

ANNOUNCING INFANT/EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANT DATA SYSTEM

LAUNCHING WINTER 2019

What is the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health (I/ECMH) Consultant data system?

The data system will include a statewide, searchable database of I/ECMH consultants in Illinois, either full-time or part-time. Consultants may be currently employed by an early childhood serving organization, working with an early childhood setting as a contractual provider of consultation services, or interested in pursuing work as a consultant. In addition to the search feature, the data system will allow consultants to track and report on their consultation activities. This data system is being developed by the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) and will replace the registry currently maintained by the Illinois Association for Infant Mental Health (ILAIMH). If you are currently on the ILAIMH registry, more information may be required and you will likely need to update your information (see below “What is the Process for Joining.”).

For the purposes of the data system, consultation is defined as *a multi-level, proactive approach that teams multi-disciplinary infant/early childhood mental health professionals with people who work with young children and their families to support and enhance children’s social and emotional development, health, and well-being.*

How will the I/ECMH Consultant data system advance the field of consultation?

The data system will be used to make consultants aware of professional development opportunities and will be used to track the growth of consultation across Illinois, highlighting areas of the state that are underserved. The data system will demonstrate the high quality of consultation available and be utilized as an advocacy tool to secure additional support for consultation. The data system is one important step in making sure that consultation is viewed as an important, vital profession that reduces caregiver stress, reduces challenging behaviors in group settings, and reduces the rate of expulsion.

Why should I join the I/ECMH Consultant database?

- Join a community of I/ECMH consultants across the State of Illinois!
- Sites looking for a consultant will learn about your skills, availability, and capacity to meet their needs.
- You will gain access to information about professional development and training opportunities, including those that provide continuing education credits.
- Take part in advancing the field of consultation!

Once a consultant joins the database, they will receive an electronic PDF card as proof that you are on the I/ECMH Consultant database. The consultant is then free to add this to their resume, vitae, business card, letterhead, LinkedIn, and other marketing tools.

Additionally, agencies that employ consultants will be highlighted as part of the data system. This allows sites that qualify for consultation services to readily access information on how to connect with those agencies that provide consultation.

What is the process for joining the I/ECMH Consultant database?

The I/ECMH Consultant database will be hosted as part of the Gateways to Opportunity Registry. In order to qualify to join the database, you will have to attend or have already attended the Orientation to the Illinois Model of I/ECMH Consultation. Every consultant will have one year from the date of their registration on the database to complete the Orientation. Documentation of attendance will be provided to INCCRRA by the provider of the Orientation.

If you have already attended the Illinois Model of I/ECMH Consultation, you will receive an email once the consultant database is active. If you have not yet had a chance to attend the orientation, you may check the Gateways to Opportunity Registry (<http://registry.ilgateways.com>) website for instructions.

In addition to attending the Orientation, you will need to complete an application that demonstrates you meet the qualifications as required by the Illinois Model of I/ECMHC as well as information on the geographic areas you are able to serve. The searchable consultant database will be available to early childhood settings, policy makers, funders, and others.

You will need to renew your consultant profile every two years, which will include answering a series of questions that will help the Mental Health Consultation Initiative gather information on the growth of consultation, gaps in geographic areas, indicators of quality, and assurance that consultants listed in the database continue to meet the qualifications.

WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO BECOME AN I/ECMH CONSULTANT?

- An advanced degree in Mental Health, such as Social Work, Counseling, Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Psychiatry; or in Nursing or Child Development (specifically early childhood) with additional education in Mental Health
- A minimum of a Masters degree. Licensure optional.
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in areas related to infant and early childhood development and mental health.
- A demonstrated ability to engage in reflective practice and maintain a consultative stance.

GOAL: Every I/ECMH Consultant in Illinois will participate in the data system and every program looking for consultation supports will utilize the searchable consultant database as a tool in their search.

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