

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 Michigan is recognized in each of the 35 AIMHs! As of December 31, 2021, over 4,600 professionals had earned Endorsement worldwide!¹

Endorsement is for all 0-6 professionals!

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 specialized competency in culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice that promotes IECMH
3. To better support infants, young children, families, students, agencies, and institutions in the promotion of IECMH

Steps to Applying for Endorsement:

1. Identify if you will apply for IMH-E®; for those that primarily work with 0-3 year old children or ECMH-E®; for those that primarily work with 3-6 year old children.
2. 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, etc.)
 - c. Prevention/Early Intervention & Macro (e.g., home visiting AND reflective supervision)
 - d. Clinical Intervention/Treatment (e.g., infant/child parent psychotherapy, etc.)
 - e. Macro (e.g., researcher, provider of reflective supervision, policy maker, etc.)
3. Register on MI-AIMH's web-based system for applying for Endorsement at <https://mi-aimh.myeasy.org/>, select "both" to register for MI-AIMH Membership (required) and Endorsement
4. Once registration is accepted, log into EASy and prepare application. This may take time to meet the requirements. Once completed, submit application along with payment of the processing fee

The application includes:

1. Documentation of specialized education, work, and in-service training. Some categories require documented 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 MI-AIMH ENDORSEMENT PATHWAY BASED ON YOUR SCOPE OF WORK² | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| | PROMOTION | PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION | PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION-MACRO | CLINICAL INTERVENTION/TREATMENT | MACRO |
| | Infant Family Associate (IFA)- Primarily 0-3 Early Childhood Family Associate (ECFA)- Primarily 3-6 | Infant Family Specialist (IFS) Primarily 0-3 Early Childhood Family Specialist (ECFS)- Primarily 3-6 | Infant Family Reflective Supervisor (IFRS) Primarily 0-3 Early Childhood Family Reflective Supervisor (ECFRS)- Primarily 3-6 | Infant Mental Health Specialist (IMHS) Primarily 0-3 Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist (ECMHS) Primarily 3-6 | Infant Mental Health Mentor (IMHM) Primarily 0-3 Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor Primarily 3-6 |
| 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</i> and <i>Minimum of 3-hrs must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH</i> | Minimum 30 hrs, average 75 hrs | Minimum 33 hrs; average 75 hrs Clinical only: Minimum 48 hrs, <i>Minimum of 15-hrs must be about the provision RSC</i> <i>Minimum of 3-hrs must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH</i> |
| Membership in MI-AIMH Required | Yes \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) | Yes \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) | Yes \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) | Yes \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) | Yes \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) |
| Documented Leadership Experience | N/A | N/A | Minimum 1 year leadership activities | N/A | Minimum 3 yrs leadership activities |
| Reflective Supervision/ Consultation (RSC) Received | 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 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 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 |
| Reference Ratings (Completed electronically in EASy) | Three (Current program supervisor and two from: teacher, trainer, consultant, or parent/service recipient) | Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. RSC Provider 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; or a colleague | Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. RSC Provider 3. Person receiving RSC from the applicant | Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. RSC Provider 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; colleague | 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 |
| Registration Fee (To Start Application) | \$20 | \$20 | \$25 | \$25 | \$25 |
| Processing Fee- (Due when you submit) | \$25 | \$100 | \$150 | \$300 | \$400 |

² This is just a summary; for a full description, please visit: mi-aimh.org/endorsement/requirements/

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 I/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 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

Annual Endorsement Renewal Requirements (Due by 12/31 of each year)

| | Family Associate | Family Specialist | Family Reflective Supervisor | Mental Health Specialist | Mental Health Mentor |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Membership in MI-AIMH Required | Yes, \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) | Yes \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) | Yes \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) | Yes \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) | Yes \$70 per year (or \$120 for two years) |
| Training | Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH (Beginning in 2023) | Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH (Beginning in 2023) | Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH (Beginning in 2023) 3 hrs must be about the provision of RSC | Minimum of 15 hrs 1 hour must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IMH (Beginning in 2023) 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 (Beginning in 2023) 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 | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 | \$30 |