



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

What is the New Jersey Association for Infant Mental Health?

NJ-AIMH is the statewide organization for multidisciplinary professionals who work to support the relational and emotional development of families from pregnancy through early childhood. We are focused on professional development and education, public awareness and advocacy, and endorsement of professionals in the areas of infant and early childhood mental health, learning and development.

What is the NJ-AIMH 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/caregivers and meet the educational, work, training, and reflective supervision/consultation requirements as specified at each level.

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

- To grow and develop as a professional in the rapidly expanding infant and family 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.

What are the main steps to the NJ-AIMH Endorsement (IMH-E®) process?

1. Review the Endorsement levels and determine where your education, experience, training and supervision fit best (please see the back side for more information on Levels)
2. Register on NJ-AIMH's web-based Endorsement Application System (EASy) at <http://easy.nj-aimh.org/njaimh> and pay registration fee and NJ-AIMH membership fee (if a new member)
3. Wait 48 hours for an email from the EASy system with a username and password
4. Log into EASy to prepare a professional portfolio including requesting official transcripts, sending reference forms through EASy to 3 references, uploading education, work experience, and training information and documenting reflective supervision (if applicable)
5. Submit your completed portfolio via EASy along with the Endorsement Processing Fee.
6. Level III and IV applicants only: sit for the Endorsement Exam

What is the application review and decision process?

Level I & Level II applicants receive an endorsement decision after at least two portfolio reviews. Level III & Level IV applicants move on to a written exam after at least two portfolio review committee members examine and approve. Certificates are issued after all Level III and IV exams are reviewed.

Questions? Please contact the Endorsement Coordinator at endorsement@nj-aimh.org. For general questions about the New Jersey Association for Infant Mental Health, please email info@nj-aimh.org

What are the levels of Endorsement and requirements for application at each level?

	Education	Training	Experience	Reflective Practice
Level I Infant Family Associate	CDA, <u>or</u> Associate's degree in a related area <u>or</u> 2 years of infant/childhood paid work experience (including college, AA and CDA work)	30+ hours of defined training or portfolio	CDA, <u>or</u> Associate's degree in a related area <u>or</u> 2 years of infant/childhood paid work experience (including college, AA and CDA work)	
Level II Infant Family Specialist	Bachelors or Masters degree in defined fields, 30+ hours of training	30+ hours of defined training	2 years post-BA paid IMH work;	24+ hours over 1-2 years of reflective practice
Level III Infant Mental Health Specialist	Masters or Doctorate in defined fields (some possible credit for intensive in-service training)	30+ hours of defined training	2 years post-grad paid IMH <i>direct services</i> to infants/caregivers OR one year supervised graduate internship	50 hours over 1-2 years of reflective practice
Level IV Clinical Mentor	Masters or Doctorate in defined fields (some possible credit for intensive in-service training)	30+ hours of defined training	As in Level III + 3 years Post Grad providing IMH reflective practice supervision/ Consultation and defined leadership activities	50 hours over 1-2 years of reflective practice
Level IV Policy			3 years of post- grad experience in policy/ Administration related to IMH field and defined leadership activities	OPTIONAL: 50 hours over 1-2 years
Level IV Research Faculty			3 years of post-grad experience as a leader in university-teaching and/or published research and other defined leadership activities	OPTIONAL: 50 hours over 1-2 years

How much does Endorsement cost?

Endorsement fees have three parts: the NJ-AIMH Membership Fee (\$35), the Registration Fee (\$20), and the Endorsement Processing Fee. The Endorsement Processing Fees are based on Level of Endorsement and are as follows:

- Level I: Infant Family Associate - \$25
- Level II: Infant Family Specialist - \$100
- Level III: Infant Mental Health Specialist - \$300
- Level IV: Infant Mental Health Mentor (all types) - \$400

What are the requirements for continuing education for the IMH-E credential?

1. Ongoing membership in NJ-AIMH (or another IMH association)
2. Annual participation in 15 clock hours of culturally sensitive, relationship-focused training experiences that promote infant mental health.
3. For those endorsed at Levels II, II and IV-Clinical, annual participation in 12 clock hours of reflective supervision/consultation.

Questions? Please contact the Endorsement Coordinator at endorsement@nj-aimh.org. For general questions about the New Jersey Association for Infant Mental Health, please email info@nj-aimh.org