

# What is Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement®?

-Endorsement® is an internationally recognized credential used to demonstrate specialization in the infant-early childhood mental health field.

-Endorsement® supports and recognizes the development of professionals who work with or on behalf of pregnant women, infants, young children and their families.

-As of 2019, there are more than 30 IMH associations that hold endorsement and are members of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health.

-Endorsement® in CT is recognized in each Alliance state/country!

## Who Can Apply?

Any professional who has experience working with or on behalf of pregnant women, infants, young children, parents, and/or other caregivers **and** who meets the educational, work, training, and reflective supervision/consultation requirements for Endorsement®

## Who is CT-AIMH?

CT-AIMH is a statewide non-profit that offers education and expertise in infant and early childhood mental health.

CT-AIMH works to promote, support and strengthen nurturing, quality relationships for infants, young children and their caregivers, within the context of family, community and culture, through education, advocacy, and professional development.



## Five steps to Endorsement®

1. **Register on EASy**, CT-AIMH's online Endorsement® Application System: <https://easy.mi-aimh.org/ctaimh>  
New Applicants should select: "Connecticut" and then press the "Register" button.
2. **Complete Registration Application.** EASy requires registrants to provide a brief description of their work, education, and RS/C experiences. Once application is complete, press submit, pay the EASy Registration Fee and ensure that you have an up-to-date CT-AIMH membership, <https://membership.ct-aimh.org/>
3. Once registration is accepted, EASy will issue a username and password. **Login to Prepare Endorsement® Application** (minimum 4 weeks to complete). Once application is complete, submit along with the EASy Application Processing Fee.
4. **Documentation of Competencies** includes a 2-tier review of the application. Mental Health Specialist & Mental Health Mentor applicants must also successfully complete a written exam
5. **Endorsement®.**

[www.ct-aimh.org](http://www.ct-aimh.org)

# Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health

*Introduction to the CT-AIMH Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health®*

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# Why Get Endorsed?

Endorsement® is intended to recognize experiences that lead to competency in the infant and early childhood family field. It does not replace licensure or certification, but instead is meant as evidence of a specialization in this field. Endorsement® is cross-sector and multidisciplinary, including professionals from child and/or human development, education, nursing, pediatrics, psychiatry, psychology, social work, and others. Endorsement® indicates an individual's efforts to specialize in the promotion and practice of infant or early childhood mental health within his/her own chosen discipline.

Endorsement® offers career paths that focus on principles, best practice skills, and reflective work experiences that lead to increased confidence and credibility. Endorsement® will inform prospective employers, agencies, and peers about an individual's competence in culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice that promotes infant and early childhood mental health.

For full details of the competencies please see our website: <https://www.ct-aimh.org/endorsement-2/>

The Competencies are framed around 8 areas of expertise and based upon the following belief: “Development of competence to work with infants, young children, and their families involves the emotions as well as the intellect. Awareness of powerful attitudes and feelings is as essential as the acquisition of scientific knowledge and therapeutic skill.”

## Eight Areas of Expertise

Theoretical Foundations

Law, Regulation, & Agency Policy

Systems Expertise

Direct Service Skills

Working with Others

Communicating

Thinking

Reflecting

## Pathways to Endorsement®: Which Endorsement® is Right for Me?

<p><b>Infant Family Associate/Early Childhood Family Associate</b></p>	<p><b>Fits most professionals in promotion.</b> Any academic degree OR a minimum of 2 years infant/early childhood-related work or volunteer experience, AND a minimum 30 hours of in-service training (for all categories).</p>
<p><b>Infant Family Specialist/Early Childhood Family Specialist</b></p>	<p><b>Fits most professionals in prevention/early intervention.</b> Bachelor's OR Master's degree AND minimum 2 years of prevention and/or early intervention service to children 0-3 or 3-6 years old and their families; AND have served a minimum of ten (10) families. Also, a minimum 24 clock hours of reflective supervision/consultation (RS/C) within a 12 to 24-month time period, while working with children 0-3 or 3-6 years old &amp; their families.</p>
<p><b>Infant Mental Health Specialist/Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist</b></p>	<p><b>Fits most professionals in intervention/treatment.</b> Master's OR post-grad degree AND minimum 2 years, post-masters, IMH practice working on behalf of the caregiver-infant relationship (example: infant parent psychotherapy) OR ECMH practice working on behalf of the caregiver-child relationship (example: child parent psychotherapy). Also, a minimum 50 clock hours of RS/C within a 12-month to 24-month time period while working with children 0-3 or 3-6 years old &amp; their families. Requires completion of written exam.</p>
<p><b>Infant Mental Health Mentor/Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor</b></p>	<p><b>Fits leaders in the infant/early childhood and family field.</b> Minimum 3 years as an IMH or ECMH practice leader (policy, research/faculty, and/or clinical) and provider of RS/C for 3+ years. <i>Clinical only: Minimum 50 clock hours RS/C in a 12- month to 24-month time period while working with children 0-3 or 3-6 years old &amp; their families. A minimum of 25 hours of the 50 hours of RS/C received should be about the RS/C that the applicant provides to others.</i> Requires completion of written exam.</p>

