



## 1 What is the goal of Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential?

The goal of the Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential is to implement a set of skills and core competencies that are developmentally appropriate and are anchored in relationship-based practices that support the needs of infants and caregivers to reach their greatest wellness.

## 2 Why is this important?

Ohio's recognizes the need for early childhood system professionals to have specialized skills and training for working with Ohio's pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. Toward this goal, the Ohio Infant Mental Health Credentials are accessible to all early childhood professionals in Ohio and are tiered to the right scope of practice for each service delivery system partner.

## 3 What will this enable me to do?

After completion, submission, and approval of all documentation in Ohio's Professional Registry (OPR) of the educational, work experience, and training requirements; candidates will be able to add the appropriate credential to their credentials: Ohio Infant Family Associate I (OIFA-I); Ohio Infant Family Specialist II (OIFS-II); or Ohio Infant Mental Health Specialist III (OIMHS-III). This will enable staff to work in roles that support infants and their caregivers' positive outcomes.

## 4 Who can apply for the Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential? Is there a cost?

Any early childhood system partner working in child care and early learning and education, home visiting, community health workers, early intervention, maternal health, infant and early childhood mental health, primary health nursing and physicians, occupational therapists, and other allied health professionals are all eligible to apply. There are no fees to apply and all approved training is offered for free through the OPR or state sponsored online resources.

## 5 Is this a license or credential?

No, it is not a license. It is an Ohio-based credential to supplement the Home Visitor, Early Intervention, and Early Childhood Mental Health Credentials.

## 6 Is this the same as the Alliance or Michigan Model of Infant Mental Health?

No, however for Ohio early childhood practitioners it serves the same purpose.

## 7 How often is it renewed?

Every 2 years (or bi-annual), renewal of the Ohio Infant Credential will require completion of 15 clock hours in the core competency areas with at least one clock hour for each core competency content area: relationship-based education, infant observation, social emotional development, cultural, linguistic and trauma informed competency.

## 8 When may I apply and how?

Beginning in March 2020, applications will open through the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association's (OCCRRA) Ohio Professional Registry. Applicants will need a to create a profile and have an OPN.

