



## VAIMH Endorsement® Infant and Early Childhood Family Associate (I/ECFA)

### Promotion

This category of Endorsement can be most appropriate for those whose work has a primary focus on promotion. Promotion services encourage and support social-emotional wellness in a multitude of ways (e.g., Early Care and Education, Administration, Case Management, Wraparound Services, Child Welfare, etc.).

“Family Associates work to promote healthy growth, development, and relationships. They use their IECMH expertise to support infants/young children, caregivers, systems and other IECMH professionals through direct service and/or macro work.” – The Alliance

### Education

Any academic degree, including Associates, Bachelors, Masters, or Doctorate

OR

Transcript from Child Development Associate (CDA)

OR

### Work Experience

Minimum 2-years of infant (birth-36 months) / early childhood-related (age 3 up to 6-year-olds) paid work experience.

Volunteer experience may meet this criterion if it was supervised experience with women during pregnancy or with infants, toddlers, young children, and families and included specialized training (e.g., CASA, Doula, Child Life Specialist, etc.).

### Leadership

N/A

### Trainings

**Minimum 30 clock hours of relationship-based training/continuing education that meet competencies as specified in the Competency Guidelines.** <https://www.vaimh.org/competency-guidelines>

Training content will encompass the promotion of social-emotional development and the relationship-based principles and practices of I/ECMH. In addition to the 30 clock hours of relationship-based training/continuing education, the following is also required:

- A minimum of 3 hours addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in infant/early childhood mental health.

Typically, successful FA applications include an **average of 40 or more** hours of specialized training.

### Reflective Supervision

Not required. However, VAIMH recommends that all infant/early childhood professionals seek RSC.

### References *(this is the last step in the Endorsement Application process)*

**Total of three professional reference ratings from:**

1. a current supervisor
2. a person providing RS/C to you. (If not applicable, you may ask a colleague.)
3. a colleague, parent/recipient of services (paid or volunteer), teacher, CDA mentor, or Board Member

Sample Rating Forms: [IFA](#) [ECFA](#)

## Exam

No

### Annual Renewal

**Applicants** (*those in process of attaining Endorsement*): <https://www.vaimh.org/vaimh-membership>

1. Renew VAIMH Membership annually by December 31.

**Endorsees** (*those already Endorsed*):

Endorsees commit to the ongoing process dedicated to annual professional development as it relates to IECMH principles through:

1. **VAIMH Membership Renewal:** <https://www.vaimh.org/vaimh-membership>
  - annually by December 31
2. **Training/Professional Development:** <https://www.vaimh.org/endorsement-renewal>
  - minimum of 12 training hours received per year of relationship-based education and training pertaining to the promotion of social-emotional development and/or the practice of IECMH.
  - minimum of 3 hours of training related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in IECMH.

Endorsements are renewed every three years (beginning in 2024). In 2027 endorsees will attest to having received 45 hours of training between January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027. These hours will be prorated for applicants who earn Endorsement in the “in-between” years.