

Why Should WV Home Visiting Professionals Consider Infant Mental Health Endorsement?



Myth: Endorsement is only for those who have lots of degrees and experience.

FACT: Neuroscience tells us that the first three years of life are critical to lifelong health and well-being, making the role and responsibilities of home visiting professionals incredibly important to family and community success. The IMH Endorsement® recognizes professionals who work with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. It's the largest and most recognized IMH credentialing system in the United States, and it's available to you here in West Virginia! Anyone on the home visitation team can work toward earning Endorsement, including supervisors, home support workers, and service coordinators.

The IMH Competencies® naturally align with Home Visiting practices

IMH-Endorsement® supports the belief that positive social-emotional development is foundational to other learning, and that healthy development happens within the context of nurturing relationships and environments.

IMH competencies® provide a professional development "road map" for acquiring the knowledge and skills needed to attend to the often complex nature of early social and emotional development and parent-child relationships.

IMH-E® acknowledges that when intervening with the dyad, awareness of one's own powerful attitudes and feelings is as essential as the acquisition of scientific knowledge and therapeutic skills.

IMH-E® recognizes the value of reflection and self-care. IMH-E® requires the integration of reflective practices which further prepares home visiting professionals to be present with families, and hold those families who are experiencing tender emotions as they step into the challenges and joys of parenthood.

Why should I pursue Endorsement?

Good for You: Earning IMH-E® enhances your credibility and confidence in working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, and their families. You'll gain recognition and belong to a cross-systems, multi-disciplinary network of Endorsed professionals in WV.

Good for Babies and Families: Infants, toddlers, and families receive culturally sensitive, relationship-based home visiting services provided by a workforce that demonstrates a common set of core competencies.

Good for Communities: IMH-E® provides assurance to families that home visiting professionals meet high standards of care and are prepared to support optimal development of infants, young children, and their families.

Good for Home Visiting Programs: IMH-E® professionalizes the home visiting field and ensures consistency of professional standards across programs, no matter the home visiting model, location, or discipline.

For more information, please contact the West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association or visit www.nurturingwvbabies.org

Special thanks to the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health for sharing information