

CDA® State Fact Sheet GEORGIA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Georgia: **37,522***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Georgia:

Infant-Toddler **10,990*** | Preschool **23,999*** |
Family Child Care **2,429*** | Home Visitor **56***

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

Partnership

The **Georgia Head Start-State Collaboration Office** located in Bright from the Start, Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Bright from the Start's mission is to deliver exemplary early care and education programs that improve the quality of early learning experiences, increase school readiness, and improve overall school performance. 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 - Georgia:** 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 - Georgia:** 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. **Georgia** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.
- **Care Courses - Georgia CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Bright from the Start, DECAL Scholars: Care Solutions** scholarships pay the CDA Application Fee and a support stipend. Bilingual CDA scholarships also pay for CDA Coursework conducted in another language besides English.

Meet: LaKeisha McClendon – Georgia

The key word that comes up when you talk to LaKeisha is “more.” There seems no limit to how hard she’s willing to work as a Head Start teacher and Professional Development Specialist in Atlanta centers. “I go beyond what’s expected of me,” she says, “because my job isn’t work for me.”

Instead, it’s the fulfillment of a dream she had while studying early childhood education in college. She dropped out after three years but never forgot her goal to teach children. She decided to pursue it after her own children went to school, so she earned her Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™, which gave her the practical skills to work with children. “The CDA,” she says, “is the best, first step for people who want to go into the early childhood field.”

And it was for LaKeisha, who went on to earn her B.A. and now passes on her knowledge to CDA students while visiting centers. “It’s good practice for me because I plan to be a coach after earning my master’s,” she says. LaKeisha just loves going to school and getting new ideas to use in the classroom, she explains. “The more I learn, the more I can help young children.”

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.