

What is Infant Mental Health Endorsement?

Endorsement is:

- Professional development
- Focused on prevention, promotion, and intervention for healthy social/emotional development
- For professionals who work with infants, young children, their families and primary caregivers
- Awarded in 4 different classifications: I-Infant Family Associate, II-Infant Family Specialist, III-Infant Mental Health Specialist, IV-Infant Mental Health Mentor

The Endorsement Process...

Where Did it Come From?

- Infant Mental Health Endorsement process developed in Michigan
- By mid-1980's educational core competencies had been identified and developed by Michigan
- By 1997 Mi-AIMH developed its Endorsement system in a 4-level framework
- Final phase of the process in 2000 with development of the examination
- Kansas is one of 23 other states and 1 international association that have purchased the endorsement program

Who is eligible for Endorsement?

- Multiple disciplines working with children, prenatal to three and their families.
- Includes mental health, early care and education, medical, health, social welfare, special needs, judicial systems, educators, policy makers, and researchers.

Additional criteria for Endorsement

- Written portfolio requiring comprehensive documented descriptions in 8 competency areas
- Proctored written exam (Level III & IV)
 - Level IV is separated into:
 - Clinical Supervision, Consultation and Training
 - Teaching, Research and Evaluation
 - Policy/Program Administration
- Ongoing continuous education following endorsement

Kansas Endorsement Steps



1. Inquiry

2. Application-online

3. Preparation of a professional
portfolio-online



4. Documentation of competencies-
online

5. Endorsement

8 Endorsement Competencies

1. Theoretical Foundations
2. Law, Regulation & Agency Policy
3. Systems Expertise
4. Direct Service Skills
5. Working with Others
6. Communicating
7. Thinking
8. Reflection

| KAIMH ENDORSEMENT IMH-E® LEVELS OF COMPETENCY | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| | 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 | Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate OR Official transcript/certificate from Child Development Associate (CDA) OR Official transcript from Associate's degree (AD) in related area OR Two years of infant and early childhood-related paid work experience | Minimum of Bachelor's Degree. | Minimum of Master's Degree. | Masters, post-graduate, doctorate, post-doctorate |
| Work Experience | | Minimum two years of paid, post-Bachelor's, professional work experience providing services that promote infant mental health. | Two years, postgraduate, supervised work experiences providing relationship-focused, infant mental health services. Must be with both the infant/child and caregiver. | 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 |
| Membership in KAIMH or other IMH association | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 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 1. Current supervisor 2. Individual who meets KAIMH Endorsement* requirements at Level II, III, or IV OR is familiar with the Competency Guidelines® and vetted by KAIMH 3. Colleague, or a parent/recipient of services (paid or volunteer), teacher, CDA mentor, Board member | Three 1. Current program supervisor. 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 via an online process available at https://easy.mi-aimh.org/kaimh . Details about competencies can be found in the publication Competency Guidelines. | | | |

| 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 | \$50 | \$200 | \$300 |
| Total | \$40 | \$65 | \$225 | \$325 |

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

Am I LEVEL I: Infant Family Associate?

- I have at least CDA, Associates Degree or 2 years early childhood experience
- I've been working in the infant/early childhood/family field for 2 years
- I have at least 30 hours of IMH in-service training



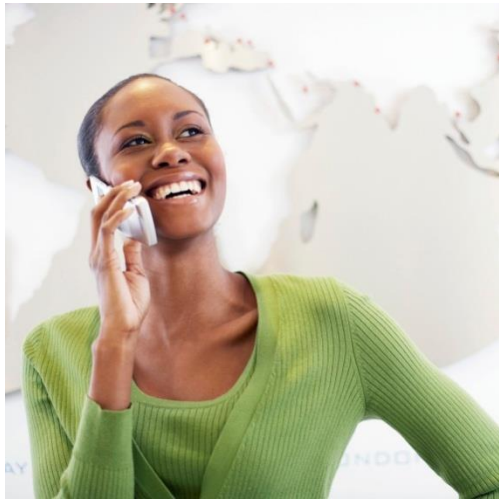
Am I LEVEL II: Infant Family Specialist?



- I have a Bachelor or Master's Degree
- I've worked in the infant, early childhood and family field for at least 2 years
- I have at least 30 hours of in-service training in IMH
- I have at least 24 hours of reflective supervision focused on infants and young children within 2-years

WHAT IS REFLECTIVE SUPERVISION?

- It goes beyond regular supervision in focusing on how I feel about my work
- It helps me think about what I do and understand how I work with families and their young children
- It is provided on a regular schedule by a supervisor whom I form a relationship with and trust
- It may occur individually or in a group



Am I LEVEL III: Infant Mental Health Specialist?

- I have a Master's or Post-graduate degree
- I have 2 years post-master's work in the infant, early childhood, and family field working with caregiver and infant
- I have at least 30 hours IMH in-service training
- I have at least 50 hours of reflective supervision focused on infants and young children within 2 years
- A written exam to take offered by KAIMH



Am I LEVEL IV: Infant Mental Health Mentor?

- I am a leader in the field; mentoring others
- I have at least a Master's degree and 3 years post-master's work in the infant, early childhood, and family field
- I may fit best in a clinical, policy, or training/research track
- If clinical, I have had at least 50 hours of reflective supervision focused on infants and young children within 2-years
- Level IV applicants will also have a written exam to take offered by KAIMH

What is the value of Endorsement?

- Provides a level of assurance to families, agencies and the public at large that the person delivering services meets professional standards.
- Provides a pathway for development in the infant and family field.
- Provides a set of competencies to guide training, service, policy and research.

What is the value of Endorsement?

Endorsement criteria is identified to assure best practice:

- specific educational experiences
- work experience with infants, toddlers, young children & families
- competency-based, in-service training experiences
- reflective supervision/consultation experiences that focus on prenatal to three population

Join KAIMH Today and Enjoy Member Benefits

- Member's of KAIMH have access to CEU trainings offered by KAIMH, All done via email, online and phone calls...no traveling necessary!
- Newsletters with information and collaboration from around the state
- Discounts on the Spring Conference
- Connection to an organization to help support infant and early childhood mental health initiatives across the state and across the other states in the League of States.

For more information contact:

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