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| **Infant Mental Health Specialist (IMHS)** | |
| **Infant Mental Health Specialist Requirements** | |
| **Education** | No degree required   * If you earned a degree(s) that is relevant to the competencies and you want to receive credit for that experience, please add an entry for the degree(s) earned and upload your transcripts (unofficial) to your application * If you attended coursework that is relevant to the competencies and you want to receive credit for that experience, please add an entry for the coursework and upload your transcripts (unofficial) to your application |
| **Work Experience** | Two years of postgraduate, supervised paid work experiences providing culturally sensitive, relationship-focused, infant mental health services.   * This specialized work experience must be with both the infant/toddler (birth to 36 months) and his/her biological, foster, or adoptive parent(s) or guardian(s) on behalf of the parent-infant relationship. * Infant mental health services will include parent-infant/child relationship-based therapies and practices and early relationship assessment and can include concrete assistance, advocacy, emotional support, and developmental guidance * In some cases, one year of a supervised graduate internship with direct infant mental health practice experience as described above may be counted toward the two years of paid work experience requirement if the supervisor of the internship is an Endorsed professional (IMHM or IMHS). |
| **Training** | * Applicants will include as many hours of training and/or continuing education as necessary to document that competencies (as specified in Competency Guidelines®) have been met. * For those whose degree is in a field that is unrelated to infant mental health, more specialized in-service training may be required to meet the breadth and depth of the competencies * Training received will include the promotion of social-emotional development and the relationship-based principles and practices of infant mental health * Minimum 30 clock hours required * Typically, successful IMHS applications include an average of 75 or more hours of specialized training unless the applicant has completed coursework specific to the Competency Guidelines® |
| **Reflective Supervision/Consultation RSC** | Minimum of 50 hours required of relationship-focused, reflective supervision/consultation, individually or in a group, post-Masters, while providing services to infants/toddlers (birth to 36 months) and families. Provider of reflective supervision/consultation must have earned/maintained Endorsement® as IMHS or IMHM-C |
| **Professional Reference Ratings** | Please note: At least one reference rating must come from someone who has earned Endorsement® as IFS, ECFS, IMHS, ECMHS, IMHM, or ECMHM. Reference raters must be familiar with the applicant’s capacity to implement infant mental health principles into practice Total of three required:   1. One from current program supervisor 2. One from person providing reflective supervision/consultation 3. One from another supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant, colleague, or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor) |
| **Code of Ethics & Endorsement® Agreement** | Signed |
| **Documentation of Competencies** | 1. Application will demonstrate that competencies have been adequately met through course work, in-service training, and reflective supervision/consultation experiences 2. Successful completion of the IMHS Endorsement® written examination, which includes a multiple choice and an essay portion |
| **Professional Membership** | Membership in CT-AIMH or another Infant Mental Health Association |

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| **Annual Endorsement® Renewal Requirements (IMHS)** | |
| **Education & Training** | Minimum of 15 clock hours per year of relationship-based education and training, pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development in the context of family and other caregiving relationships, of prenatal up to 36 months old, including the principles and practices of infant mental health (eg, regional training, related course work at colleges or universities, infant mental health conference attendance, participation in competency-based activities such as professional reading group, community of practice, mentorship group). For those who earn IMHS Endorsement® and provide reflective supervision or consultation to others, at least three of the hours of specialized training must be about reflective supervision/consultation   * Documentation of training hours is submitted annually with membership renewal via EASy |
| **Professional Membership** | Annual renewal of membership in CT-AIMH or another Infant Mental Health Association |
| **Reflective Supervision/Consultation (RSC)** | IMHS Endorsees must receive 12 hours of RSC every year by an Endorsed® professional (IMHS or IMHM-C) |