

Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health



OK-AIMH Levels of Competency

	Level 1 Infant Family Associate	Level 2 Infant Family Specialist	Level 3 Infant Mental Health Specialist	Level 4 Infant Mental Health Mentor
Minimum Educational Experience	CDA or Associate's	Bachelor's	Master's or Ph.D.	Master's, Ph.D., or MD
Work Experience	Two years early childhood	Two years early childhood	Two years post-graduate	Three years post-graduate
In-service Training/C.E.	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours
Signed Code of Ethics	yes	yes	yes	yes
Reflective Supervision and/or Consultation	N/A	Minimum 24 clock hours within a 2 year time frame	Minimum 50 clock hours within a 2 year time frame	Minimum 50 clock hours within a 2 year time frame
Reference Ratings	3 (at least 1 must meet requirements for Endorsement at Level 3 or 4)	3 (at least 1 must meet requirements for Endorsement at Level 3 or 4)	3 (at least one must be from supervisor/consultant guiding reflective practice)	3 (clinical leader: at least one must be from supervisor/consultant guiding reflective practice)
Written Exam	no	no	yes	yes
Service Examples	<u>Promotion</u> Childcare worker and nanny, play group leader, Doula, family support specialist, Early/Head Start teacher, children's librarian, OK Parents As Teachers (OPAT)	<u>Prevention/Intervention</u> Home visitor (OCAP, C-1, OPAT), NICU nurse, parent educator, Child Protective Services worker, Systems of Care coordinator, Sooner Start staff, Early/Head Start family support worker, CASA	<u>Intervention/Treatment</u> Mental health clinician, lactation consultant, early intervention provider, child development specialist	<u>Leadership</u> Infant/family program supervisor, administrator, researcher, faculty member, policy specialist, physician, state and agency directors

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Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health

OK-AIMH's mission is to ensure that all Oklahoma children will be emotionally healthy, equipped to learn, and nurtured to develop their full potential. OK-AIMH was incorporated in 1991 to promote the optimal development and wellness of the child and family through prevention, identification, treatment and support and to encourage cooperation and collaboration with all Oklahoma service systems that serve children and families. OK-AIMH works to implement the Oklahoma Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Plan for Improving Early Identification and Treatment (2007).

Endorsement Fee Schedule

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Application Fee	\$ 15	\$ 15	\$ 25	\$ 25
Endorsement Fee	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$200	\$300
Total Fee	\$ 40	\$ 65	\$225	\$325

OK-AIMH gratefully acknowledges the support from the MI-AIMH.

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Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
OKDHS, Oklahoma Child Care Services
Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth
Smart Start Oklahoma

OK-AIMH Making a Difference

To ensure that all Oklahoma children are emotionally healthy, equipped to learn and nurtured to develop their full potential.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the OK-AIMH Endorsement Process?

A process that supports the development and recognition of infant and family professionals within an organized system of culturally sensitive, relationship-based learning and work experiences that promote infant mental health.

Who will be able to apply?

All Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health members and members from other IMH associations who have experience working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, parents and/or other caregivers and meet the educational training and reflective supervision requirements as specified at each level.

Why apply for the OK-AIMH Endorsement?

Neurons to Neighborhoods (Shonkoff & Phillips, 2000), reports there is a critical shortage of well trained professionals who have the knowledge, skills and supervised work experience to promote healthy social and emotional development, and to intervene and treat serious early childhood mental health problems. By engaging in the endorsement system, you will:

- Grow and develop as a professional in the rapidly expanding infant and family service field.
- Be recognized by employers and peers for having attained a level of competency in culturally sensitive, relationship-based practice that promotes infant mental health.
- Become a part of one of the first and most comprehensive efforts to identify best practice competencies at multiple levels and across disciplines and to offer a pathway for professional development in the infant and family field.

What is Reflective Practice?

Interest in reflective practice and supervisory support is growing as rapidly as interest in the social and emotional well being of babies, toddlers and preschool age children. Whether trained as a mental health professional, a health professional, a social worker or an early childhood professional, if you are working with children birth to age five and their families, you will benefit from supportive consultation to help you better understand yourself in relationship to the very young children and families with whom you work. Reflective practice focuses on the development of relationships that support growth and development between supervisors and staff, staff and families, and parents and children. It is within these relationships that learning and change is able to take place. It is more a way of being than a way of doing (Zero to Three).

If I already have a license or certification, why would I need this additional endorsement?

- The Oklahoma Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Plan for Improving Early Identification and Treatment supports the OK-AIMH Endorsement system. Public funding sources (i.e. Medicaid, managed care) will recognize and require that providers are either endorsed by OK-AIMH or engaged in the endorsement process.
- If you work with infants, toddlers and their caregivers in any capacity, the endorsement process supports you to substantiate your current level of competence related to this important work and guides you to enhance your competencies for subsequent levels.
- Oklahoma's infants, toddlers and families expect and deserve a competent workforce with skills specific to their earliest needs. Endorsement is one way to demonstrate your commitment to quality infant family services.

What do I do to get started?

The steps to the OK-AIMH Endorsement Process are:

1. Inquiry – a letter or email message
2. Application – these materials will be sent to you by OK-AIMH
3. Preparation of a portfolio – Assistance will be provided by your assigned advisor
4. Documentation of Competencies
5. Written exam – for levels 3 and 4
6. Endorsement – Once endorsed, you will be expected to submit documentation of at least 15 hours of professional development related to culturally sensitive, relationship-based practices that promote infant mental health.

* Check periodically with www.ok-aimh to see when we will begin taking applications.