

Early Childhood Family Specialist (ECFS)

Early Childhood Family 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

Minimum 2-years paid, professional work experience providing prevention and/or early intervention services that promote ECMH. Work experience meets this criterion as long as the applicant has:

- Served a minimum of 10 families where the target of services is a child aged 3 up to 6 years old **and**
- A primary focus of the services provided is the social-emotional needs of the 3 up to 6-year-old child, their families and caregivers **and**
- Services focus on the promotion of the relationships surrounding the 3 up to 6-year-old child

Training

Applicants will include as many hours as necessary to document that competencies (as specified in the Competency Guidelines®) 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 ECFS applications include an average of 50 or more hours of specialized training unless the applicant has completed coursework specific to IMH competencies.

Reflective Supervision/Consultation RSC	<p>A minimum 24 clock hours received of relationship-based, reflective supervision/consultation (RSC), individually or in a group from a qualified provider while having one of the following work experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing (or providing supervision to staff who are providing*) services to infants, young children (birth to 36 months), and families <p>and/or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing (or providing supervision to staff who are providing*) mental health consultation services* (birth to 36 months) through a relational lens with a focus on social emotional development <p>Qualified providers of RSC must meet Endorsement requirements as an I/ECFRS, I/ECMHS or I/ECMHM-C. If the applicant currently receives RSC from an I/ECMHS or I/ECFS- Masters prepared endorsed provider, they have until April 2024 to switch to an I/ECFRS and or I/ECMHM-C endorsed provider.</p>
Professional Reference Ratings	<p>Total of three ratings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One must come from a current supervisor 2. One must come from your current provider of RSC 3. One from another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; or a colleague
Code of Ethics & Endorsement® Agreement	<p>Signed</p>
Documentation of Competencies	<p>Application will document that competencies have been adequately met through course work, paid and/or volunteer work experience, or in-service training. Written examination is not required for applicants seeking ECFS Endorsement®</p>
Professional Membership	<p>Membership in CT-AIMH or another Infant Mental Health Association</p>

Annual Endorsement® Renewal Requirements (ECFS)	
Education & Training	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
Professional Membership	Annual renewal of membership in CT-AIMH or another Infant Mental Health Association
Reflective Supervision/Consultation (RSC)	IFS Endorsees must receive 12 hours of RSC every year by an Endorsed® professional (I/ECFRS or I/ECMHM-C)