

CDA Information

The Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credentialing Program is a major national movement to improve the quality of child care. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families and is designed to assess and credential early care and education professionals based on performance.

The CDA Credential is an instrument for career advancement in the early care and education profession. Forty Six states plus the District of Columbia incorporate the CDA Credential into their child care center licensing regulations. The CDA Council works to ensure that it is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of a coordinated system of professional development.

This program is a self study program for caregivers who work with children from birth to age five. The CDA Competency Standards are the core of the CDA program. These Goals and Functional Areas are statements of the skills needed to be a competent caregiver and the basis upon which caregivers are assessed.

The CDA Competency Standards	Functional Areas
Goal I - To establish and maintain a safe, healthy learning environment.	1. Safe 2. Healthy 3. Learning Environment
Goal II - To advance physical and intellectual competence.	4. Physical 5. Cognitive 6. Communication 7. Creative
Goal III - To support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance.	8. Self 9. Social 10. Guidance
Goal IV - To establish positive and productive relationships with families.	11. Families
Goal V - To ensure a well-run, purposeful program responsive to participant needs.	12. Program Management
Goal VI -To maintain a commitment to professionalism.	13. Professionalism

How Do I Apply?

Anyone interested in applying for the CDA Credential should contact the Council to request an application packet. The cost of the application packet is \$15.00 + \$5.00 shipping and handling; the fee for assessment is \$325.00. Once Candidates complete the documentation, the application may be submitted to the Council to request a Verification Visit. These are scheduled four times a year. For more information contact the Council for Professional Recognition at:

Council For Professional Recognition
 2460 16th Street, NW Washington DC 20009-3575
 Telephone: 800-424-4310 202-265-9090
<http://www.cdacouncil.org/>

Child Care Resource and Referral, Western Region will provide an Orientation to child care providers to explain the CDA process. Call us at 1-888-344-4896.