



# Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health®

Endorsement is an internationally recognized credential used to demonstrate specialization in the infant-early childhood mental health (IECMH) field. Endorsement supports and recognizes the development of professionals who work with or on behalf of pregnant people, infants, young children, and their families.

Endorsement was developed by MI-AIMH in 2002 and is now used by 35 state associations of infant mental health (AIMHs) and two international associations. Each of those AIMHs is a member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health. Through the Alliance, Endorsement in Nebraska is recognized in each of the 35 AIMHs!

## Who can apply?

The Endorsement credential is intended for everyone who applies IMH principles in their work across the full continuum of promotion, prevention/early intervention, clinical intervention/treatment, and macro scopes of practice. This includes any professional who has experience working with or on behalf of pregnant people, infants, young children, parents, and/or other caregivers.

## Why apply for Endorsement?

1. To grow and develop as a professional in the rapidly expanding infant, young child and family field
2. To be recognized by employers and peers for having attained a level of competency in culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice that promotes IMH.
3. To better support the infants, young children, families, students, agencies, and institutions in the promotion of IECMH.

## The application includes:

1. Specialized education, work, in-service training, leadership, and RSC experiences
2. Transcripts (unofficial) from colleges/universities where competencies were met
3. Three reference rating forms; completed electronically via EASy
4. Code of Ethics, signed electronically via EASy
5. Endorsement Agreement, signed electronically via EASy

## Steps to Endorsement:

1. Identify your scope of work and align that with the category of Endorsement that fits best
  - Promotion (e.g., early childhood education, pediatricians, child welfare, etc.)
  - Prevention/Early Intervention (e.g., home visiting, early head start, IECMH consultation)
  - Prevention/Early Intervention & Macro (e.g., home visiting AND reflective supervision)
  - Clinical Intervention/Treatment (e.g., infant/child parent psychotherapy, Child First, etc.)
  - Macro (e.g., researcher, provider of reflective supervision, policy maker, etc..)
2. Register on EASy, NAIMH's web-based system for applying for Endorsement. Visit EASy at <https://naimh.myeasy.org>. The first time you visit EASy, click Register under New Applicant
3. EASy asks you to provide some details about your work, education, and RSC experiences. Complete and submit, including payment of the registration fee and up-to-date NAIMH membership
4. Log into EASy and prepare your application (Talk to our endorsement coordinator if you need any help). Once completed, submit application along with payment of the processing fee.
5. Application review and, for Infant Mental Health Specialist & Infant Mental Health Mentor applicants, successful completion of a written exam
6. Endorsement! Begin using the IMH-E® credential after your name

To ask a question or for additional information, please email [NE.IMHEndorsement@gmail.com](mailto:NE.IMHEndorsement@gmail.com)  
 (To learn more about the AIMHs who are using the Endorsement credential, visit [allianceaimh.org](http://allianceaimh.org))

	<b>Family Associate (I/ECFA)</b>	<b>Family Specialist (I/ECFS)</b>	<b>Mental Health Specialist (I/ECMHS)</b>	<b>Mental Health Mentor (I/ECMHM)</b>
<b>Scope of Work</b>	<b>PROMOTION</b>	<b>PREVENTION/ EARLY INTERVENTION</b>	<b>CLINICAL INTERVENTION/ TREATMENT</b>	<b>MACRO</b>
<b>Education</b>	Any academic degree <sup>1</sup>	No degree required	Masters or Post-Graduate degree	Masters or Post-Graduate degree
<b>Work Experience</b>	Minimum 2 years	Minimum 2 years	Minimum 2 years	Minimum 3 years as an IECMH practice leader (policy, research/faculty or providing RSC) Clinical only: also meet the MHS work requirements
<b>In-Service Training</b>	Minimum 33 hours specific to IECMH and social-emotional well-being; 3 hours must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH	Minimum 33 hours specific to IECMH and social-emotional well-being; 3 hours must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH	Minimum 33 hours specific to IECMH and social-emotional well-being; 3 hours must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH	Minimum 33 hrs., Specific to IECMH and social emotional well-being; 3 hours must be about diversity, equity, and inclusion in IECMH Clinical only: An additional 15 hours on the provision RSC (total of 48 hours)
<b>Leadership</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Minimum 3 years leadership activities
<b>Reflective Supervision/ Consultation (RSC)</b>	N/A	Min. 24 hours while providing I/ECFS services to infants, young children and families and/or while providing supervision to staff who are providing services to infants, young children and their families	Min. 50 hours while providing I/ECMHS services to infants, young children and families	Clinical only: Minimum 50 hours while providing I/ECMHS services to infants, young children and families. A minimum of 25 hours of the RSC received should be about the RSC that the applicant provides to others  N/A for Research Faculty and Policy
<b>References Ratings</b>	Three (Current program supervisor and two from: teacher, trainer, consultant, or parent/ service recipient)	Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. Provider of RSC 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant, or a colleague	Three 1. Current program supervisor 2. Provider of RSC 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant, colleague; or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor)	Three (Please see I/ECMHM requirements for specific guidelines for who should complete reference rating forms for Clinical, Policy, and Research/Faculty applicants
<b>Written Exam</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes

### Endorsed Reflective Supervisor (Add On)

This endorsement add on is a pathway for Infant and Early Childhood Family Specialists to provide qualifying hours of Reflective Supervision/Consultation.

<b>Pre-requisite</b>	Family Specialist or Mental Health Specialist Endorsement <sup>®</sup>
<b>Reflective Supervision</b>	One year of providing RSC to infant-family professionals <b>while</b> receiving 12 hours of RSC from a qualified provider about your provision of RSC to others. *Not required for emerging

## Endorsement Application Fees

Family Associate	Family Specialist	Mental Health Specialist	Mental Health Mentor	(Add-On) Endorsed Reflective Supervisor
Registration Fee <b>\$15</b>	Registration Fee <b>\$15</b>	Registration Fee <b>\$25</b>	Registration Fee <b>\$25</b>	Registration Fee <b>\$0</b>
Processing Fee <b>\$25</b>	Processing Fee <b>\$50</b>	Processing Fee <b>\$200</b>	Processing Fee <b>\$300</b>	Processing Fee <b>\$75</b>