

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENT®

 WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR Infant Mental Health	INFANT MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST
Education	Official transcripts from all degrees and from any college credits earned are required. Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS), Master of Education (MEd), Doctor of Education (EdD), Master of Social Work (MSW), Master of Nursing (MSN), Doctor of Psychology (PsyD), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Medical Doctor (MD), Doctor of Osteopathy (DO), or other degree specific to one’s professional focus in infant mental health; university certificate program; and/or course work in areas such as infant development (prenatal up to 36 months), family-centered practice, cultural sensitivity, family relationships and dynamics, assessment, and intervention must be submitted in accordance with the <i>Competency Guidelines</i> ®.
Specialized Training in Infant Mental Health (age 0-3)	Applicants will include as many hours of training and/or continuing education as necessary to document that competencies (as specified in <i>Competency Guidelines</i> ®) have been met. For those whose degree is in a field that is unrelated to infancy, more specialized in-service training may be required to meet the breadth and depth of the competencies. Training content will include the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the relationship-based principles of infant and early childhood mental health. Minimum of 30 clock hours required. Typically, successful IMHS applications will include 75 or more hours of specialized training unless the applicant has completed coursework specific to the <i>Competency Guidelines</i> ®.
Specialized 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. These therapies and practices are intended to explicitly address issues related to attachment, separation, trauma, and unresolved grief and loss as they affect the attachment relationship, development, behavior, and care of the infant/child. The unresolved losses, or “ghosts,” might be from adverse childhood experiences that occurred during the caregivers’ own early childhood or may be related to more current circumstances for the infant/child and family, such as a difficult labor and delivery. Strong feelings, such as grief and loss, could also be associated with diagnosis or manifestation of a chronic illness, delay, or disability. Professionals from a variety of disciplines, not only licensed mental health professionals, may earn Endorsement® if they have performed the work that meets these criteria. However, the applicant must have received the training necessary to provide this level of treatment/intervention AND must receive reflective supervision/consultation from an IMHS or IMHM-C about the treatment/intervention. 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). Applicants must submit a description of the internship for application reviewers’ consideration.
Reflective Supervision/Consultation	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, ECMHS, IMHM-C, or ECMHM-C. Minimum 50 clock hours required within a one- to two-year timeframe.

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 <small>WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR Infant Mental Health</small>	INFANT MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST (continued)
Professional References Ratings <i>Please note: At least one rating must come from endorsed IFS, ECFS, IMHS, ECMHS, IMHM, or ECMHM.</i>	Reference raters must be familiar with the applicant’s capacity to implement infant mental health principles into practice. Total of three required: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One from a current program supervisor 2. One from a person providing reflective supervision/consultation 3. One from another supervisor, teacher, trainer, consultant, or colleague
Code of Ethics and Endorsement Agreement	Signed
Demonstration of Competencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 IMH Endorsement® written examination, which includes a multiple choice and an essay portion.
Professional Membership	Membership in WA-AIMH or other infant mental health association.
Endorsement Renewal Requirements	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. Annual renewal of membership in the Infant Mental Health Association (\$80/year). It is required that all professionals endorsed as an IMHS receive a minimum of 12 hours of reflective supervision/consultation annually.
Endorsement Fees	Total: \$405 <i>Includes registration (\$25), processing (\$300), and membership (\$80/year)</i>