

## CDA® State Fact Sheet MINNESOTA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in  
Minnesota: **16,068\***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in  
Minnesota:

Infant-Toddler **4,857** | Preschool **9,318** |  
Family Child Care **1,341** | Home Visitor **542**

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

### Partnership

The **Minnesota Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Office of Early Learning and is overseen by the Minnesota Department of Education. The Collaboration Office's mission is to establish partnerships and contribute to collaborative efforts that build an effective early care and education system that works to achieve positive outcomes and results for children and 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 - Minnesota:** 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. **Minnesota** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.
- **Care Courses - Minnesota CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.

### State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Child Care Aware of Minnesota:** The CDA Application Fee Scholarship is for anyone who has not yet applied to the Council for Professional Recognition for their initial CDA or renewal. This award is paid directly to The Council to cover a portion of the application fee. Applicants are limited to receiving funding for one Initial CDA and one renewal.
- **Child Care Aware of Minnesota:** The CDA Application Fee and Training Reimbursement is for anyone who has received a new CDA certificate within one year of the first day of the application round. Reimbursement is paid directly to the awardee for the portion of the application fee paid by the

awardee. Training costs are reimbursed at an hourly rate up to an identified maximum for an initial CDA and for a renewal. Applicants are limited to receiving funding for one Initial CDA and one renewal.

- **Child Care Aware of Minnesota:** R.E.E.T.A.I.N Bonuses reward child care professionals who have earned a degree or CDA Credential and have demonstrated a general commitment to continuing education and professional development. R.E.E.T.A.I.N Bonuses help supplement income for early childhood educators as they work to establish a career in the field and can be used for program supplies, professional development, or personal expenses.
- **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Minnesota Scholarship Program:** Child Care Aware of Minnesota administers T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Minnesota that offers the Early Childhood Provider Scholarship for eligible recipients pursuing college credits for a CDA Credential at an approved, accredited college or university in Minnesota.

## 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: Cindy Sele – Minnesota

*Cindy has been a child care provider for over 20 years, and she's always strived to advance in her profession. She started out by serving families in her home so she could be there for her own young children. But soon her son was sharing his room with a changing table and her living room was cluttered with toys. As she served growing numbers of children, she began to think long term. She realized she needed more room. So once her children were in school full time, she transferred her child care business to the house next door.*

*She also began to put more focus on the learning component of her profession. "My family child care home is like a small school for children," Cindy says. And in recent years, she's picked up the training to give them the best education she can, leading to four-star ratings from parents. In recent years, she's earned her Minnesota Child Care Credential and her Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™, achievements that inspired her to also earn her associate degree in early education. "I knew that increasing my education was important," she says. "The knowledge I gained has allowed me to help more young children advance."*

## 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).