

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENDORSEMENT®

 <small>WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR</small> Infant Mental Health	INFANT FAMILY ASSOCIATE
Education/Experience	1. Official transcripts from any academic coursework including Associate’s, Bachelor’s, Master’s, and/or Doctorate degrees, OR 2. Official transcript/certificate from Child Development Associate (CDA) program, OR 3. Two years of infant2-related paid work experience ^{1,2}
Specialized Training in Infant Mental Health (age 0-3)	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Training content will include the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the relationship-based principles of infant and early childhood mental health.</p> <p>Minimum of 30 clock hours required.</p> <p>Typically, successful IFA applications will include 40 or more hours of specialized training unless the applicant has completed coursework specific to the <i>Competency Guidelines</i>®.</p>
Professional References Ratings	<p>Total of three required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One must come from a current supervisor 2. At least one must come from an individual who is IMH or ECMH endorsed, meets Endorsement® Requirements, or is familiar with the Competency Guidelines® and vetted by an Endorsement® Coordinator³ 3. One can come from a colleague, or a parent/recipient of services (paid or volunteer), teacher, CDA mentor, or Board member
Code of Ethics and Endorsement Agreement	Signed
Demonstration of Competencies	Application will demonstrate that competencies have been adequately met through course work, in-service training and work/volunteer experiences. Reflective supervision/consultation, although not required, is recommended and will support demonstration of competencies. Written examination not required for applicants seeking Infant Family Associate Endorsement®.
Professional Membership	Membership in WA-AIMH or other infant mental health association.
Endorsement Renewal Requirements	<p>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 children from birth to the age of 36 months, including the principles of infant and early childhood 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, or community practice). Documentation of training hours submitted with membership renewal.</p> <p>Annual renewal of membership in the Infant Mental Health Association (\$80/year).</p> <p>All endorsed professionals are encouraged to seek reflective supervision or consultation.</p>
Endorsement Fees	<p>Total: \$130 <i>Includes registration (\$25), processing (\$25), and membership (\$80/year)</i></p>

¹Infant, for the purposes of this Endorsement®, is defined as birth to 36 months

²Volunteer experience may meet this criterion if it was: a) supervised experience with infants/toddlers (birth to 36 months) and families and b) included specialized training. Examples include court-appointed special advocate (CASA) and Child Life Specialist. Please contact your association’s Endorsement® Coordinator to see if your volunteer experience fits.

³The vetting of a reference rater who is not endorsed consists of a phone call with the proposed rater so the Endorsement® Coordinator can determine if 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 an Endorsement® Coordinator in the References section of the applicant’s Endorsement® Application System (EASy) application