

## **Early Childhood Family Associate (ECFA)**

### **Infant Family Associate Requirements**

<b>Education and/or Work Experience</b>	<p>Any academic degree, including Bachelors, Master, Doctorate OR Official transcript/certificate from Child Development Associate (CDA) OR Official transcript from Associate's degree (AD) in related area OR Two year of early childhood related paid work experience (include official transcripts from any college courses completed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If the requirement is met through 2-years paid work experience you do not need to upload your transcripts. 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</li><li>• 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</li><li>• If the requirement is not met through 2-years paid work experience, meaning the requirement is met through any academic degree or CDA, you will need to upload your transcripts (unofficial) for the required degree</li></ul>
<b>Training</b>	<p>Applicants will include as many hours as necessary to document that competencies (as specified in Competency Guidelines<sup>®</sup>) have been met. Minimum 30 clock hours of relationship-based education and training pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of infant mental health. Typically, successful ECFA applications include an average of 40 or more hours of specialized training unless the applicant has completed coursework specific to the Competency Guidelines<sup>®</sup></p>
<b>Reflective Supervision/Consultation RSC</b>	<p>Encouraged, but not required for Early Childhood Family Associate (ECFA)</p>

<b>Professional Reference Ratings</b>	<p>Total of three ratings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. One must come from a current supervisor</li> <li>2. At least one must come from an individual who is IMH or ECMH Endorsed <b>OR</b> is familiar with the Competency Guidelines and vetted**by CT-AIMH</li> <li>3. One can come from a colleague, or a parent/recipient of services (paid or volunteer), teacher, CDA mentor, trainer, consultant, Board member, or colleague</li> </ol>
<b>Code of Ethics &amp; Endorsement® Agreement</b>	Signed
<b>Documentation of Competencies</b>	<p>Application will document that competencies have been adequately met through course work, paid and/or volunteer work experience, or in-service training.</p> <p>Written examination is not required for applicants seeking ECFA Endorsement®</p>
<b>Professional Membership</b>	Membership in CT-AIMH or another Infant Mental Health Association

*\*\*The vetting of a reference rater who is not endorsed consists of a phone call with the Endorsement Coordinator so that they can determine if the proposed rater has a copy of the Competency Guidelines® and is familiar enough with them to rate the applicant's knowledge and skills as defined in them. The decision to accept the vetted reference rater will be documented by the Endorsement Coordinator in the reference section of the applicant's EASy application.*

<b>Annual Endorsement® Renewal Requirements (IFA)</b>	
<b>Education &amp; Training</b>	<p>Minimum of 15 clock hours per year of relationship-based education and training, pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of infant mental health (eg, regional training, related course work at colleges or universities, infant mental health conference attendance, participation in IMH association sponsored activities such as book club, mentorship group). Documentation of training hours is submitted annually with membership renewal via EASy</p>

<b>Professional Membership</b>	Annual renewal of membership in CT-AIMH or another Infant Mental Health Association
<b>Reflective Supervision/Consultation (RSC)</b>	All Endorsed Professionals are encouraged to seek RSC