

**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!¹

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, RIAIMH's web-based system for applying for Endorsement. Visit EASy at <https://riaimh.myeasy.org/dashboard> 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** expiration date.
4. Log into EASy and prepare application (minimum 4-weeks to complete). Once completed, submit application along with payment of the processing fee
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

¹ To learn more about the AIMHs who are using the Endorsement credential, visit allianceaimh.org

| | SELECT YOUR RIAIMH ENDORSEMENT (IMH-E®) PATHWAY BASED ON YOUR SCOPE OF WORK² | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| | 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 |
| Education | Any academic degree | No degree required | No degree required | Masters or post-graduate degree | Masters or post-graduate degree |
| Work Experience | OR Minimum 2 yrs infant/early childhood-related work or volunteer experience in an applicable role ³ | 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 and provider of IMH RSC for 1+ yrs ⁴ | 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 |
| In-Service Training | 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 and 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> |
| Membership in RIAIMH or another AIMH | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Code of Ethics | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed |
| Endorsement Agreement | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed |
| Leadership | N/A | N/A | Minimum 1 year leadership activities | N/A | Minimum 3 yrs leadership activities |
| Reflective Supervision/ Consultation (RSC) | N/A | Minimum 24 hrs while providing IFS services to infants, toddlers, & families and/or while providing supervision to staff who are providing services to infants, young children, and their families | Minimum 24 hrs while providing IFS services to infants, toddlers, & families and/or while providing supervision to staff who are providing services to infants, young children, and their families. and 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 ⁵ | Minimum 50 hrs while providing IMHS services to infants, toddlers, & families | Clinical only: Minimum 50 hrs while providing IMHS services to infants, toddlers, & families. A minimum of 25 hrs of the RSC received should be about the RSC that the applicant provides to others |
| Reference Ratings | 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) |
| Written Exam | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Prerequisite (i.e., another category of Endorsement) | No | No | No | No | No |

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

³ 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

⁴ 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

⁵ 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-E® Ongoing Annual Renewal Requirements

| | Infant Family Associate | Infant Family Specialist | Infant Family Reflective Supervisor | Infant Mental Health Specialist | Infant Mental Health Mentor |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Membership in RIAIMH or another AIMH | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Training | 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 |
| Reflective Supervision/ Consultation | Not required | Minimum of 12 hrs | Minimum of 12 hrs | Minimum of 12 hrs | Clinical only: Minimum of 12 hrs |
| Renewal Fee | \$25 | \$25 | \$25 | \$50 | \$50 |

IMH-Endorsement® Fee Schedule

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

| | SELECT YOUR RIAIMH EARLY CHILDHOOD ENDORSEMENT (ECMH-E®) PATHWAY BASED ON YOUR SCOPE OF WORK⁶ | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| | 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 |
| Education | Any academic degree | No degree required | No degree required | Masters or post-graduate degree | Masters or post-graduate degree |
| Work Experience | OR Minimum 2 yrs early childhood-related work or volunteer experience in an applicable role ⁷ | 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 and provider of RSC for 1+ yrs ⁸ | 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 |
| In-Service Training | 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> and <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> |
| Membership in RIAIMH or another AIMH | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Code of Ethics | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed |
| Endorsement Agreement | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed |
| Leadership | N/A | N/A | Minimum 1 year leadership activities | N/A | Minimum 3 yrs leadership activities |
| Reflective Supervision/ Consultation (RSC) | N/A | Minimum 24 hrs while providing ECFS services to young children & families and/or while providing supervision to staff who are providing services to young children and their families | Minimum 24 hrs while providing ECFS services young children & families and/or while providing supervision to staff who are providing services to young children and their families and minimum of 12 hrs of RSC received about the RSC that the applicant provides to others ⁹ | Minimum 50 hrs while providing ECMHS services to young children & families | Clinical only: Minimum 50 hrs while providing ECMHS services to young children & families. A minimum of 25 hrs of the RSC received should be about the RSC that the applicant provides to others |
| Reference Ratings | 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) |
| Written Exam | No | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Prerequisite (i.e., another category of Endorsement) | No | No | No | No | No |

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

⁷ 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

⁸ 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 ECFS and ECFRS endorsees and applicants while you obtain necessary experiences and support

⁹ 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-E® 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 |
| Membership in RIAIMH or another AIMH | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Training | 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 |
| Reflective Supervision/ Consultation | Not required | Minimum of 12 hrs | Minimum of 12 hrs | Minimum of 12 hrs | Clinical only: Minimum of 12 hrs |
| Renewal Fee | \$25 | \$25 | \$25 | \$50 | \$50 |

| ECMH-Endorsement® 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 |
| Registration Fee | \$25 | \$25 | \$25 | \$25 | \$25 |
| Processing Fee | \$75 | \$125 | \$175 | \$250 | \$350 |
| Total | \$100 | \$150 | \$200 | \$275 | \$375 |