



C-NIT and C-NIP Certification Renewal Requirements

Nature Informed Therapist and Nature Informed Practitioner

Effective January 1, 2027 | Public Policy

CNIT certifications are active for three years. Renewal helps ensure that credential holders remain connected to current nature informed learning, represent the credential accurately, and continue to practice within their professional role and scope.

AT A GLANCE	REQUIREMENT
Certification term	Three years from the date certification is awarded or last renewed.
Professional learning	Eighteen qualifying Professional Learning Hours during each three-year cycle.
Nature informed focus	All eighteen hours must directly support Nature Informed Therapy or nature informed practice.
Standard renewal fee	\$100. Waived for eligible active Venture Trails members and qualifying CNIT Sustained Volunteers.

Renewal Requirements

To maintain active C-NIT or C-NIP certification, a credential holder must:

- **Complete eighteen qualifying Professional Learning Hours** during the current three-year certification cycle.
- **Complete all eighteen hours** in professional learning that directly supports Nature Informed Therapy or nature informed practice.
- **Submit the CNIT renewal application** and professional attestation before the certification expiration date.
- **Pay the applicable renewal fee** unless a waiver applies.
- **Continue to meet** the professional eligibility, scope-of-practice, and credential-use standards associated with the certification.

Professional Learning Hours

CNIT uses the term Professional Learning Hours to distinguish certification renewal learning from CEUs or continuing education credits used by professional licensing boards. One Professional Learning Hour equals 60 minutes of qualifying instruction or structured learning, excluding breaks, meals, networking, and administrative time.

Qualifying professional learning must be structured, verifiable, and meaningfully connected to nature informed work. Eligible content may include nature informed methods, ethics, accessibility, cultural responsiveness, trauma, grief, attachment, expressive arts, somatic practice, group facilitation, outdoor safety, research, program development, or other professional topics when the educational content is explicitly connected to nature informed practice.

CNIT Lunch & Learns and Professional Development

A CNIT Lunch & Learn, webinar, or professional development workshop designated as renewal-eligible may count toward the eighteen-hour requirement. A qualifying 60-minute program normally provides one Professional Learning Hour. General meetings, networking, consultation groups, membership participation, and community gatherings do not automatically qualify unless CNIT identifies the activity as renewal-eligible.



CNIT and External Professional Learning

- **CNIT programs:** Eligible programs will state the number of Professional Learning Hours available and any attendance or completion requirements.
- **External programs:** Relevant education from another qualified provider may count if the specific course appears on CNIT's current pre-approved list or is approved through CNIT's external course review process. A provider's inclusion on the list does not automatically approve every course it offers.
- **Professional licensing credit:** Approval for CNIT certification renewal does not automatically mean that a course is accepted by a professional licensing board.

Renewal Application and Verification

The renewal application normally opens 90 days before expiration. Applicants attest that they have completed the required eighteen Professional Learning Hours and that the information provided is complete and accurate. CNIT uses an audit process rather than requiring every applicant to upload every completion certificate.

- Credential holders should keep supporting documentation for at least four years after the end of the renewal cycle.
- CNIT may request documentation through a random audit or whenever information is incomplete, inconsistent, or requires clarification.
- Do not submit client-identifying information, protected health information, or confidential clinical records to CNIT.

Renewal Fees and Fee Waivers

TYPE	FEE	WHEN IT APPLIES
Standard on-time renewal	\$100	Application submitted and approved by the expiration date.
Venture Trails member renewal	FREE	Available to an active Venture Trails member in either current membership level who has maintained active membership for at least 90 consecutive days before submitting the renewal application.
Qualifying CNIT Sustained Volunteer renewal	FREE	Available to a volunteer who, during the preceding 12 months, has either contributed at least 5 hours per month for 3 consecutive months or supported 3 or more CNIT events, as verified by CNIT.
Late-renewal administrative fee: days 1-90	\$25 + applicable renewal fee	The credential is inactive until renewal is approved. If the standard renewal fee is waived, only the \$25 late fee is due.
Reinstatement administrative fee: day 91+	\$50 + applicable renewal fee	Additional requirements may apply depending on the length of the lapse. If the standard renewal fee is waived, only the \$50 reinstatement fee is due.

A Venture Trails or Sustained Volunteer waiver applies to the standard renewal fee only. It does not waive late-renewal or reinstatement administrative fees. Membership or volunteer service itself does not satisfy the eighteen-hour professional learning requirement.

If Certification Is Not Renewed on Time

- 1. Expiration.** Certification remains active through the expiration date shown on the certificate and credential record.
- 2. 90-day late-renewal window.** Beginning the day after expiration, the credential is inactive. A late renewal may be submitted for 90 days without completing the full reinstatement process.
- 3. Renewed term.** When a late renewal is approved, the new three-year term is calculated from the original expiration date; renewing late does not extend the cycle.
- 4. Reinstatement.** Beginning on day 91 after expiration, the former credential holder must use the reinstatement process. CNIT may require updated professional learning, an assessment, consultation, or other steps when a credential has been inactive for an extended period.

During any period when a credential is inactive, the holder may accurately state that the certification was earned in the past but may not represent C-NIT or C-NIP certification as current or active.



Transition for People Certified Before January 1, 2027

Transition Renewal Date: December 31, 2029

Every C-NIT or C-NIP credential awarded before January 1, 2027 will receive a first renewal date of December 31, 2029. The credential holder must complete eighteen qualifying Professional Learning Hours between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2029.

This transition is not a permanent grandfathering exemption. Previously certified professionals move into the same three-year renewal system after the transition cycle.

Credential Status, Directory, and Use

- CNIT records each certified professional's credential type, certification date, expiration date, and status.
- Only an active credential may be represented as current. Use of a C-NIT or C-NIP certification badge must stop when the credential becomes inactive, is suspended, or is revoked.
- The CNIT corporate logo and CNIT training materials may not be used to imply sponsorship, endorsement, or authorization to teach CNIT curriculum without written permission.
- CNIT certification does not replace professional licensure, authorize psychotherapy or diagnosis, or expand a person's legal scope of practice.

Questions and Renewal Resources

For current renewal forms, approved CNIT learning opportunities, external course review, and credential questions, visit www.NatureInformedTherapy.org or contact certification@NatureInformedTherapy.org.

CNIT may revise certification standards with reasonable advance notice. Material changes will include an appropriate transition process.