



INFANT-TODDLER MENTAL HEALTH COALITION OF ARIZONA

Infant Mental Health Endorsement *Celebrating Quality Connections with Families*

ITMHCA ENDORSEMENT (IMH-E®) LEVELS OF COMPETENCY¹

| | Infant Family Associate Level I | Infant Family Specialist Level II | Infant Mental Health Specialist Level III | Infant Mental Health Mentor Clinical, Policy, or Research/Faculty Level IV |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Education | CDA or Associate's degree or 2 years early childhood experience | Masters or Bachelors degree | Masters or post-graduate degree | Masters, post-graduate, doctorate, post-doctorate |
| Work Experience | AND/OR Two years in the infant, early childhood, and family field | Minimum 2 years in the infant, early childhood, and family field | Minimum 2 years post Masters in the infant, early childhood, and family field | Minimum 3 years post Masters in the infant, early childhood, and family field |
| In-service Training | Minimum 30 hours | Minimum 30 hours | Minimum 30 hours | Minimum 30 hours |
| Code of Ethics and Endorsement Agreement | Signed | Signed | Signed | Signed |
| Reflective Supervision or Consultation | N/A | Minimum 24 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families | Minimum 50 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families | Clinical: Minimum 50 clock hours within a one to two year time period while working with infants, toddlers, & families |
| 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 reflective supervision/consultation. 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; or a colleague. | 1. Current program supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant. 2. Person providing reflective supervision/consultation. 3. Another supervisor, teacher, trainer or consultant; colleague; or supervisee (if applicant is a supervisor). | Three (Please see Level IV Requirements document for specific guidelines for who should complete reference rating forms for Clinical, Policy, and Research/Faculty applicants). |
| Written Exam | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Professional portfolio | Applicant will submit a professional portfolio that demonstrates that he/she has met both the requirements and the competencies specified at each level. Details about competencies can be found in the <i>Competency Guidelines for each level</i> at www.itmhca.org . | | | |

Endorsement Fee Schedule

| | Infant Family Associate (Level I) | Infant Family Specialist (Level II) | Infant Mental Health Specialist (Level III) | Infant Mental Health Mentor (Level IV) |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Application Fee | \$15 | \$15 | \$25 | \$25 |
| Processing Fee | \$25 | \$100 | \$200 | \$300 |
| Total | \$40 | \$115 | \$225 | \$325 |

¹ This chart represents only a summary of the requirements at each level. Please visit www.itmhca.org for full details about both the requirements and the competencies.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ENDORSEMENT FOR CULTURALLY SENSITIVE, RELATIONSHIP-FOCUSED PRACTICE PROMOTING INFANT MENTAL HEALTH (IMH-E®)

What is Endorsement?

Endorsement is a process that supports and recognizes the development of professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. This process uses a nationally recognized set of competencies that helps define best practice and guides professional growth.

Who can apply?

All professionals who have experience working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, parents, and/or other caregivers and meet the educational, work, training, and reflective supervision/consultation requirements as specified at each level.

Why apply for the ITMHCA Endorsement (IMH-E®)?

- To grow and develop as a professional in the rapidly expanding infant and family service field.
- To be recognized by employers and peers for having attained a level of competency in culturally sensitive, relationship-focused practice that promotes infant mental health.
- To better support the infants, toddlers, families, students, agencies, and institutions in the promotion of infant mental health.

The five steps to the ITMHCA Endorsement (IMH-E®) process are:

1. **Inquire** by contacting the Endorsement Coordinator at endorsement@itmhca.org) or by downloading a preliminary application at www.itmhca.org
2. Complete and submit the preliminary **application**, including the Application Fee and ITMHCA membership fee (new members only)
3. Prepare and submit the completed **professional portfolio** along with the Endorsement Processing Fee, or Request for Scholarship form.
4. **Documentation of competencies**, including a two-level review of the professional portfolio and, for Levels III & IV only, successful completion of written exam
5. **Endorsement**

The professional portfolio includes:

1. E-form (a list of specialized education, work, in-service training, and reflective supervision/consultation experiences using the template available at www.itmhca.org) (password provided upon application)
2. Sealed official transcripts from every college/university attended
3. Three sealed reference rating forms; signature of rater across the seal
4. Signed Code of Ethics
5. Signed Endorsement Agreement
6. Endorsement Processing Fee appropriate to the level at which the candidate is applying or completed Scholarship Form

Continuing Endorsement requirements:

1. Ongoing membership in ITMHCA (or another IMH association)
2. Annual participation in 15 clock hours of culturally sensitive, relationship-focused training experiences that promote infant mental health

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