



Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health

Concerned with the Healthy Social Emotional Development
of Infants and Young Children

ENDORSEMENT FOR CULTURALLY SENSITIVE, RELATIONSHIP-FOCUSED PRACTICE PROMOTING INFANT MENTAL HEALTH (IMH-E®)

What is Endorsement?

Endorsement is a process that supports and recognizes the development of professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. This process uses a nationally recognized set of competencies that helps define best practice and guides professional growth.

Who can apply?

All professionals who have experience working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, parents, and/or other caregivers and meet the educational, work, training, and reflective supervision/consultation requirements as specified at each level.

Why apply for the CT-AIMH Endorsement (IMH-E®)?

- To grow and develop as a professional in the rapidly expanding infant and family service field.
- To be recognized by employers and peers for having attained a level of competency in culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice that promotes infant mental health.
- To better support the infants, toddlers, families, students, agencies, and institutions in the promotion of infant mental health.

The steps to the CT-AIMH Endorsement (IMH-E®) process are:

1. Become a member of the CT-AIMH (online membership available at CT-AIMH.org)
2. Inquire with the Endorsement Coordinator (at ctaimh@yale.edu)
3. Use the Getting Started self-study (located on the Endorsement page under the Getting Started: Endorsement Portfolio tab of this website) which will help you assess your experience and level of endorsement prior to beginning the portfolio process
4. Complete pre application using the EASy System, our online Endorsement Application System (Access through Endorsement tab/Portfolio dropdown page of this website or <https://easy.mi-aimh.org/ctaimh>)
5. Pay the application fee (see Portfolio page for more information on fees)
6. Get assigned an Endorsement Advisor, and emailed a password to access your online Portfolio
7. Complete your online Portfolio in EASy
8. Submit portfolio for review, and pay Endorsement fee (see Portfolio page for more information on fees)
9. Take Endorsement Exam (only for Levels III and IV Endorsement)
10. After your Portfolio is reviewed, and you pass the exam (Levels III and IV) your Endorsement may be finalized.

The professional portfolio includes:

1. Online EASy Portfolio has sections for specialized education, work, in-service training, and reflective supervision/consultation experiences
2. Sealed official transcripts from every college/university attended
3. Three online references
4. Signed Code of Ethics
5. Signed Endorsement Agreement
6. Application Fee and Endorsement Processing Fee appropriate to the level at which the candidate is applying

Continuing Endorsement requirements:

1. Ongoing membership in CT-AIMH (or another IMH association)
2. Annual participation in 15 clock hours of culturally sensitive, relationship-focused training experiences that promote infant mental health
3. Suggested that you participate in ongoing Reflective Supervision/Consultation

| CT-AIMH ENDORSEMENT (IMH-E® LEVELS OF COMPETENCY)¹: | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| | Infant Family Associate- Level I | Infant Family Specialist - Level II | Infant Mental Health Specialist- Level III | Infant Mental Health Mentor Clinical, Policy, or Research/Faculty -Level IV |
| Education | CDA or Associate's degree | Masters or Bachelors degree | Masters or post-graduate degree | Masters, post-graduate, doctorate, post-doctorate |
| Work Experience | or 2 years early childhood experience AND/OR Two years in the infant, early childhood, and family field | Minimum 2 years in the infant, early childhood, and family field | Minimum 2 years post Masters in the infant, early childhood, and family field | Minimum 3 years post Masters in the infant, early childhood, and family field |
| In-service Training | Minimum 30 hours | Minimum 30 hours | Minimum 30 hours | Minimum 30 hours |
| Membership in CT-AIMH or other IMH association | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Code of Ethics | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed |
| Endorsement Agreement | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed |
| Reflective Supervision or Consultation | N/A | Minimum 24 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families | Minimum 50 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families | Clinical: Minimum 50 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families |
| Reference Ratings | Three (from current program supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant, or parent/service recipient) | Three 1. Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant. 2. Person providing reflective supervision/consultation. 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; or a colleague. | 1. Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant. 2. Person providing reflective supervision/consultation. 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor). | Three (Please see Level IV Requirements document for specific guidelines for who should complete reference rating forms for Clinical, Policy, and Research/Faculty applicants). |
| Written Exam | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Professional portfolio | Applicant will submit a professional portfolio that demonstrates that he/she has met both the requirements and the competencies specified at each level. Details about competencies can be found in the publication Competency Guidelines. | | | |
| Endorsement Fee Schedule: | | | | |
| | Infant Family Associate (Level I) | Infant Family Specialist (Level II) | Infant Mental Health Specialist (Level III) | Infant Mental Health Mentor (Level IV) |
| Application Fee | \$15 | \$15 | \$25 | \$25 |
| Processing Fee | \$25 | \$100 | \$200 | \$300 |
| Total | \$40 | \$115 | \$225 | \$325 |

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www.ct-amih.org

¹ This chart represents only a summary of the requirements at each level. Please visit www.CT-AIMH.org for full details about both the requirements and the competencies.