: Macy Moujabber

Transcript

Jeff Grann:

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So, hi everyone. My name is Jeff Grann. I work at the non-profit organization Credential Engine who's dedicated to advancing credential transparency.

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I'll just open with saying that the term 'credentials' seems like a single thing but it's actually many different types of things. And for us, a credential refers to all the many different ways that people signal their suitability. That includes traditional diplomas and degrees but also certificates, licenses, certifications, badges and more. And we've done our research in that area and identified over 738,000 credentials being offered in the US market alone. So, it's an overwhelming number of options for the American people to make sense of. And what we do is we help the public understand those credentials using linked open data strategies and semantic web technologies. And the way it works is that our organization Credential Engine has led the development over the last three years of an openly licensed credential transparency description language schema to fully describe credentials in a way that humans and machines can understand. So, and then on top of that, we've built free technical services to help people use that language on the web.

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And this issue has really come to the fore with the COVID-19 where people are struggling to understand credentials and use them for responding to both the COVID-19 pandemic specifically but then the social societal impacts that have followed from that, as people lose long paying, you know, occupations are no longer viable. So, a lot of folks are looking to credentials to help them weather the impacts of COVID-19. And our rapid award is an approach of testing new partnerships that can rapidly increase public data about healthcare credentials and healthcare competency frameworks using credential engines registry. So, we think this information, if we can make it more publicly available, will help workers transition into the healthcare sector, and then help healthcare workers upskill to develop and respond to the- fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

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So, we built this landing page to help, onboard our partners to publish information to the web and I'll paste a link to that in the chat here to close. The way that we've been operating is that we have a history of partnering with state agencies so think of state workforce agencies or commissions for higher education. These are folks who have often some regulatory approval process for credentials offered in their state, and we now have formal partnerships with 19 different states and regions in the country, all of whom have been engaged to help publish healthcare credential information.

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For example, here in New York, we partnered with a group called NYATEP [New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals] on healthcare credentials and they've kicked off this work as part of our RAPID grant hosted Zoom webinars with credential providers in their state and just recently hired a staff member to help facilitate a lot of the back-end data workflows necessary to make this happen at scale. And similar efforts are underway in Washington and Indiana, in particular.

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But we've also been working with quality assurance organizations. This is a national accreditor: the Distance Education Accrediting Commission. They accredit 34 healthcare related institutions and that impacts or they have a governance relationship with 690 health care related credentials through their members. And we've begun to map their information workflows so that they can begin pilot testing publishing to the registry this winter with two of their organizations.

Slide 7

We've also worked at the federal level. We've had a partnership with CareerOneStop. The Department of Labor supports CareerOneStop- it's a website that is charged with assembling data about state occupational licenses and competency models for the public, and we're helping them convert the

information that they currently provide via web pages into linked open data strategies using the CTDL [Credential Transparency Description Language] schema. And the competency work has kicked off and is already, I think, complete at this point. And in November we'll be doing the license finder work, which is all the healthcare- well all licenses in the country but healthcare licenses in particular.

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We've also built this widget so that people can make credential information available on their own websites if they'd like to. This is just a basic design, but it can be fully customized using style sheets and we now have 2,795 healthcare credentials in this widget so people can find out more information about healthcare careers that way.

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And really my talk- I wanted to just say that you can help, so please help join this movement. If you're affiliated with a credential issuing organization yourself, you can help by sharing my contact information and the URL with administrators at your campus- might be a registrar or a provost- that kind of level is usually where we intersect with. Or you might be involved in different quality assurance or regulatory organizations maybe professional associations, healthcare medical boards, all of those groups have important information for the public about healthcare credentials and we'd like to make it more publicly available via our services. So, I'll just paste the chat in the link or the link in the chat and here's my contact information email as well. Thank you very much.