



The Ohio Infant **Mental Health** CREDENTIAL



Our Goal

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

Every early childhood system partner including providers of child care, early learning and education, home visiting, early intervention, maternal health, and infant and early childhood mental health plays a key role in the achievement of good infant/caregiver outcomes.

Ohio recognizes the need for early childhood system professionals to have specialized skills and training while working with Ohio's pregnant women, infants, and toddlers. As such, the Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential is accessible to all Ohio early childhood professionals and is leveled to the right scope of practice for each service-delivery system partner.



The Three Ohio Levels

- Ohio Infant Family Affiliate Level I (OIFA-I)
- Ohio Infant Family Practitioner Level II (OIFP-II)
- Ohio Infant Mental Health Practitioner Level III (OIMHP - III)



“Babies thrive when communities support professionals with key skills they need to provide comprehensive, integrated care to ALL families. Working together, we build a solid foundation for life.”

– Erin Lucas, Early Childhood Programs
Director, Hopewell Health Centers, Inc.

Ohio Infant Family Affiliate Level I (OIFA-I)

I

SCREENING LEVEL



This is the Entry Level for the Ohio Infant Credential. An Ohio Infant Family Affiliate Level I (OIFA-I) will perform screening functions and work within a defined early childhood role or position and scope of practice in a state program, funded agency, or other provider organization.

Ohio Infant Family Affiliate Level I (OIFA-I) will provide primary screening and/or support services, identify and refer families to the appropriate system services. An Ohio Infant Family Affiliate supports positive parenting skills and overall child development and will follow-up with providers, parents, and caregivers on securing the necessary services and supports.

Professionals for this entry-level credential may include: community health worker, home visitor, medical assistant, child care provider, early intervention service coordinator, child protective or other case worker, resource and referral specialist, early learning professional or other licensed health practitioner.

The Infant Family Affiliate Level I (OIFA-I) candidates must have documentation of a high school diploma, GED or Child Development Associate (CDA), or Associate degree or higher. Additionally, they should have two years of infant and early childhood work experience. In order to obtain the OIFA-I, candidates will complete 20 hours of required training. Participation in reflective practices or an appropriate learning community of practice is recommended.

Ohio Infant Family Practitioner Level II (OIFP-II)

II

ASSESSMENT / EARLY INTERVENTION LEVEL

The Ohio Infant Family Practitioner Level II (OIFP-II) is the Mid-Level Ohio Infant Credential. An Ohio Infant Family Practitioner Level II (OIFP-II) will assess and intervene with families and work within a defined early childhood role or position, and scope of practice in a state program, funded agency, or other provider organization.

The Ohio Infant Family Practitioner Level II (OIFP-II) will perform assessments and may begin interventions to enhance the social and emotional development of an infant through attention to the complex relationships and relational health between infants and their caregivers. In addition to attending to the relational health of families and infants, the Ohio Infant Family Practitioner Level II (OIFP-II) will observe and enhance parenting skills, monitor the infant's development, assure connections to recommended system services, and follow-up with parents and caregivers on the progress of those identified necessary services and supports.

Professionals for this Mid-Level Credential may include: developmental specialist, infant toddler

specialist, occupational therapist, nurse, lactation consultant, child protective or other case worker, community health worker, home visitor, or mental health professional. The Ohio Infant Family Practitioner II candidates must have documentation of a Bachelor's degree or higher in Social Work, Nursing, Education, Counseling, Psychology or Occupational Therapy, or other licensed health practitioner. Additionally, they should have two years post bachelor's professional work experience with infants, toddlers, or caregivers. To obtain the OIFP-II, candidates will complete 30 hours of approved training. Participation in reflective practices and/or an appropriate community of learning practice is required.



Ohio Infant Mental Health Practitioner Level III (OIMHP-III)

III

ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT/CONSULTATION LEVEL

The Ohio Infant Mental Health Practitioner Level III (OIMHP-III) is the Highest-Level in the Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential. The Ohio Infant Mental Health Practitioner Level III will assess and intervene, and/or mentor level I or II credentials. Additionally, it will work within a defined early childhood role or position in a state program, funded agency, or other provider organization.

The Ohio Infant Mental Health Practitioner Level III (OIMHP-III) focus of practice is on the infant's mental health, relational health of the infant caregiver attachment and attunement, and infant and family assessment. The Ohio Infant Mental Health Practitioner Level III will develop or review individual, educational or family service plans, or provide mentoring and guidance to a practitioner or interdisciplinary team. He/she/they may provide mental health consultation, mental health assessment or testing, and/or treatment at the individual, family, classroom, programmatic, or system levels.

Professionals for the Highest-Level Credential may include: infant early childhood mental health consultants, infant early childhood mental health professionals, pediatric mental health

nurses and/or pediatric physician assistants, occupational therapists, psychologists, physicians, or advance practice primary care clinicians. The Ohio Infant Mental Health Specialist-III must have documentation of a Master's degree or higher in Social Work, Nursing, Education, Counseling, Psychology or Occupational Therapy, MD or DO as Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy, or other Pediatric, or Women's Health Advance Practice degree or other licensed health practitioner; and two years postgraduate supervised experience providing culturally and trauma competent care with infants, toddlers and their primary caregivers. To obtain the OIMHP- III, candidates will complete 40 hours of required training. Participation in reflective practices, and/or an appropriate community of learning practice is required.



The Three Ohio Levels

- Education
- Work Experience
- Training
- References
- Code of Ethics
- Self-Reflective Assessment Checklist
- Reflective Practices
- Ohio Professional Registry/OPR

Ohio Infant Family Affiliate Level I (OIFA-I)
Ohio Infant Family Practitioner Level II (OIFP-II)
Ohio Infant Mental Health Practitioner Level III (OIMHP-III)

OIFA-I	OIFP-II	OIMHP-III
High School Diploma, GED, CDA or an Associate degree or higher	Bachelor’s degree or higher	Master’s degree or higher
Two Years infant/early childhood work experience	Two Years infant/early childhood work experience	Two Years post graduate work experience
20 Hours required Relationship based training; on SE child development, maternal or infant health screening tools	30 Hours required Relationship based training; on infant SE development, maternal health, trauma EB interventions	40 Hours required Training in infant mental health, neurodevelopment, infant-family assessment trauma, EB treatment
Two Professional References 1. Current Supervisor 2. Colleague, service recipient	Two Professional References 1. Current Supervisor 2. Professional colleague	Two Professional References 1. Current Supervisor 2. Former teacher/supervisor
Signed and submitted	Signed and submitted	Signed and submitted
Supervisory verification	Supervisory verification	Supervisory verification
Recommended	Recommended	Recommended
Profile created	Profile created	Profile created

The Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential Core Knowledge and Competency Content Areas

 <p>Ohio Infant Family Affiliate I OIFA Level I Screening</p>	 <p>Ohio Infant Family Practitioner II OIFP Level II Assessment / Early Intervention</p>	 <p>Ohio Infant Mental Health Practitioner III OIMHP Level III Assessment / Treatment / Consultation</p>
Child Growth and Development <i>Ohio Early Learning and Development Standards</i> <i>Social and Emotional Development</i> Learning Environment and Experiences <i>Principles of Brain Development</i> <i>‘Serve and Return’</i> <i>Developmental Play /Environments</i> Child Observation and Family Screening <i>HMG/EI Eligibility Assessment/Referral</i> <i>Disabilities Risk Factors</i> <i>Maternal Depression Screen</i> <i>ASQ / ASQ-SE</i> Health, Safety and Nutrition <i>Child Abuse/Neglect</i> <i>ACES</i> Family and Community Relations <i>Family Centered Practices</i> <i>Cultural and Linguistic Competencies</i> <i>Community Resources SUTO, EI, ECMH, CPS</i> Professionalism <i>Reflective Practices</i>	Infant Growth and Development <i>Zero to Three Competencies</i> <i>Approach to Learning / Cognition</i> <i>Disabilities Risk Factors</i> Assessment <i>Infant Toddler Assessments</i> <i>Service Planning</i> <i>ASD/ FASD / NAS / NBO / FTT / Attachment</i> <i>Eco-Mapping</i> <i>Routine Based Interviews</i> Early Intervention <i>Sensory Processing Supports</i> <i>Family Supports / Behavioral Strategies</i> <i>OT, PT, SP, ECMH, IEP</i> Cultural and Linguistic Competency <i>Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)</i> <i>Trauma Responsive Care ACES /Toxic Stress</i> <i>Cultural, Religious & Social Norms</i> Family and Community Relations <i>Family Centered Practices</i> <i>Community Resources SUTO, EI, ECMH, CPS</i> Professional Development <i>Reflective Practices / Community of Learners</i>	Social Emotional Growth and Development <i>Zero to Three Competencies</i> <i>Neonatal Development and Risk Factors</i> Assessment <i>Infant Mental Health Assessment</i> <i>Infant Parent Caregiver Relationship Assessment</i> <i>Family Relational Assessment</i> <i>Eco-Mapping</i> <i>ASD/ FASD / NAS / NBO / FTT / Attachment</i> Intervention /Treatment <i>IECMH Consultation- Child /Family /Classroom</i> <i>IECMH Treatment EBP CPP, PCIT, TIC-PCIT, PTSD</i> <i>Multi-Disciplinary Treatment Planning</i> Cultural and Linguistic Competency <i>Trauma Responsive and Competent Care</i> <i>Cultural, Religious and Social Norms Applied</i> <i>SAMHSA CLAS Standards</i> Family and Community Relations <i>Family Centered Practices and Engaging Families in Care</i> <i>Understanding the Social Determinants of Health</i> Professional Development <i>Reflective Practices Community of Leaners/Mentoring</i>



The Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential Embraces Core Professional Practices and Values

Initial Application:

Every Applicant for an Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential will submit all required documentation to the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR) with required OPIN number on the forms provided electronically through OCCRA.

Renewal:

Every two years renewal of the Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential will require completion of 15 hours in the core competency areas with at least one hour in each core competency content area.

Supervision:

Administrative Supervision is an expectation across all Ohio's early childhood professional communities. Staff participation in administrative supervision is guided by professional, program or other articulated agency or licensure guidelines.

Reflective Practices:

Reflective Practices is Ohio's preferred modality for practitioners delivering services in early childhood. Reflective practice is founded in relationship-based principles and require skilled mentors, coaches or supervisors to support reflective practice. Ohio invests in training for reflective practices and supervision. Where there are gaps in availability, programs can reach out to early childhood system partners to increase reflective practice access.

Learning Community:

The Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential supports participation in an appropriate “Community of Learners” practice. Recognized infant and early childhood communities of learners will be hosted regionally by approved partners and is accessible through early childhood agencies. Applications for renewal of levels II and III will need documentation of reflective supervision or community of learner participation uploaded to their OPR profile.

Listing of Credential:

Once approved, applicants may add the appropriate “Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential” to their title or signature as follows: Ohio Infant Family Affiliate Level I (OIFA-I); Ohio Infant Family Practitioner Level II (OIFP-II); or Ohio Infant Mental Health Practitioner Level III (OIMHP-III). The Ohio Infant Mental Health Credential may or may not satisfy requirements for nationally recognized infant mental health endorsements or certifications.

Privacy/Complaints:

Individuals with an Ohio Infant Credential – Infant Family Associate Level I, Infant Family Practitioner Level II or Infant Mental Health Practitioner Level III- are to adhere to their agency policies and procedures governing the protection of health information. Any concerns, complaints or incidents filed about staff will be referred to the proper agency of employment, or state licensing board for review and disposition. Remedy, suspension, or revocation of any Ohio Credential will be at the discretion and direction of the agency of employment and/or state licensing board governing scope of practice. Appeals will follow the same process.



“The first few years of every child’s life are critically important. During this time period, children are building the foundation for the rest of their lives. It’s important that we ensure they also have the emotional and behavioral skills to succeed. In Ohio, we are committed to doing everything we can to help our young people thrive and that starts with making sure our early childhood providers are well equipped to succeed.”

– Mike DeWine, Governor of Ohio





**The Ohio Infant
Mental Health
CREDENTIAL**



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MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



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