

# The Child Development Associate® Credential Working with States to Advance Quality Early Childhood Education

The Council for Professional Recognition partners and collaborates with states across the United States to improve the quality of early childhood education by implementing the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential™. State administrators look to the Council for partnership, collaboration and leadership to ensure that their quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) and professional development plans are inclusive of the CDA.

To date, more than **800,000** credentials have been issued world-wide with over 40,000 new credentials granted each year.

For over 45 years the CDA has been giving early childhood educators the resources and tools they need to provide a rich early learning environment to all children and their families. Most states recognize the CDA credential as a benchmark of value within their quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) for early childhood care and education. State early childhood administrators see the CDA as an essential building block guiding professional growth for early childhood educators nationwide.

## BENEFITS OF COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP

Today's fast changing landscape requires innovation, commitment and ability to meet the educational needs of a very diverse population. Children, families and practitioners alike are looking for culturally relevant, appropriate, and recognized care and education resources.

With over four decades of experience working in diverse environments across the country and world, the Council is a tested, well established resource for state administrators and the early childhood education field.

States look to the Council as a quality, resourceful partner ready to assist efforts to:

- Reinforce the state's commitment to early childhood care and education
- Support the state's early childhood education practitioners advance their career and credibility
- Assist early childhood educators in meeting their education and employment requirements
- Deepen the understanding of developmentally, culturally competent and appropriate practice
- Increase parent/consumer confidence

## WHY NOW

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential™ is a proven resource to states, many of whom now require a CDA in order to increase the quality of early learning programming. According to the Early Childhood Workforce Index, 34 states require at least a CDA or equivalent for center directors; 12 states require a CDA for center based teachers; and 37 states have a scholarship to support the attainment of a CDA credential. These states understand the CDA is an established symbol of quality.

Many states are challenged with how best to support the field of early childhood education and provide equitable, affordable services to families. Among the issues facing states: the cost of providing early care and education, the shortage of early childhood educators, the decrease in family child care providers, the cost of providing professional development and training, the racial, ethnic and linguistic diversity of the workforce, and the quest for quality rating systems.

**The Council has been working with several states on various aspects of the Pre-School Development Birth to Five Grant (PDG B-5 grant), related Letters of Commitment or new and/or renewal applications, as well as supporting additional state-related Early Childhood Education grants. The work includes developing strategies to help increase the number of teachers who receive CDAs and aligning with statewide career lattices.**

The Council for Professional Recognition is well positioned with a proven track record of collaborating with states to move toward quality systems of early childhood education. The Council brings:

- **Ability** for sharing and providing a platform for best practices and early childhood education advancements
- **Access** to education and learning opportunities
- **Advice** on how to successfully integrate the CDA into statewide ECE strategies (Overarching framework, design and/or competencies outlining basic expectations for a CDA)
- **Commitment** to implementation of multilingual, culturally competent training and professional development
- **Expertise** for hosting webinars, events, meet-ups, and other convening opportunities within the ECE field
- **Knowledge** for integration of the CDA within the state's quality improvement and rating system
- **Support** for early childhood state grants

## CONTACT THE COUNCIL TODAY:

Visit [www.cdacouncil.org/partner](http://www.cdacouncil.org/partner) or contact us at (800) 424-4310 or [partnerships@cdacouncil.org](mailto:partnerships@cdacouncil.org)

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The Council for Professional Recognition promotes improved performance and recognition of professionals in the early childhood education of children ages birth to 5 years old. We work to ensure that all professional early childhood educators and caregivers meet the developmental, emotional and educational needs of our nation's youngest children.