

## CDA® State Fact Sheet

# MISSOURI



CDA® Credentials Awarded in  
Missouri: **18,463\***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in  
Missouri:

Infant-Toddler **4,513** | Preschool **12,916** |  
Family Child Care **819** | Home Visitor **264**

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

## Partnership

The **Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the University of Missouri Center for Family Policy and Research. The Curators of the University of Missouri, on behalf of the Center, oversee the collaboration office. The Missouri Head Start State Collaboration Office is one of the leaders in building a coordinated early childhood system and has a major goal of supporting efforts to establish a coordinated and integrated early childhood professional development system that will provide staff working in Head Start and Early Head Start and other early education programs opportunities to access and advance through the system and promote competency, retention, and equitable compensation by working with local partners such as institutions of higher education and professional organizations such as the Council for Professional Recognition.

## CDA® Training

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

## State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Child Care Aware® of Missouri CDA Scholarship Project:** The CDA Scholarship Project helps child care educators through the CDA credentialing process, pays the application fee, and gives educators

money for earning a CDA® Credential. If training hours are needed, help is provided to find clock-hour workshops and to pay for some.

- **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Missouri Scholarship Models:** Child Care Aware® of Missouri administers T.E.A.C.H. Missouri that offers a Child Development Associate® (CDA) Scholarship and Entry Associate Degree Scholarship. Eligible recipients have to enroll in an approved Missouri 2-year college and T.E.A.C.H. Missouri will pay 90% of tuition and books and 100% of qualifying college fees.

## Meet: Jenae Polok - Missouri

*Seventeen years ago, Jenae sat in a college classroom and wondered how she could make her mark on the early childhood education field. After graduating with a burning desire to make the world a better place, she began her career in ECE. Along the way, a light bulb went on in her mind as she realized people didn't value her role. "I had failed to educate them," she says, "about how I was shaping the lives of their children."*

*Jenae's campaign to get the message across led her to come up with some guiding rules: stay informed on the latest developments in the field, always be professional and prepared, look for the best in challenging children, be enthusiastic and most important of all — "always honor the child."*

*She passes on this advice as a teacher at the Carthage Technical Center, where she guides folks in earning a Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. And watching students make their mark on the field has finally allowed Jenae to answer the question she asked herself in college. "When people ask what I do," she says. "I have a new answer. I tell them that I have the world's most precious gifts in my hands, and I am lighting up children's lives."*

## 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).