



What Happens in the Early Years Matters Forever

**The Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health currently accepts Endorsement® applications once per year. Deadline to apply is April 15th. Notified of status by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Begin process in July.**

## Infant Mental Health Endorsement® Steps to Apply

The Infant Mental Health Endorsement® is for providers who live in Virginia and work with children birth to 36 months. Please review the following chart by looking at the education and work requirements for each of the 4 categories of Endorsement® and find the category that most closely aligns with your education and work experience. You will use this category on your application. If you have any questions, please contact the Virginia Infant Mental Health Endorsement Coordinator: Pam Booker | [vaendorsement@vcu.edu](mailto:vaendorsement@vcu.edu).

Please refer to the [Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health®](#) Competency Guidelines located in the Endorsement® section of the [Early Childhood Mental Health VA](#) (ECMHVA) website.

The following chart is meant to be a quick overview of the information you need to determine the category of Endorsement® needed on your application. Complete information can be found in the Competency Guidelines referenced above.

	IFA	IFS	IMHS	IMHM		
	Infant Family Associate	Infant Family Specialist	Infant Mental Health Specialist	IV-C Clinical	IV-P Policy	IV-R/F Research/Faculty
	PROMOTION	PREVENTION	MENTAL HEALTH Treatment & Intervention	LEADERSHIP		
	Typically for someone with at least 2 years of experience with infants/toddlers birth-36 months but no degree; or  Someone with the Child Development Associate Credential (CDA); or  Someone with an Associates, Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree with little (<2 years) or no work experience with children birth-36 months.	Typically for someone whose work experience comes from programs that provide education, support, and/or consultation to early care and education providers, or whose intent is primarily to educate parents.	Typically for someone with licensure as a Mental Health Clinician and/or whose role includes intervention or treatment of the child's primary caregiver relationship (i.e., biological, foster, or adoptive parent or guardian).	Practice leaders who provide reflective supervision or consultation to practitioners in the infant and family field ( <b>IV-Clinical</b> ); or  Typically for practice leaders in policies and programs ( <b>IV-Policy</b> ); or  Practice leaders in research, evaluation, and teaching ( <b>IV-Research/Faculty</b> ).		

Education Requirements						
	IFA Infant Family Associate	IFS Infant Family Specialist	IMHS Infant Mental Health Specialist	IMHM Infant Mental Health Mentor		
				IV-C Clinical	IV-P Policy	IV-R/F Research/Faculty
<p><i>Official transcripts are required from any college/university where a degree was earned.</i></p> <p><i>If no degree was earned, but coursework relevant to the competencies were completed, an applicant may want to request those official transcripts.</i></p>	<p>CDA credential; or Associates, Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree with little (&lt;2 years) to no work experience with infants birth-36 months; or</p> <p>2 years paid work experience with infants birth-36 months and no CDA or degree.</p>	<p>The minimum requirement is a BA, BS, BSW, or BSN.</p> <p>Other accepted degrees include: MA, MS, MSW, Med, MSN, MAS, PhD, EdD, or PsyD.</p>	<p>The minimum requirement is a MA, MS, Med, EdD, MSW, MSN, PsyD, PhD, MD, DO, or other degree specific to one's professional focus in IMH;</p> <p>University certificate program; and/or</p> <p>Coursework in areas such as infant development (prenatal up to 36 mos.), family-centered practice, cultural sensitivity, family relationships and dynamics, and assessment and intervention.</p>	<p>The minimum requirement is a MA, MS, Med, EdD, MSW, MSN, PsyD, PhD, MD, DO, or other degree specific to one's professional focus in IMH, postgraduate specialization, or university certificate program.</p>		

Specialized Work Experience					
IFA	IFS	IMHS	IMHM		
			IV-C	IV-P	IV-R/F
<p>Minimum of 2 years of paid work experience with infants birth-36 mos.</p> <p>If no work experience, a CDA credential, Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, and/or Doctorate degree.</p> <p><i>Volunteer experience may meet this criterion if it was a supervised experience with infants/toddlers birth-36 months and their families, and included specialized training.</i></p>	<p>Minimum of 2 years of paid, post-Bachelor's, professional work experience providing prevention and/or early intervention services that promote infant mental health.</p> <p>Applicant has served a minimum of 10 families where the target of services is an infant/toddler (birth - 36 mos.) or the supervision of staff who provide services to infants/toddlers (birth-36 months) and their families.</p> <p>A primary focus of the services provided is the social-emotional needs of the infant/toddler; and</p> <p>Services focus on the promotion of the relationships surrounding the infant/toddler.</p>	<p>Minimum of 2 years of post-graduate, supervised paid work experience providing culturally sensitive, relationship-focused, infant mental health services.</p> <p>Specialized work experience must be with both the infant/toddler (birth-36 mos.) and his/her biological, foster, or adoptive parent(s) or guardian(s) on behalf of the parent-infant relationship.</p> <p>Infant mental health services include parent-infant/child relationship-based therapies and practices and early relationship assessment and can include concrete assistance, advocacy, emotional support, and developmental guidance.</p> <p>These therapies and practices are intended to explicitly address issues related to attachment, separation, trauma, and unresolved grief and losses as they affect the attachment relations, development, behavior, and care of the child.</p> <p>The unresolved losses might be from adverse childhood experiences that occurred during the caregivers' own early childhood or may be more recent for the child. Strong feelings, such as grief and loss. could also be associated with diagnosis or manifestations of a chronic illness, delay, or disability.</p>	<p>Meets specialized work experience criteria as specified for prevention and/or early intervention services that promote infant mental health.</p> <p>Applicant has served a minimum of 10 families or supervised staff where the target of services is an infant/toddler (birth-36 mos.) and has 3 years of post-graduate experience providing IMH reflective supervision /consultation (RS/C).</p> <p>Also required are leadership activities at the regional or state level.</p>	<p>Minimum 3 years of post-graduate experience as a leader in policy and/or program administration related to the promotion of early childhood mental health principles and practices in the context of family and other caregiving relationships across systems.</p> <p>Also required are leadership activities at the regional or state level.</p>	<p>Minimum 3 years of post-graduate experience as a leader in university, teaching, and/or published research related to early childhood mental health principles and practices in the context of family and other caregiving relationships.</p> <p>Also required are leadership activities at the regional or state level.</p>

## Steps to Apply

1. **Obtain** your Supervisor's approval to pursue your IMH Endorsement.
2. **Print** this document so you have it available with you at your computer to refer to for the remaining steps.
3. **Review** the [Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health Competency Guidelines](#) for more detailed information for each category.
4. **Update** your resume so it is ready to upload with your application.
5. **Join** the Virginia Association for Infant Mental Health (VAIMH). The Endorsement® requires that you are a member of your state's Association for Infant Mental Health for both your initial Endorsement and the renewal of your Endorsement once it is received. VAIMH membership is an annual membership cycle due each January covering January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>.

[Link to VAIMH Website](#)

[Link to Join VAIMH](#)

6. **Submit** your application in the online Endorsement Application System (EASy):  
<https://vaimh.myeasy.org>

VAIMH EASy 6.0 Login Register Support

### Endorsement Application System

Virginia

This is the Virginia version of EASy. If you are applying in another state, please be sure to select that state from the drop-down below.

**Welcome to EASy 6.0!**  
EASy will now be located at <https://vaimh.myeasy.org> – your user profiles, Endorsement® applications and all data from the old server are here and ready for you to continue your Endorsement® application, manage your renewals and memberships.

Your username and password remain the same (although if you are using a password service you may need to re-enter it here at the new address). While traffic to the old server should redirect here, you may want to update any bookmarks/links to use the new address.

**New Applicant?** [Click here to Register](#)

**Returning users**

Username

Password

**Announcements**

Welcome to Virginia's Endorsement Online System.

Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health

You are joining an international group of professionals who have chosen to earn the Endorsement® credential as a way to demonstrate specialization in the infant-early childhood mental health field. Endorsement® was developed by the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health in 2002 and is now used by 29 state IMH associations and 2 international associations. Each of those associations is a member of the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health.

Through the Alliance, this means that your Endorsement® is recognized in each of those 31 associations! Learn more: [allianceaimh.org](http://allianceaimh.org).

**Endorsement Category:** At the dropdown menu, you will need to enter your category as determined by the above qualifications. **In addition to your \$60 VAIMH Membership Fee, you will need to submit, through EASy, a \$50 Endorsement Application fee.**

VAMH EASy 6.0   [Login](#)   [Register](#)   [Support](#)

## Endorsement Category\*

Please select the category for which you are applying\*

Choose one...
Select your category here
▼

## Personal Information\*

**First Name\***

**Last Name\***

**Daytime Telephone\***

**Evening Telephone**

**Email\***

✖

Please use a personal email address (yahoo, gmail, etc.) as many agency email servers block emails from EASy.

**Address\***

**City\***

**State\***

Virginia

**Postal Code\***

**Primary Discipline\***

Choose one...
▼

**Field employed\***

Choose one...
▼

## Education (check one or more)\*

<input type="checkbox"/> HS diploma High School Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> BSW Bachelor of Social Work	<div style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 0.8em;">Infant Mental Health Certificate</div> <input type="checkbox"/> IMH Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/> GED General Education Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> MSW Master of Social Work	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD Doctor of Philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> CDA Child Development Associate	<input type="checkbox"/> MA Master of Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> MD Medical Doctor
<input type="checkbox"/> AD Associate's Degree	<input type="checkbox"/> MS Master of Science	<input type="checkbox"/> PsyD Doctor of Psychology
<input type="checkbox"/> BA Bachelor of Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> MSN Master of Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/> JD Juris Doctor (Law)
<input type="checkbox"/> BS Bachelor of Science	<input type="checkbox"/> MEd Master of Education	<input type="checkbox"/> other

**Year highest degree earned**

1950
▼

**Institution**

## Work Experience(s) with/related to infants, toddlers and their families\*

Please provide a brief description of your work experience with pregnant women, infants, young children and their families:

<b>Title*</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Title</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Responsibilities*</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Responsibilities</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Start Date*</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Start Date</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>End Date</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>End Date</b>	<input type="text"/>

**Reflective Supervision/Consultation:** You will be assigned a Reflective Supervisor who meets the Endorsement Requirements. If you have received Reflective Supervision in the past, please fill out the requested information and contact the Endorsement Administrator at [vaendorsement@vcu.edu](mailto:vaendorsement@vcu.edu) to verify if it will count toward meeting some or all of the Endorsement® requirements.

<i>Reflective supervision/consultation:</i>	<i>Additional:</i>
Provider	Provider
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Start Date	Start Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
End Date	End Date
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total hours (group and/or individual)	Total hours (group and/or individual)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Provider Credentials	Provider Credentials
Choose one... <input type="text"/>	Choose one... <input type="text"/>

### Documentation: Resume & VAIMH Membership

- **A resume is required in Virginia.** We cannot move forward with your application without a current resume or curriculum vitae.
- If you have not already submitted your VAIMH Membership Application and Payment, please refer to **Step 2** in the instructions above.
- **Note:** Each time you renew your VAIMH membership, you are responsible for updating your Membership Expiration Date in EASy.

## Documentation

You may attach a résumé or curriculum vitae. This is recommended if you have more than 3 relevant paid work experiences.

**Upload file\*** A resume is required in order to move forwarding your processing your application.

Choose File No file chosen

File should be in .PDF, .DOC, .DOCX or .RTF format

## Membership

Your VAIMH Membership is current?\*

Choose one...

**Expires\***

mm/dd/yyyy

You must join or renew membership to VAIMH (or another infant mental health association) when submitting this preliminary application.

**Verification\***

I'm not a robot



Please review and verify all data before submitting!

Cancel

Submit

**Payment:** Upon clicking on “**Submit**”, please click on “**View Cart**” to review, and pay your non-refundable \$50 Application Fee using a credit/debit card (via PayPal), check or money order (“**Alternate Payment**”), or indicate that your fees are being paid via “**Scholarship**”.

VAIMH EASy 5.2 Login Register Support Cart 1

Welcome

# Cart

[Credit/Debit card](#) [Alternate payment](#) [Scholarship](#)

Quantity	Item	Cost
1	EASy Endorsement Registration Fee, Category I: Infant Family Associate	\$50.00
		<b>Total \$50.00</b>

Coupon code\*  [Apply](#)

Please note! PayPal payments will require you to leave the EASy application, and complete your transaction on the PayPal servers.

[Checkout with PayPal »](#)

## Completion:

You will receive a confirmation email from EASy notifying you that your application has been received. If you do not receive this notification within one day of clicking the “Submit” button, please contact the Virginia Infant Mental Health Endorsement Coordinator.

**In order for your Endorsement application to be considered complete and eligible for an Endorsement slot, the following are required:**

- Resume;
- Payment for the Endorsement Application Fee (\$50); and,
- VAIMH Membership Application and Annual Fee (\$60).

## Important Dates

<b>April 15</b>	Endorsement Application Deadline
<b>By May 31</b>	Notification of Application Acceptance Status
<b>July, August, &amp; September</b>	Endorsement Orientation for Accepted Endorsees <i>(Part I, II, &amp; III – Monthly 1.5-hour webinars)</i>
<b>By September 30</b>	Endorsement Advisors will be in contact with their assigned individuals
<b>By October 31</b>	Advisor Check-Ins Begin

## Average period before full Endorsement:

Typically 1 year for Categories I & II

Typically 2 years for Categories III & IV

### For questions or assistance, please contact:

Pam Booker, M.Ed., Infant Family Specialist, IMH-E®  
Virginia Infant Mental Health Endorsement Coordinator

[vaendorsement@vcu.edu](mailto:vaendorsement@vcu.edu)

[Early Childhood Mental Health VA](#)