



QRIS & CDA

**Defining and Advancing
Quality for Early Care and
Education Professionals**

The Child Development Associate (CDA)

Credential™ is the most recognized professional development benchmark for family child care providers, center-based or school setting staff. The CDA is administered by the Council for Professional Recognition, which results in the award of the CDA Credential.

QRIS and CDA: SHARED STRATEGIES

Typically, QRIS systems include five common elements: (1) standards, (2) accountability measures, (3) provider support, (4) financial incentives, and (5) parent/consumer education efforts. Although many States engage in quality initiatives touching on one or more of these areas. The CDA includes all five of these elements.

For over 40 years, CDA has developed and promoted **Competency standards** for early educators that have guided training organizations. **Assessment and accountability** of the CDA includes multiple sources of evidence. The CDA is a comprehensive system that includes:

- 120 hours of professional education covering the eight subject areas
- 480 hours of Direct experience working with young children
- Professional Portfolio and six reflective statements of competence

Many of the 300,000 –plus CDA's have received financial support and incentives as they earn the CDA, as well as salary increases after earning their CDA. Moreover, the involvement of parents and families is an important part of the CDA candidates' assessment.

QRIS and CDA: SHARED PURPOSE

At their core, QRIS systems and the CDA have the same purpose: to define and advance the quality of the early educator, the programs in which we work, and the field as a whole. The CDA is a tool—an essential building block – that guides professional growth for early educators within the QRIS system.

Both QRIS - and CDA within QRIS - - - are systemic approaches to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. When people or programs participate in QRIS or CDA, they choose a path of continuous quality improvement.

An Invitation to Stronger Partnership

While the CDA is already recognized in QRIS systems, the Council for Professional Recognition invites your State to work directly with us as we promote our shared purposes and shared strategies.

Benefits of Partnering

- **SUPPORT** - A dedicated Council staff member will support your QRIS-related initiatives.
- **ALIGNMENT** - The CDA will support the achievements of your federal and state professional development requirements
- **DATA** – Data to support accountability associated with your state professional development outcomes can be provided by the Council.
- **INFORMATION** - Customized webinars for your QRIS Professional Development staff can be provided..
- **MARKETING AND ADVERTISING** - Use of approved logos to market your partnership with the Council and to engage Candidates in your State are provided.

Taking the Next Steps to Partnership

- You are invited to indicate your interest by sending an e-mail to partnerships@cdacouncil.org. In your e-mail, identify a contact person and tell us about your State's QRIS System.
- Upon receipt of your e-mail, the Council will contact you to arrange a date for an initial conference call and/or meeting.



Together, Our Collective Efforts Will Advance the Field of Early Care and Education Professionals

As a partner, you will join a global network of early childhood educators, that works together to define and advance quality for early care and education professionals. Join us and thousands of others who make this “the best first step” in their careers. The CDA is the only portable, reciprocal, competency based, national credential recognized in all 50 states, territories, District of Columbia, career/technical high schools, community colleges and the US military.

Join the National CDA Online Community today by visiting our website at www.cdacouncil.org, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for the latest CDA news, discussion forums and CDA resources.



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