



Your IECMH Endorsement® Journey

What it is, how to apply, and how to maintain your credential

THIS GUIDE HAS DIFFERENT PARTS. TAKE ONE STEP AT A TIME.

You do not need to read everything at once. Start with Part 1. Return to the other parts when they match your current step.

1 WHAT IS ENDORSEMENT? Understand Endorsement and see the whole journey.	2 FIND YOUR PATH Identify the age designation and category that match your scope of work.	3 REGISTER IN EASy Complete the registration process.	4 APPLY IN EASy Enter, review, and submit your application.	5 YOUR ENDORSEMENT Understand credential use and renewal.
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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- ✓ You do not need to understand everything today.
- ✓ You can complete your application over time.
- ✓ Some sections apply only to certain categories.

WHERE TO GET HELP

Category, requirements, or accessibility support: Contact your Endorsement Coordinator.

Using EASy: Open Support → Knowledge Base.

Technical problem: Open Support → My Support Tickets.

No participating Endorsement organization in your state or country?

You may apply through the IECMH International Institute's Global [EASy Community](#).

PART 1: What is Endorsement?

The big picture before you make decisions or enter information.

What is IECMH Endorsement®?

IECMH Endorsement® is a competency-based professional credential for people who work with or on behalf of pregnant people, infants, young children, families, caregivers, professionals, programs, and systems. It recognizes specialized knowledge, skill, experience, and reflective practice within your existing role and discipline.

Endorsement is not a license.

It does not replace professional licensure, certification, employer requirements, or scope-of-practice rules. It recognizes IECMH specialization within the work you already do.

Who can apply?

Professionals across many roles and sectors may pursue Endorsement, including direct service, early intervention, home visiting, early care and education, health, behavioral health, child welfare, family support, reflective supervisors, leadership, policy, systems, and higher education.

Why pursue Endorsement?

- Make your specialized knowledge and experience visible.
- Use a clear roadmap for professional growth.
- Strengthen reflective, relationship-centered practice.
- Connect with a professional community and shared international system.
- Support career pathways, supervision, leadership, and workforce recognition.

Where your support comes from

- Your CERH Endorsement Coordinator for questions about choosing a category, requirements, documentation, or application progress.
- [Center for Early Relational Health \(CERH\)](#)
- The [EASy Knowledge Base](#) for frequently asked questions and answers
- Technical support tickets when something in EASy is not functioning as expected.

Your journey at a glance

1	Explore	Learn what Endorsement recognizes.
2	Choose	Identify the age designation and category that match your scope of work.
3	Register	Register for your Endorsement application in EASy.
4	Apply	Enter and save your information in EASy over time.
5	Review	A trained reviewer confirms requirements and competencies.
6	Earn	Use your credential and join the endorsed community.
7	Renew	Maintain active status through the renewal process.

You are finished with this part when: you understand the purpose of Endorsement, know where to get support, and understand the Endorsement process.

Your next step: Choose your age designation and category.

PART 2: Find your path

Choose the age designation and category that reflect the work you do now.

First choose the age designation:

IMH-E®	Pregnancy through age 3.
ECMH-E®	Ages 3 through 6.

Then choose the category that matches the work you do now, not only your title, degree, experience, or future goals. Categories describe different scopes of work, not levels of worth.

Family Associate	I promote healthy development, relationships, or IECMH-informed systems through direct service or community work.
Family Specialist	I provide prevention or early-intervention services with the infant/young child and caregiver together.
Mental Health Specialist	I provide dyadic relationship-focused mental health intervention and treatment with infants/young children and their caregivers.
Mentor — Clinical	I provide clinical leadership and reflective supervision/consultation (RSC).
Mentor — Policy	I lead policy, administration, program development, or systems change.
Mentor — Research/Faculty	I contribute through research, higher education, teaching, or academic leadership.
Endorsed Reflective Supervisor add-on	I am already endorsed and want to provide qualifying RSC to others.

Try using the [category helper](#) or the graphic on the following page to determine which Endorsement category might fit your scope of work. It is a starting point, and you are encouraged to review the [Competency Guidelines](#), category requirements, and connect with your Endorsement Coordinator to finalize your Endorsement category.

Which Endorsement Category Might Fit Your Work?

Start with what you do most often—not your job title.



AGE GROUP:

Primarily ages 0–3 → Infant designation

Primarily ages 3–6 → Early Childhood designation

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Do you work directly with a caregiver and child together?

YES

NO



Do you provide licensed or license-eligible relationship-based, dyadic clinical treatment?



Do you give direct support, education, or resources to individual children, caregivers, families, or students?

YES

YES

NO

YES

NO



MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

Clinical intervention and treatment with the caregiver–child relationship.



MENTOR–CLINICAL

Clinical mentoring, consultation, training, reflective supervision, or leadership grounded in prior clinical practice.



FAMILY SPECIALIST

Prevention or early support that strengthens the caregiver–child relationship.



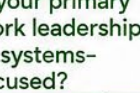
FAMILY ASSOCIATE

Promotion of healthy development, relationships, and social–emotional well-being.



MENTOR–POLICY

Policy, advocacy, funding, organizational change, or systems leadership.



MENTOR–RESEARCH/FACULTY

Research, university teaching, publication, or generation of IECMH knowledge.



This visual offers a starting point. Review the current Competency Guidelines and confirm your fit with an Endorsement Coordinator.

Requirements vary by category

Each category has its own combination of education, relevant work, specialized training, reflective supervision/consultation (RSC), leadership, references, and for Mental Health Mentor categories, an exam. Use the current requirements chart in the [competency guideline](#) to see the specific requirements for your category and age designation.

Education	Required for some categories. You may also use relevant coursework to demonstrate competencies.
Work	Required. Shows that your role and experience match the category's scope of practice.
Specialized training	Required. Documented IECMH learning and development across the Competency Framework.
RSC	Required for Family Specialist, Mental Health Specialist, Mental Health Mentor-Clinical, and Endorsed Reflective Supervisor. Recommended for Family Associate and Mental Health Mentor Policy and Research/Faculty.
Leadership	Required for Mentor categories and should align with the selected scope.
References	Required. Completed confidentially in EASy by people who know your work.
Exam	Required only for Mental Health Mentor categories.

You are finished with this part when: you have selected an age designation and category or contacted the Endorsement Coordinator for help choosing and you have reviewed your categories requirements.

Your next step: Begin gathering materials and register in EASy.

PART 3: Register in EASy

Use this section when you are ready to register.

Choose the correct EASy instance

- Go to <https://cerh.myeasy.org/register> and register your EASy Application
- Select Washington if this is your first time registering in EASy
- Do not create a second account if you have used EASy before. Log in with your existing account or connect with your Endorsement Coordinator if you need help logging in.

Register and access your account

- Complete registration and payment.
- Watch for an automated EASy email with access information. Check junk or filtered folders.
- Use your email address as your username when logging in and temporary password provided by EASy.
- Navigate to the top right of that page and select Profile to update your password to something you will remember.

You are finished with this part when: you have completed the registration process and received a confirmation message from EASy and your Endorsement Coordinator.

Your next step: After receiving your confirmation and Part 2 of the guide from your Endorsement Coordinator you can gather and enter information then submit your application.

PART 4: Apply in EASy

Use this section when you are ready to apply in EASy.

Gather materials

- A list of relevant jobs or roles, including dates and who you reported to.
- Title, date, hours, and provider for each IECMH training.
- Unofficial transcripts when education is required or you want to document relevant coursework.
- RSC dates, hours, format, and provider information when RSC applies to your category.
- Names and personal email addresses for reference raters.
- A current resume or CV, if it helps you organize your work or leadership history.

Complete the application over time

You do not have to enter everything all at once. Complete the application at a pace that works for you. While completing the application:

- Read the current requirements shown at the top of each section.
- Add and save entries as you gather information.
- Save frequently, especially before stepping away.
- Use the Competencies tab to monitor how your application addresses the competencies.

Specialized training

Training may come from workshops, conferences, courses, cohorts, higher education, employer-sponsored learning, or other relevant experiences. Focus on training that clearly relates to IECMH competencies and the age range connected to your application. IMH applications should address ages prenatal-3, while EC applications should address ages prenatal-6. The [Competency Guidelines](#) can help you identify which training to include.

RSC

RSC is a relationship-based professional practice that considers the emotional and relational dimensions of work. RSC is required for Family Specialist, Mental Health Specialist, Mental Health Mentor-Clinical, and Endorsed Reflective Supervisor. RSC is recommended for Family Associate and Mental Health Mentor Policy and Research/Faculty. When required, you will document both the experience and the qualifications of the provider.

- Confirm whether your category requires RSC.
- Confirm that the provider and experience meet the current requirements.
- Document qualifying hours connected to relevant work.
- Ask your Endorsement Coordinator when access or provider eligibility is unclear.

References

Choose people who know your work well enough to respond thoughtfully. Reference forms are completed electronically and remain confidential. Ask each person before entering their information.

- Add the reference, select “**Save**”, then select “**Send**.” Saving does not send the request.



- Use a personal email address when possible so automated messages are less likely to be blocked.
- Tell raters to expect a message from EASy and to check junk or filtered folders. Confirm that EASy shows the form as received.
- Allow at least 2–3 weeks before your planned submission date.

Exam preparation

Only Mental Health Mentor categories complete an exam. The exam is rigorous, but it should not be mysterious. Applicants receive information about the format, timing, permitted materials, technology, accommodations, and preparation resources.

Review before submitting

- Your age designation and category are correct.
- Required work, education, training, leadership, and RSC information have been entered.
- Documents you intend to use are uploaded.
- All required references show as received.
- You reviewed the exact requirements. A green tab means information was entered; it does not confirm that requirements were met.
- Your contact information is current.

Submit and pay

- Open the Status section and review anything EASy identifies as missing.
- Select “Submit” when the button becomes available.

- Submit payment.
- Receive a confirmation and expected review timeline message from your Endorsement Coordinator.

Application review

- A trained, endorsed reviewer evaluates whether the application demonstrates the requirements and competencies for the category.
- Application and reference information is handled confidentially.
- Your Endorsement Coordinator may ask for clarification or additional information. This is a normal part of review.
- Your Endorsement Coordinator will provide written feedback within 4-6 weeks indicating whether requirements for Endorsement were met.
- Applicants in exam categories are notified when they are approved to sit for the exam. You will receive information on scheduling, technology, preparation, accessibility, scoring, results, and retake information.

Get the right kind of help

Question about categories, requirements, documentation, or progress	*Join Office Hours offered on Thursdays at 11am Join Here Contact your Endorsement Coordinator at endorsement@cerh.com
How do I complete a task in EASy?	Open Support → Knowledge Base for detailed instructions and common questions.
Something is not functioning correctly	Use My Support Tickets to report a technical problem.
Guided support completing the application	*Join LIVE Application Support Sessions offered on Thursdays at 10am Join Here

**Changes to these times will be posted on the EASy Homepage*

You are finished with this part when: you have submitted your application and received a confirmation message with an expected review timeline from your Endorsement Coordinator.

Your next step: Monitor your email for questions or updates from the Endorsement Coordinator.

PART 5: Using and maintaining your Endorsement

Use this section when you have earned Endorsement.

Using your credential

After you are officially endorsed, you may use the Endorsement you earned in your email signature, resume, professional biography, and social media. Your name will appear in the Endorsement Registry in EASy.

Example	Category shown
Jane Doe, IMH-E® Infant Mental Health Specialist	Infant Mental Health Specialist
Jon Doe, MSW, ECMH-E® Early Childhood Family Associate	Early Childhood Family Associate
Jane Doe, IECMH-E® Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor-Policy	Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor-Policy
Jon Doe, IMH-E® Infant Family Specialist and Endorsed Reflective Supervisor	Infant Family Specialist with ERS add-on

Wait for confirmation: Do not use the Endorsement signature until the Endorsement Coordinator confirms that Endorsement has been earned. The Endorsement signature may only be used while your Endorsement is in good standing. If you do not renew your Endorsement, you cannot use the Endorsement signature until you reinstate it.

Renewal

Renewal keeps your credential active and supports continued connection to learning, reflective practice, and the professional community. Renewal uses a fixed three-year cycle: 2024, 2027, 2030, 2033, and so forth. In a renewal year, the window opens October 1 and closes December 31. **The next renewal deadline is December 31, 2027.** If you are endorsed partway through a renewal cycle, you may owe a prorated portion of the requirements based on the number of years you have been endorsed by the renewal deadline. Confirm the amount in EASy or with your Endorsement Coordinator.

Moving or changing your professional home

Endorsement is designed to travel across participating AIMHs. When you move, your membership and renewal relationship may transfer to the AIMH serving your new location. When no participating AIMH serves the new location, the [IECMH International Institute](#) can help identify the next step.

Adding another Endorsement

You may pursue another age designation or category when your qualifying work supports it. Use your existing EASy account rather than registering again and contact your Endorsement Coordinator to open or confirm the additional application.

Code of Ethics and professional responsibility

Applicants and endorsed professionals agree to uphold the current Endorsement Code of Ethics and related professional responsibilities. Review the full current document in EASy or through the Institute's official resources.

You are finished with this part when: You understand what happens during review, know how you will receive updates or requests, and know the next steps for using and maintaining your credential after approval.

Your next step: Save the current renewal information and follow renewal instructions from your AIMH or the IECMH International Institute.

Appendix A: Troubleshooting

Questions, delays, and uncertainty can happen in any application. Reaching out to your Endorsement Coordinator is encouraged. You deserve a clear response and enough information to identify your next step.

Question	Next step
I did not receive a password.	Check spam or junk, confirm payment and membership requirements, then contact your Endorsement Coordinator.
I registered in the wrong AIMH.	Do not create another account. Contact your Endorsement Coordinator for help.
My reference did not receive the form.	Confirm the address, ask them to check spam, and verify that you selected both Save and Send.
My tab is green. Am I finished?	Not necessarily. Green only confirms that EASy detected entered information. Compare the entry with all category requirements.
I cannot see the Submit button.	Scroll to the bottom of the Dashboard and review the list of missing items.
I changed jobs while applying.	Update your Work and Details information and ask the Endorsement Coordinator whether references or qualifying dates need to change.
I am unsure whether RSC qualifies.	Ask the provider and the Endorsement Coordinator before relying on the hours.
I cannot locate a qualified RSC provider.	Check CERH's RSC Registry , the Alliance's RSC Registry , or your Endorsement Coordinator for help connecting with qualified providers.
I need an accommodation or another format.	Contact your Endorsement Coordinator to ask what accessibility, language, or format supports are available.
Cost is a barrier.	Ask your Endorsement Coordinator about scholarships, coupons, alternate payment, and support options.
My entries/competencies won't save.	Try selecting a few competencies at a time, then saving, then selecting a few more. You can also try refreshing your page.

APPENDIX B: History

A brief note honoring the development and management of the shared system.

The Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health developed the original Competency Guidelines and Endorsement system beginning in 2002 through decades of leadership, practice wisdom, collaboration, and investment. Associations for Infant Mental Health across states and countries adopted, strengthened, and invested in the shared system.

For approximately a decade, the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health supported shared management and coordination of Endorsement across participating AIMHs. We are grateful to the Alliance staff, leaders, and AIMH partners whose commitment and care helped sustain, strengthen, and expand the shared system during that chapter. Building on this, the IECMH International Institute now provides the dedicated international home for stewardship of the IECMH Competency Framework®, IECMH Endorsement®, shared EASy infrastructure, learning, quality improvement, and partnership across the network.

Shared standards. Local leadership.

Participating AIMHs continue to provide local relationships, membership, workforce leadership, and applicant support while the Institute maintains shared information, infrastructure, reciprocity, and system-wide resources.

CERH Annual Membership Costs:

AIMH membership is required to earn and maintain your Endorsement.

Individual Member	\$100
Student or Retiree	\$25
Organizational Membership	Varies, please contact sahkiya.brakebill@akinfamily.org

Endorsement Fees:

- **Registration Fee** is paid only once, when you register as a new user in EASy. There is no registration fee for additional applications registered.
- **Processing Fee** is paid once you've submitted your application.
- **Reinstatement Fee** is charged after your endorsement has been removed from the Endorsement Registry; you would like to reinstate your endorsement and be added back to the registry. **Endorsement Renewal is included in your Annual Membership.**

Category	Registration Fee	Processing Fee	Reinstatement Fee
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Infant or Early Childhood Family Associate	\$25	\$25	\$100
Infant or Early Childhood Family Specialist	\$25	\$100	\$100
Infant or Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist	\$25	\$100	\$100
Infant or Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor Clinical	\$25	\$200	\$100
Infant or Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor Policy	\$25	\$200	\$100
Infant or Early Childhood Mental Health Mentor Research/Faculty	\$25	\$200	\$100
Endorsed Reflective Supervisor	\$25	\$50	\$100

Resources:

Membership is required for Endorsement. [Become a CERH member today](#)

[Membership Benefits](#)

[Endorsement Benefits in Washington State](#)

[Endorsement FAQs](#)

[Endorsement Fees](#)