

**ENDORSEMENT FOR CULTURALLY SENSITIVE, RELATIONSHIP-FOCUSED PRACTICE  
PROMOTING INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH® (Endorsement)**

Endorsement is an internationally recognized credential used to demonstrate specialization in the infant-early childhood mental health (IECMH) field. Endorsement supports and recognizes the development of professionals who work with or on behalf of pregnant people, infants, young children, and their families. Endorsement was developed by MI-AIMH in 2002 and is now used by 33 state associations of infant mental health (AIMHs) and two international associations. Each of those AIMHs is a member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health. Through the Alliance, Endorsement in Rhode Island is recognized in each of the 35 AIMHs! As of December 31, 2021, over 4,600 professionals had earned Endorsement worldwide!<sup>1</sup>

***Who can apply?***

The Endorsement credential is intended for everyone who applies IECMH principles in their work across the full continuum of promotion, prevention/early intervention, clinical intervention/treatment, and macro scopes of practice. This includes any professional who has experience working with or on behalf of pregnant people, infants, young children, parents, and/or other caregivers.

***Why apply for Endorsement?***

1. To grow and develop as a professional in the rapidly expanding infant, young child and family field
2. To be recognized by employers and peers for having attained a level of competency in culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice that promotes IECMH
3. To better support the infants, young children, families, students, agencies, and institutions in the promotion of IECMH

***Steps to Endorsement:***

1. Identify your scope of work and align that with the category of Endorsement that fits best
  - a. **Promotion** (e.g., early childhood education, pediatricians, child welfare, etc.)
  - b. **Prevention/Early Intervention** (e.g., home visiting, early head start, IECMH consultation, etc.)
  - c. **Prevention/Early Intervention & Macro** (e.g., home visiting AND reflective supervision)
  - d. **Clinical Intervention/Treatment** (e.g., infant/child parent psychotherapy, Child First, etc.)
  - e. **Macro** (e.g., researcher, provider of reflective supervision, policy maker, etc.)
2. Register on EASy, RI-AIMH's web-based system for applying for Endorsement. Visit EASy at <https://riaimh.myeasy.org/>. The first time you visit EASy, click Register under New Applicant
3. EASy asks you to provide some details about your work, education, and RSC experiences. Complete and submit, including payment of the registration fee and up to date RIAIMH membership (<https://www.riaimh.org/Join-Us>)
4. Log into EASy and prepare application (minimum 4-weeks to complete). Once completed, submit application along with payment of the processing fee (see below)
5. Application review and, for Infant Mental Health Specialist & Infant Mental Health Mentor applicants, successful completion of a written exam
6. Endorsement! Begin using the IMH-E® credential after your name

***The application includes:***

1. Specialized education, work, in-service training, leadership, and RSC experiences
2. Transcripts (unofficial) from colleges/universities where competencies were met
3. Three reference rating forms; completed electronically via EASy
4. Code of Ethics, signed electronically via EASy
5. Endorsement Agreement, signed electronically via EASy

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<sup>1</sup> To learn more about the AIMHs who are using the Endorsement credential, visit [allianceaimh.org](http://allianceaimh.org)

	SELECT YOUR RIAIMH ENDORSEMENT (IMH-E®) PATHWAY BASED ON YOUR SCOPE OF WORK <sup>2</sup>				
	Infant Family Associate (IFA)  PROMOTION	Infant Family Specialist (IFS)  PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION	Infant Family Reflective Supervisor (IFRS)  PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION-MACRO	Infant Mental Health Specialist (IMHS)  CLINICAL INTERVENTION/TREATMENT	Infant Mental Health Mentor (IMHM)  MACRO
<b>Education</b>	Any academic degree	No degree required	No degree required	Masters or post-graduate degree	Masters or post-graduate degree
<b>Work Experience</b>	OR Minimum 2 yrs infant/early childhood-related work or volunteer experience in an applicable role <sup>3</sup>	Minimum 2 yrs of prevention and/or early intervention service to 0-36 mo. old & their families; served a minimum of 10 families	Minimum 2 yrs of prevention and/or early intervention service to 0-36 mo. old & their families; served a minimum of 10 families <b>and</b> provider of IMH RSC for 1+ yrs <sup>4</sup>	Minimum 2 yrs, post-masters, IMH practice working on behalf of the caregiver-infant relationship (example: infant parent psychotherapy)	Minimum 3 yrs as an IMH practice leader (policy, research/faculty, and/or clinical)  Clinical only: also meet the IMHS work requirements
<b>In-Service Training</b>	Minimum 30 hrs, average 40 hrs	Minimum 30 hrs, average 50 hrs	Minimum 48-hrs, average 75-hrs  <i>Minimum of 15-hrs must be about the provision RSC <b>and</b> Minimum of 3-hrs must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH</i>	Minimum 30 hrs, average 75 hrs	Minimum 33 hrs Clinical only: Minimum 48 hrs, average 75 hrs  <i>Minimum of 3-hrs must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH  Clinical only: Minimum of 15-hrs must be about the provision RSC</i>
<b>Membership in RIAIMH or another AIMH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Code of Ethics</b>	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
<b>Endorsement Agreement</b>	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
<b>Leadership</b>	N/A	N/A	Minimum 1 year leadership activities	N/A	Minimum 3 yrs leadership activities
<b>Reflective Supervision/ Consultation (RSC)</b>	N/A	Minimum 24 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families and/or while providing supervision to staff who are providing services to infants, young children and their families	Minimum 24 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families and/or while providing supervision to staff who are providing services to infants, young children and their families <b>and</b> minimum of 12 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period of RSC received about the RSC that the applicant provides to others <sup>5</sup>	Minimum 50 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families	Clinical only: Minimum 50 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families. A minimum of 25 hrs of the RSC received should be about the RSC that the applicant provides to others
<b>Reference Ratings</b>	Three (Current program supervisor and two from: teacher, trainer, consultant, or parent/service recipient)	Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. Person providing RSC 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; or a colleague	Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. Person providing RSC 3. Person receiving RSC from the applicant	Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. Person providing RSC 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor)	Three (Please see IMHM requirements for specific guidelines for who should complete reference rating forms for Clinical, Policy, and Research/Faculty applicants)
<b>Written Exam</b>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Prerequisite (i.e., another category of Endorsement)</b>	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>2</sup> This is just a summary; for a full description, please visit: <https://www.riaimh.org/How-to-Apply-for-Endorsement/>

<sup>3</sup> For IFA applicants, volunteer experience may meet the work criterion if it was a) supervised experience with people during pregnancy or with infants, toddlers, & families AND b) included specialized training. Examples include CASA, Doula, or Child Life Specialist

<sup>4</sup> For IFRS applicants who have not yet provided RSC for 1+ year, there is an emerging status option that allows you to begin providing qualifying hrs of RSC to IFS endorsees and applicants while you obtain necessary experiences and support

<sup>5</sup> It is possible that these hrs were received as part of fulfilling Part 1, but it is not required, meaning these hrs may have been received in addition to the 24 hrs of RSC about your direct service work

### IMH-Endorsement® Ongoing Annual Renewal Requirements

	Infant Family Associate	Infant Family Specialist	Infant Family Reflective Supervisor	Infant Mental Health Specialist	Infant Mental Health Mentor
<b>Membership in RIAIMH or another AIMH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Training</b>	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH  3 hrs must be about the provision of RSC	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH  For providers of RSC: 3 hrs must be about the provision of RSC	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH  Clinical only: 3 hrs must be about the provision of RSC
<b>Reflective Supervision/ Consultation</b>	Not required	Minimum of 12 hrs	Minimum of 12 hrs	Minimum of 12 hrs	Clinical only: Minimum of 12 hrs
<b>Renewal Fee</b>	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$50

### IMH-Endorsement® Application Fee Schedule

	Infant Family Associate	Infant Family Specialist	Infant Family Reflective Supervisor	Infant Mental Health Specialist	Infant Mental Health Mentor
<b>Registration Fee</b>	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
<b>Processing Fee</b>	\$75	\$125	\$175	\$250	\$350
<b>Total</b>	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$275	\$375

	SELECT YOUR RIAIMH ENDORSEMENT (ECMH-E®) PATHWAY BASED ON YOUR SCOPE OF WORK <sup>6</sup>				
	Early Childhood Family Associate (ECFA)  PROMOTION	Early Childhood Family Specialist (ECFS)  PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION	Early Childhood Family Reflective Supervisor (ECFRS)  PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION-MACRO	Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist (ECMHS)  CLINICAL INTERVENTION/TREATMENT	Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor (ECMHM)  MACRO
<b>Education</b>	Any academic degree	No degree required	No degree required	Masters or post-graduate degree	Masters or post-graduate degree
<b>Work Experience</b>	<b>OR</b> Minimum 2 yrs early childhood-related work or volunteer experience in an applicable role <sup>7</sup>	Minimum 2 yrs of prevention and/or early intervention service with 3 up to 6 yrs old & their families; served a minimum of 10 families	Minimum 2 yrs of prevention and/or early intervention service with 3 up to 6 yrs old & their families; served a minimum of 10 families <b>and</b> provider of RSC for 1+ yrs <sup>8</sup>	Minimum 2 yrs, post-masters, IECMH practice working on behalf of the caregiver-young child relationship (example: child parent psychotherapy)	Minimum 3 yrs as an IECMH practice leader (policy, research/faculty, and/or clinical)  Clinical only: also meet the ECMHS work requirements
<b>In-Service Training</b>	Minimum 30 hrs, average 40 hrs	Minimum 30 hrs, average 50 hrs	Minimum 48-hrs, average 75-hrs <i>Minimum of 15-hrs must be about the provision RSC</i> <b>and</b> <i>Minimum of 3-hrs must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH</i>	Minimum 30 hrs, average 75 hrs	Minimum 33 hrs Clinical only: Minimum 48 hrs, average 75 hrs  <i>Minimum of 3-hrs must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH</i>  <i>Clinical only: Minimum of 15-hrs must be about the provision RSC</i>
<b>Membership in RIAIMH or another AIMH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Code of Ethics</b>	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
<b>Endorsement Agreement</b>	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
<b>Leadership</b>	N/A	N/A	Minimum 1 year leadership activities	N/A	Minimum 3 yrs leadership activities
<b>Reflective Supervision/ Consultation (RSC)</b>	N/A	Minimum 24 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period while working with young children & families and/or while providing supervision to staff who are providing services to young children and their families	Minimum 24 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period while working with young children & families and/or while providing supervision to staff who are providing services to young children and their families <b>and</b> minimum of 12 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period of RSC received about the RSC that the applicant provides to others <sup>9</sup>	Minimum 50 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period while working with young children & families	Clinical only: Minimum 50 hrs within a 12 mo to 24 mo time period while working with young children & families. A minimum of 25 hrs of the RSC received should be about the RSC that the applicant provides to others
<b>Reference Ratings</b>	Three (Current program supervisor and two from: teacher, trainer, consultant, or parent/service recipient)	Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. Person providing RSC 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; or a colleague	Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. Person providing RSC 3. Person receiving RSC from the applicant	Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. Person providing RSC 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor)	Three (Please see ECMHM requirements for specific guidelines for who should complete reference rating forms for Clinical, Policy, and Research/Faculty applicants)
<b>Written Exam</b>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Prerequisite (i.e., another category of Endorsement)</b>	No	No	No	No	No

<sup>6</sup> This is just a summary; for a full description, please visit: <https://www.riaimh.org/How-to-Apply-for-Endorsement/>

<sup>7</sup> For ECFA applicants, volunteer experience may meet the work criterion if it was a) supervised experience with young children & families AND b) included specialized training. Examples include CASA, Doula, or Child Life Specialist

<sup>8</sup> For ECFRS applicants who have not yet provided RSC for 1+ year, there is an emerging status option that allows you to begin providing qualifying hrs of RSC to ECFRS and ECFRS endorsees and applicants while you obtain necessary experiences and support

<sup>9</sup> It is possible that these hrs were received as part of fulfilling Part 1, but it is not required, meaning these hrs may have been received in addition to the 24 hrs of RSC about your direct service work

### ECMH-Endorsement® Ongoing Annual Renewal Requirements

	Early Childhood Family Associate	Early Childhood Family Specialist	Early Childhood Family Reflective Supervisor	Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist	Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor
<b>Membership in RIAIMH or another AIMH</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Training</b>	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH  3 hrs must be about the provision of RSC	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH  For providers of RSC: 3 hrs must be about the provision of RSC	Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH  Clinical only: 3 hrs must be about the provision of RSC
<b>Reflective Supervision/ Consultation</b>	Not required	Minimum of 12 hrs	Minimum of 12 hrs	Minimum of 12 hrs	Clinical only: Minimum of 12 hrs
<b>Renewal Fee</b>	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$50

### ECMH-Endorsement® Application Fee Schedule

	Early Childhood Family Associate	Early Childhood Family Specialist	Early Childhood Family Reflective Supervisor	Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist	Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor
<b>Registration Fee</b>	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
<b>Processing Fee</b>	\$75	\$125	\$175	\$250	\$350
<b>Total</b>	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$275	\$325