



F3Y 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 women, infants, young children and their families. Endorsement® was developed by the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health in 2002 and is now used by 30 state infant mental health associations and 2 international associations. Each of those associations is a member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health.

Through the Alliance, Endorsement® in Oklahoma is recognized in each of those 32 associations! As of December 31, 2018, over 2,600 professionals had earned Endorsement® worldwide!¹

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** meets the educational, work, training, and reflective supervision/consultation (RSC) requirements as specified for Endorsement® (see page 2).

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 IECMH
3. To better support the infants, young children, families, students, agencies, and institutions in the promotion of IECMH

Five steps to Endorsement®:

1. **Register on EASy**, OKAIMH's web-based system for compiling applications for Endorsement®. Visit EASy at <https://easy.mi-aimh.org/okaimh>. The first time you visit EASy, click "Register" under "New Applicant"
2. To register, EASy requires you to provide a brief description of your work, education, and RSC experiences. **Complete and submit**, including payment of the EASy Registration Fee and up-to-date OKAIMH membership
3. Log into EASy using the username and password issued to you by EASy and prepare application (minimum 4-weeks to complete). Once completed, submit **application** along with payment of the EASy Processing Fee
4. **Documentation of competencies**, including a 2-tier review of the application and, for Infant Mental Health Specialist & Infant Mental Health Mentor applicants, successful completion of written exam
5. **Endorsement®**

The application includes:

1. Specialized education, work, in-service training, and RSC experiences
2. Official transcripts from every college/university where a degree was earned; transcripts can be requested electronically and be sent to endorsement@okaimh.org
3. Three reference rating forms; completed electronically via EASy
4. Code of Ethics, signed electronically via EASy
5. Endorsement® Agreement, signed electronically via EASy
6. Endorsement® Processing Fee

Continuing Endorsement® requirements:

1. Ongoing membership in OKAIMH (or another IMH association)
2. Annual participation in a minimum of 15 clock hours of relationship-based training, pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and the principles and practice of IECMH

¹ To learn more about the IMH associations who are using the Endorsement® credential, visit allianceaimh.org

OKAIMH ENDORSEMENT (IMH-E®) PATHWAYS ²				
	Infant Family Associate (IFA) (PROMOTION)	Infant Family Specialist (IFS) (PREVENTION)	Infant Mental Health Specialist (IMHS) (INTERVENTION)	Infant Mental Health Mentor (IMHM) (MACRO)
Education	Any academic ³ degree	Masters or Bachelors degree	Masters or post-graduate degree	Masters or post-graduate degree
Work Experience	OR Minimum 2 years infant/early childhood-related work or volunteer experience in an applicable role ⁴	Minimum 2 years of prevention and/or early intervention service to 0-36 mo. old & their families; served a minimum of 10 families	Minimum 2 years, post-masters, IMH practice working on behalf of the caregiver-infant relationship (example: infant parent psychotherapy)	Minimum 3 years as an IMH practice leader (policy, research/faculty, and/or clinical) and provider of RSC for 3+years ⁵
In-Service Training	Minimum 30 hours, average 40 hours	Minimum 30 hours, average 50 hours	Minimum 30 hours, average 75 hours	Minimum 30 hours, average 75 hours <i>A minimum of 15-hours must be didactic training about the provision RSC⁶</i>
Membership in OKAIMH or other IMH association	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Code of Ethics	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
Endorsement® Agreement	Signed	Signed	Signed	Signed
Reflective Supervision or Consultation (RSC)	N/A	Minimum 24 clock hours, with a qualified provider, within a 12-month to 24-month time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families	Minimum 50 clock hours, with a qualified provider, within a 12-month to 24-month time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families	Clinical only: Minimum 50 clock hours a 12-month to 24-month time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families. <i>A minimum of 25-hours of the RSC received should be about the RSC that the applicant provides to others</i>
Reference Ratings	Three (from current program supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant, or parent/service recipient)	Three 1. Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant. 2. Person providing RSC 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; or a colleague	Three 1. Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant. 2. Person providing RSC 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor)	Three (Please see IMHM requirements for specific guidelines for who should complete reference rating forms for Clinical, Policy, and Research/Faculty applicants).
Written Exam	No	No	Yes	Yes
Application	Applicant will submit an application that demonstrates that he/she has met both the requirements and the competencies specified for the Endorsement® for which he/she is applying. Details about competencies can be found in within the <i>Competency Guidelines</i> ®			

Endorsement® Fee Schedule				
	Infant Family Associate	Infant Family Specialist	Infant Mental Health Specialist	Infant Mental Health Mentor
Registration Fee	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$25
Processing Fee	\$25	\$100	\$300	\$400
Total	\$40	\$120	\$325	\$425

**Highlighted requirements are not yet required in Oklahoma.*

² This is just a summary; for the full description of the requirements by Endorsement® category, please visit:

http://www.okaimh.org/PDFs/Competency_Guidelines.pdf

³ IFA applicants need to meet the Education OR the Work requirement they do not need to meet both.

⁴ For IFA applicants, volunteer experience may meet the work criterion if it was a) supervised experience with women during pregnancy or with infants, toddlers & families AND b) included specialized training. Examples include CASA, Doula, or Child Life Specialist.

⁵ Only IMHM-Clinical applicants need to fulfill the requirement of being a provider for 3+ years.

⁶ Only IMHM-Clinical applicants need to fulfill the requirement of attending didactic training about the provision of RSC.