

## CDA® State Fact Sheet FLORIDA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in  
Florida: **81,913\***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in  
Florida:

Infant-Toddler **19,273\*** | Preschool **58,803\*** |  
Family Child Care **3,641\*** | Home Visitor: **276\***

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

### Partnership

The **Florida Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Florida Office of Early Learning, Florida Department of Education. The Office has the specific purpose of supporting and improving collaboration between Head Start and other providers of educational, medical, and social services in Florida, and coordinates federal, state, and local policy to help ensure a unified early care and education system. 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

- **National CDA Training - Florida:** National CDA Training provides Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA training using a scenario-based method. National CDA Training also offers training for the Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA renewals.
- **ProSolutions Training - Florida:** ProSolutions offers online CDA Training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA. ProSolutions also offers CDA Renewal Training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, and Family Child Care CDA.
- **Successful Solutions Professional Development CDA Training:** Successful Solutions offers two Online Training Delivery Methods: self-study and Virtual Classroom. **Florida** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.
- **Care Courses - Florida CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.

## State Scholarship Opportunities

- Children's Forum, Inc. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Florida is an organization that provides a percentage of the CDA Assessment fee. The scholarship is available for center owners, center-based employees, and family child care home educators.

## Meet: Larissa Sales-Sanchez – Florida

*Larissa founded USTRIVE, her online program, to help early childhood teachers break the language barrier when working with dual-language learners. “The strategies she passes on draw on her struggles speaking English when she came to the U.S. from Brazil and her years running a bilingual family child care home. “The children in my day care were amazing,” she says. “The American kids would speak English to the Spanish kids and the Spanish kids would respond in their own language,” leading to lively exchanges that showed “there are no barriers for little kids.”*

*Watching them inspired Janna to break a barrier of her own by getting a degree in this country. “My BA is from Brazil, and I didn’t have the money to pay for a master’s degree, so I was thrilled when I heard about the Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. I loved the books about working with different cultures and I loved going through the process. I thought this is mazing: someone will come to my home day care, observe me and I’ll get a widely recognized credential. It was a huge accomplishment that I could fit in while I continued working at home,” Larissa says. And it encouraged her to strive.*

## 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](http://www.cdacouncil.org).

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