

CDA® State Fact Sheet ALABAMA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Alabama: **12,206***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Alabama:

Infant-Toddler **2,573*** | Preschool **8,997*** |
Family Child Care **629*** | Home Visitor **14***

*Data since inception of the Council +/- .4% margin of error

Partnership

The **Alabama Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located within the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education and is administratively placed to help ensure a unified early care and education system that supports low-income families. A priority area for the Head Start Collaboration Office is to work with local partners such as institutions of higher education and professional organizations such as the Council for Professional Recognition to assist in the development of and support for high quality career development opportunities for early childhood educators.

CDA® Training

- **ProSolutions Training - Alabama:** ProSolutions offers online training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA, and for CDA Renewal.
- **Successful Solutions Professional Development CDA Training:** Successful Solutions offers two Online Training Delivery Methods: self-study and Virtual Classroom. **Alabama** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.
- **Care Courses - Alabama CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Leadership in Child Care Scholarship Program:** The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) administers the Leadership in Child Care Scholarship Program that provides financial assistance to child care professionals by offering CDA Coursework and CDA Assessment Fee Reimbursement scholarships when recipients attend select institutions in the ACCS.

- **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Alabama Scholarship Program:** The Alabama Partnership for Children administers T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Alabama that offers a CDA Assessment Fee Scholarship to help early childhood professionals pay the CDA Assessment Fee.

Meet: Calvin E. Moore, Jr. – Alabama

Dr. Moore is the CEO of the Council and our first CEO to hold a Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. He learned the value of the credential while working as a teacher's aide for Head Start in Birmingham, Alabama. The credential was a prerequisite for every teacher's aide in the program, but it turned out to be far more than that for Dr. Moore. "The CDA was a life changer for me," he says, "because it gave me the confidence and competence that I needed on day one in the classroom," he says. It also gave him a passion for early learning and a commitment to continue his own education—right up through earning a Ph.D.

Dr. Moore continued to grow as a professional as well. After teaching for five years, he became a Head Start director and eventually a Head Start executive director. Then he became the child care administrator for Alabama and subsequently deputy director for the Office of Child Care in the federal Administration for Children and Families. "Who would have imagined that back in 1992 when I got my CDA!" he exclaims "No one. But the CDA propelled me to contribute in a significant way and gave me the support I needed to achieve success."

What is the CDA®?

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education (ECE) and is a key stepping-stone on the path of career advancement in ECE.

The CDA credential is based on a core set of competency standards, which guide early care professionals as they work toward becoming qualified teachers of young children. The Council works to ensure that the nationally transferable CDA is a credible and valid credential, recognized by the profession as a vital part of professional development.

CDAs have knowledge of how to put the CDA Competency Standards into practice and understanding of why those standards help children move with success from one developmental stage to another. Put simply, CDAs know how to nurture the emotional, physical, intellectual, and social development of children.

Earning the CDA credential has many advantages, including exposure to the larger community of early childhood educators. **Over 800,000 CDA credentials have been issued to date!**

Becoming a CDA is a big commitment, but one that creates confident practitioners with command of today's best practices for teaching young children.

Meet the Council

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. The Council recognizes and credentials professionals who work in all types of early care and education settings including Head Start, pre-k, infant and toddler, family child care, and home visitor programs. As a nonprofit organization, the Council sets policies and procedures for assessment and credentialing. For more information, visit www.cdacouncil.org