

**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. Clinical Intervention/Treatment (e.g., infant/child parent psychotherapy, Child First, etc.)
 - d. Macro (e.g., researcher, provider of reflective supervision, policy maker, etc.)
 - e. Reflective Supervisor (consider adding on the Endorsed Reflective Supervisor supplement if you are in Endorsed in the Family Specialist or Mental Health Specialist and provide RSC to your staff.
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, except for MHS or MHM, need official transcripts.
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 (IECMH-E®) PATHWAY BASED ON YOUR SCOPE OF WORK²				
	Family Associate (IFA) PROMOTION	Family Specialist (IFS) PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION	Mental Health Specialist (IMHS) CLINICAL INTERVENTION/TREATMENT	Mental Health Mentor (IMHM) MACRO	Endorsement Reflective Supervisor AD-ON
Education	Any academic degree OR Minimum 2 yrs infant/early childhood-related work or volunteer experience in an applicable role ³	No degree required	Master's or post-graduate degree	Master's or post-graduate degree	No degree required
Work Experience		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, 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	1 year of providing RSC to infant-family professional while receiving 12 hrs of RSC from a qualified provider <u>about</u> your provision of RSC to others. *Not required for Emerging *Can receive RSC from providers endorsed as ERS or Mental Health Mentor-Clinical
In-Service Training	Minimum 30 hrs, average 40 hrs	Minimum 30 hrs, average 50 hrs	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</i> <i>Clinical only: Minimum of 15-hrs must be about the provision RSC</i>	Minimum 15 hrs of training specific to providing Reflective Supervision/Consultation (RSC) (*2 hours can come from learning communities, books, articles, peer studies) Emerging: 5 hours on the provision of RSC (*2 hours can come from learning communities, books, articles, peer studies) To move from Emerging to Endorsed, you need an additional... 15 hours on reflective supervision.
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	N/A	Minimum 3 yrs leadership activities	N/A
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 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	Experience receiving RSC from a qualified provider
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. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor)	Three (Please see IMHM requirements for who should complete reference rating forms for Clinical, Policy, and Research/Faculty applicants)	Two 1. Person providing RSC to you. 2. Person receiving RSC from you. (*not required for Emerging, instead seek a second reference from colleague/other)
Written Exam	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Prerequisite (i.e., another category of Endorsement)	No	No	No	No	Yes. Endorsed as a Family Specialist or a Mental Health Specialist.

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

IECMH-E® Annual Renewal Requirements

	Family Associate	Family Specialist	Mental Health Specialist	Mental Health Mentor	Endorsed Reflective Supervisor AD-ON
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	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	3 hrs must be about the provision of RSC
Reflective Supervision/ Consultation	Not required	Minimum of 12 hrs	Minimum of 12 hrs	Clinical only: Minimum of 12 hrs	Minimum of 12 hrs
Renewal Fee	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$50	\$25

IECMH-E® Fee Schedule

	Family Associate	Family Specialist	Mental Health Specialist	Mental Health Mentor	Endorsed Reflective Supervisor AD-ON
Registration Fee	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
Application Fee	\$75	\$125	\$250	\$350	\$50
Total	\$100	\$150	\$275	\$375	\$75