



Infant/Toddler Mental Health Coalition of Arizona

Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Based Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health



Mission: To promote and support nurturing relationships for all infants.

	Level 1 <i>Infant Family Associate</i>	Level 2 <i>Infant Family Specialist</i>	Level 3 <i>Infant Mental Health Specialist</i>	Level 4 <i>Infant Mental Health Mentor</i>
Competencies	As specified in ITMHCA <i>Competency Guidelines</i>	As specified in ITMHCA <i>Competency Guidelines</i>	As specified in ITMHCA <i>Competency Guidelines</i>	As specified in ITMHCA <i>Competency Guidelines</i>
Educational Degrees earned	CDA or Associate's degree	Bachelor's or Master's degree	Master's or Post-Graduate degree	Master's, Post Graduate, Doctorate, Post Doctorate or MD
Work Experiences	Two years in the infant, early childhood and family field	Two years in the infant, early childhood and family field	Two years post-master's work in the infant, early childhood and family field	Three years post-master's work in the infant, early childhood and family field; may be as clinician, faculty, researcher, or policy
Specialized Training	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours
Signed Code of Ethics, Waiver, Agreement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reflective Supervision and/or Consultation	N/A	Minimum 24 clock hours within a 2 year time frame	Minimum 50 clock hours within a 2 year time frame	Minimum 50 clock hours within a 2 year time frame
Reference Ratings	3 (at least one must meet requirements for Endorsement at Level 2, 3 or 4)	3 (at least one must be from supervisor/consultant guiding reflective practice)	3 (at least one must be from supervisor/consultant guiding reflective practice)	3 (clinical leader: at least one must be from supervisor/consultant guiding reflective practice)
Written Exam	no	no	yes	yes
Service Examples include but are not limited to the following jobs	<u>Promotion</u> Childcare worker, play group leader, Doula	<u>Prevention/Intervention</u> Home visitor, AzEIP service coordinator, NICU nurse, parent educator, child care consultant, child protective services worker	<u>Intervention/Treatment</u> Mental health clinician/supervisor, infant mental health specialist, clinical nurse practitioner, lactation consultant, early intervention specialist, child care Director	<u>Leadership</u> Infant and family program supervisor, administrator, researcher, faculty member, policy specialist, physician, child care Director

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can apply for Endorsement? All can apply who have experience working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, parents, and/or other caregivers, and who meet the educational, work, training, and reflective supervision requirements as specified at each level. Being a member of the ITMHCA is a requirement for earning endorsement, but not to apply. You can join when you submit the portfolio.

Why apply? Endorsement is designed to help you grow and develop as a service provider/professional in the rapidly expanding infant and family service field and to recognize the skills you have acquired. Endorsement will lead to recognition by employers and peers for having attained a level of competency in culturally sensitive, relationship-based practice that promotes infant mental health.

How can I apply? Application materials are available for download on the ITMHCA website (www.itmhca.org). The application fee is \$25.00 for levels 3 and 4; \$15.00 for levels 1 and 2. The Endorsement fee varies by level and is paid when you submit your portfolio and/or take the Endorsement exam, based on the level you are applying for. Scholarships are available; see website.

When can I apply? Applications are accepted at any time throughout the year. When you send in your Preliminary Application and fee, you will be assigned an Advisor who will help you throughout the process. The Endorsement exam (required only for Levels 3 and 4) will be offered twice a year. Exam dates will be posted on www.itmhca.org.

I have questions about the Endorsement process, who can I contact? You can talk with the Endorsement Project Director, Mary Warren, by email at Mary.G.Warren@asu.edu; or Bob Weigand at Robert.Weigand@asu.edu or 480-965-4442.

Quotes from Michigan-Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsed Individuals:

"The MI-AIMH Endorsement has opened a whole new world for me regarding infants, toddlers and families. The process itself, especially the reflective supervision, has given me a stronger base from which to work, allowing me to integrate my expanding knowledge of best practice and research into my growing ability to really see, hear, feel and be with the families I serve as an early intervention teacher." Marian Oriehl, M.Ed., Level II.

"To be endorsed by MI-AIMH is, for me, a commitment to an organization that has nurtured me in my own professional infancy and has had immense influence in the way I am able to be with and connect with the families and professionals with whom I work. MI-AIMH's commitment to infants, toddlers, families and those who work with them is remarkable and it is a privilege to be endorsed and recognized by such an organization," Carla Barron, MSW, Level III.

"Endorsement as an IMH Level 4 mentor says to others that knowledgeable support for infant-family work they do can be readily offered by me. I have also had a prosecuting attorney use the Endorsement credential to support my testimony as an expert witness in cases related to infants, toddlers and families." Sheryl Goldberg, MSW, Level IV

ITMHCA gratefully acknowledges The Lodestar Foundation and ASU for their generous support in establishing the Arizona Endorsement system!