

# Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) Credential

**Important:** Use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox web browsers when navigating the OPR.

## **CREDENTIAL OVERVIEW**

- Early Childhood Mental Health (ECMH) is the social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of children birth through six years and their families. ECMH consultants team with Early Childhood providers to help them understand and problem-solve challenging child behaviors, both in and out of the program.

## **CREDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **EDUCATION**

- Minimum of bachelor's degree from a Regional Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) accredited college (master's degree preferred)  
**AND**
- Major field of study must be related to Early Childhood  
**OR**
- Professional holds an approved and current professional license type, in lieu of not meeting the education requirement.
- Education Information is pre-populated from your OPR profile, if previously verified. If your educational documents have not been submitted/verified, follow the guidelines below.
  - **College Education** - For a college transcript to be verified, the document must contain the information/features outlined below:
    - The first and last name on the document must match the information in their OCCRRA profile. If the name does not match, the professional needs to update their "maiden name/alias used" box in the "Account" tab.
    - Contain a phrase stating that the document is "official" or an "Academic Record."
    - The registrar's signature is fully visible.
    - If the registrar's signature is not present, the electronic submission cover page showing evidence that it is an official document (ex: eScrip-Safe, Transcript Network, Parchment)
    - Visible school seal, logo or features of security paper, such as the word COPY as the watermark.
    - Transcript must be issued from an accredited college or university with the name of the college/university on the transcript.
    - Accreditation Websites: OPE, CHEA, ACICS, DEAC
    - Confer/graduation date clearly marked on the transcript.
    - Program or Major Identified
- OCCRRA does not accept educational transcripts sent directly from colleges and universities. The professional is expected to attach the document(s) to the 'Education' tab themselves.



## **RELATED MAJORS**

- Child and Family Studies
- Child Development
- Education
- Early Childhood
- Pre-K
- Elementary Education
- Special Education Nursing
- Medicine
- Psychology/Counseling
- Social Work
- ECMH Certificate from Cleveland State University

## **PROFESSIONAL LICENSE**

Must hold a valid professional license in at least one of the following:

- LSW
- LISW
- LPC
- LPCC
- Psychologist
- Marriage and Family Therapist
- Nursing
- MD/DO
- Other Professional License (refer to “appeal” guidance)
  - Most licensure information can be obtained on the [eLicense Ohio - Professional Licensure System](#)

## **LENGTH OF SERVICE**

- Have worked in ECMH a minimum of two years at the time of application.  
**AND**
- Currently employed by an ODMHAS Certified Mental Health Agency or have within the past two years.  
**AND**
- Must be working with children birth to age six and their families currently, or within past three years.  
**OR**
- Must be supervising persons working with children birth to age six and their families currently or within past three years.

## **REQUIRED TRAININGS (INITIAL)**

The following trainings must be completed and verified prior to submitting their ECMH Credential application:

- The Ohio Model of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (Two-Part Training)
- Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA)



Professional Development	My Training
Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA)	Complete
The Ohio Model of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (Part 1 of 2)	Complete
The Ohio Model of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (Part 2 of 2)	Complete

**SELF-ASSESSMENT**

- Complete the [Ohio ECMH Core Competencies Skills Inventory Self-Assessment](#) rating yourself on the competencies in each of the five domains, and attach the document directly to the application.

**EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION**

- The Employment Verification Letter must contain the following information:
  1. Document must be on Employer’s letterhead and signed by Supervisor or Human Resource Official.
  2. Employment must be with an Ohio Department Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS) certified mental health agency currently or within the past two years.
  3. Letter must state applicant has worked in ECMH a minimum of two years at the time of application.
  4. Documentation must state ONE of the following:
    - a) applicant is working with children birth-6 and their families currently OR within the past three years.
    - b) applicant is supervising a professional working with children birth-6 currently OR within the past three years.
- If the qualifying experience was prior to their current employment, the Supervisor must specify the prior employment details being used to qualify.

**ODMHAS CERTIFICATE**

- Attach your Agencies current/valid ODMHAS Certification to the application.

**COVID WORKFORCE RELIEF SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP (IF APPLICABLE)**

- Professionals currently credentialed under the COVID Workforce Relief Special Partnership with OACHC/FQHC are eligible to apply for renewal under the current renewal requirements.

**APPEALS**

- Graduate degree majors that do not lead to licensure may be appealed. The letter should outline how your education and experience qualifies you for the credential.
- Letter should be signed and dated by both the professional and supervisor.
- Attach the letter directly to the application.
- Once the application has been submitted, send an email to [support@occrpa.org](mailto:support@occrpa.org) indicating your intent to apply under the "appeal" provision.



## RENEWAL

- Professionals can initiate credential renewal every two years, up to 90 days prior to expiration.
- A current “approved” license verified in the ‘Credentials’ tab.
- The trainings must have been completed between the effective date and expiration date of the current credential.
- Professionals must have completed a minimum of 15 hours of training and/or coursework, focused on Early Childhood (birth to age six) in TWO or more of the ECMH Core Competency

### Domains:

- Social-Emotional Growth & Development
- Family & Community Relations
- Assessment
- Interventions
- Cultural and Linguistic Competency

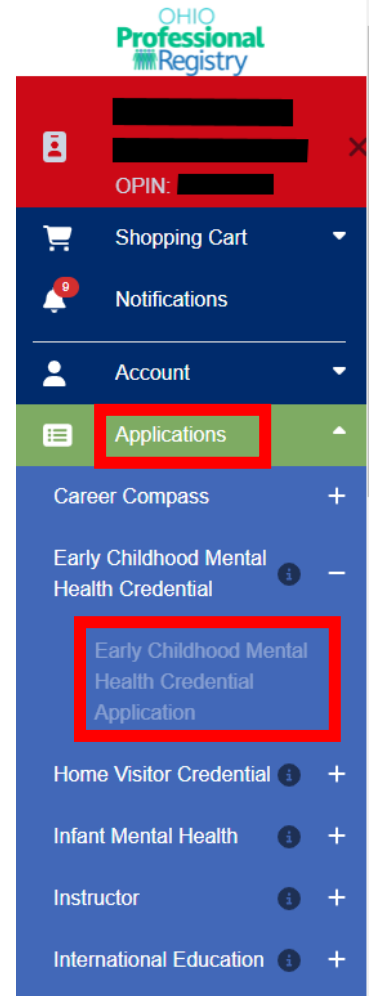
## STEPS TO APPLY

Log in to your Ohio Professional Registry (OPR) profile.

- To create a profile, refer to the following for guidance: [Create Profile User Guide](#)
- Navigate to the Applications tab of your OPR profile and select the Early Childhood Mental Health Credential button.
- Select the application and complete the required fields.

## REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

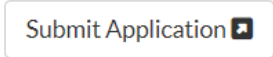
- In the Attachments section upload the following documentation:
  1. **Employment Verification Letter:** A letter from your current or previous employer verifying your ECMH experience. It must confirm a minimum of two years of ECMH work at the time of application and detail your employment status regarding ODMHAS Certified Mental Health Agency.
  2. **Ohio ECMH Core Competencies Skills Inventory Self-Assessment Summary Page:** Complete and attach the Summary Page. Access the self-assessment directly [here](#).
  3. **Employer’s Current/Valid ODMHAS Certification:** A copy of your employer’s current and valid ODMHAS certification.



File Name	Date	Size		Tag
Blank - TEST Document.pdf	5/14/2024	26857		Employment Verification ▾
Blank - TEST Document.pdf	5/14/2024	26857		Self Assesment ▾
Blank - TEST Document.pdf	5/14/2024	26857		Valid Certification ▾





Submit Application – button in lower right corner.




### **APPLICATION STATUS**

*Refer to your OPR account often to reference your application status to ensure timely processing.*

- THREE Ways to review your application status:
  - In the ‘Applications’ tab, hover over the  for guidance notes.
  - Click on the bell icon on the left side of the screen. 
  - Check the email that is associated with your OPR account (spam folder also).
  
- Status Descriptions:
  - **Draft** – application was started, but not yet submitted for review.
  - **Submitted** – application is submitted and waiting for review.
  - **Add'l Info** – applicant needs to take additional action to fulfill the requirements of the credential.
  - **Resubmitted** – Application has been edited and ready for review.
  - **Unable to verify** – credential cannot be issued.
  - **Approved** – credential has been issued or renewed.

#### Application Dashboard

Application Name	Type	Submitted Date	Approved Date	Expiration Date	Status	
Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant	Initial	2024-05-14 11:53:43 AM	2024-05-01	2026-04-30	Approved 	<a href="#">VIEW</a>

If additional assistance is still required, contact OCCRRA by sending an email to support@OCCRRA.org