



Alliance for the Advancement of  
Infant Mental Health

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### Getting Started Form

This form is an optional (but strongly recommended) self-study to help assess your experiences and determine what additional specialized training might be necessary to meet the competencies and earn AK-AIMH Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health® (Endorsement).

1. **Read the Competency Guidelines** (MI-AIMH Copyright © 2017), and pay special attention to the requirements for the Endorsement category for which you are applying
2. **Review** your resume/vita, a copy of your unofficial transcripts, and gather your in-service training records
3. **Look at what you have done**, using the self-study grid below, and ask yourself if you have had a college/university course, an in-service training or a work experience that has contributed to your knowledge or skill in a particular area. For now, place a check mark in the appropriate box (or write short notes about the experience). These check marks will help you identify the competency areas once you begin work in your EASy Application. Consider where your strengths lie and what you need to do to “fill in the gaps” to develop greater competency as an Infant Family Associate (IFA), Infant Family Specialist (IFS), Infant Family Reflective Supervisor (IFRS), Infant Mental Health Specialist (IMHS) or Infant Mental Health Mentor (IMHM)
4. **Keep in mind** that during a formal application review, at least one trained application reviewer will comprehensively examine your materials and determine whether or not you have met the requirements and the competencies. All of the knowledge and skill areas are required (as specified for each category of Endorsement), but an application reviewer(s) will pay closest attention to those listed under *Theoretical Foundations* and *Direct Service Skills*. In general, when considering whether or not a knowledge/skill area has been “met,” the most weight is given to college courses, then to intensive or series in-services, then to shorter in-services, then conferences, then reference ratings, then work experience
5. **Identify gaps** i.e., competency areas where you feel you have not yet had enough specialized education or in-service training
6. **Find in-service training opportunities** to help you fill in any identified gaps in the knowledge/skill areas. Information about relevant training opportunities are advertised by AK-AIMH on a frequent basis.

AK-AIMH/Project Compass will be offering webinars in IECMH beginning September 2023. In addition, as an AK-AIMH member you have free access to over 60 hours of on line IECMH training.

<b>Theoretical Foundations</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)
pregnancy and early parenthood <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
infant/young child development and behavior <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
infant/young child & family-centered practice <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
relationship-based, therapeutic practice <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
family relationships & dynamics <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
attachment, separation, trauma, grief & loss <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
psychotherapeutic & behavioral theories of change <i>(IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
disorders of infancy/early childhood <i>(IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
mental & behavioral disorders-adults <i>(IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
cultural humility <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
adult learning theory & practice <i>(IMHM)</i>			
statistics <i>(IMHM)</i>			
research & evaluation <i>(IMHM)</i>			

<b>Law, Regulation &amp; Policy</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)
ethical practice <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
government, law & regulation <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
agency policy <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			

<b>Systems Expertise</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)
service delivery systems <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
community resources <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			

<b>Direct Service Skills</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)
observation & listening <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
screening & assessment <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
responding with empathy <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
intervention/treatment planning <i>(IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
developmental guidance <i>(IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
supportive counseling <i>(IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
parent-infant/very young child relationship-based therapies & practices <i>(IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
advocacy <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
life skills <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
safety <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>			
reflective supervision <i>(IFRS, IMHM - clinical)</i>			

<b>Working with Others</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)	RS/C
building & maintaining relationships <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
supporting others <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
mentoring <i>(IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
coaching & mentoring <i>(IFRS, IMHM)</i>				
collaborating <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
resolving conflict <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
crisis management <i>(IMHM)</i>				
empathy & compassion <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
consulting <i>(IMHM)</i>				

<b>Communicating</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)	RS/C
listening <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
speaking <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
writing <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
group process <i>(IFRS, IMHM)</i>				

<b>Thinking</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)	RS/C
analyzing information <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
solving problems <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
exercising sound judgment <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
maintaining perspective <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
planning & organizing <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				

<b>Reflection</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)	RS/C
contemplation <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
self awareness <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
curiosity <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
professional/personal development <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
emotional response <i>(IFA, IFS, IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				
parallel process <i>(IFRS, IMHS, IMHM)</i>				

Infant Mental Health Mentor only:

<b>Leading People</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)
motivating <i>(IFRS, IMHM)</i>			
advocacy <i>(IFRS, IMHM)</i>			
developing talent <i>(IFRS, IMHM)</i>			

<b>Administration</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)
program management <i>(IMHM - policy)</i>			
program development <i>(IMHM - policy)</i>			
program evaluation <i>(IMHM - policy)</i>			
program funding <i>(IMHM - policy)</i>			

<b>Research &amp; Evaluation</b>	Education	Work	In-service training(s)
study of infant relationships & attachment <i>(IMHM – research/faculty)</i>			
study of infant development & behavior <i>(IMHM – research/faculty)</i>			
study of families <i>(IMHM – research/faculty)</i>			