

## CDA® State Fact Sheet MICHIGAN



CDA® Credentials Awarded in  
Michigan: **33,479\***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in  
Michigan:

Infant-Toddler **7,016** | Preschool **24,491** |  
Family Child Care **1,209** | Home Visitor **798**

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

### Partnership

The **Michigan Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Department of Education, Office of Great Start. Major goals of the Collaboration Office include fostering school transitions for Head Start children and other low-income or high-needs preschool children into kindergarten and developing a comprehensive professional development system that supports increased quality services to Head Start and other low-income children through early learning programs. 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

- **CDA Training Colleges for College Credit:** Most **Michigan** community colleges or universities offer CDA training classes that meet the requirements of the Council for Professional Recognition as well as the Associate Degree. There are several completely online programs available for college credit.
- **Michigan Registry:** Non-credit training opportunities can be found by utilizing the statewide training calendar available through Michigan's Professional Development Registry. Training can be located based on the CDA functional areas.
- **National CDA Training - Michigan:** 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.
- **Successful Solutions Professional Development CDA Training:** In **Michigan**, Successful Solutions offers online Virtual Classroom CDA Credential training and online self-study CDA Renewal training.
- **Care Courses - Michigan CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.

## State Scholarship Opportunities

- **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Michigan Scholarship Program:** The Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children administers T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Michigan. The CDA Assessment/Renewal Scholarship pays for the majority of the cost of the CDA Assessment or Renewal fee and provides a bonus once the credential is earned.
- **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Michigan Scholarship Program:** The Associates Degree Scholarship/ CDA Training Scholarship pays for the majority of the cost towards an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education/Child Development, or the coursework required to fulfill the CDA training requirements. CDA training hours being taken at a participating community college or university would meet the criteria for this scholarship.

## Meet: Najwa Dahdah – Michigan

*"It's important for us to put ourselves in the shoes of young, immigrant children," says Najwa Dahdah, CEO of Empowered Child Care Consulting. "We don't know what they've been through, whether it's trauma or just assimilating into a new country," as Najwa had to do after her family immigrated to the U.S. from Jordan. The culture clashes she faced didn't stop her from finding success in banking until a family crisis changed her life. "My brother had a bitter divorce," she recalls, "and I wound up taking care of his two children, as well as two of my own. I needed to watch them all, so I opened a home-based day care and earned a Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™.*

*Since then, Najwa has run a child care center, taught college and opened the consulting business where she's guided over 300 students, many of them immigrants, in earning their credential. "I'm a firm believer in the CDA," she says, "as the foundation for knowing best practices in ECE and finding success in the field. I'm proud to say that many of my students have gone on to earn their associate degree and now provide our diverse communities with the culturally competent services they need."*

## 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).

2/2022