

CDA® State Fact Sheet OKLAHOMA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Oklahoma: **25,803***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Oklahoma:

Infant-Toddler **7,821** | Preschool **15,450** |
Family Child Care **2,529** | Home Visitor **57**

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

Partnership

The **Oklahoma Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies and is overseen by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce through contract with the Association of Community Action Agencies. The Collaboration Office's purpose is to align diverse early childhood programs on common elements and provide the means for Head Start programs to engage in collaboration at the state level. 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 - Oklahoma:** 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:** Successful Solutions offers two Online Training Delivery Methods: self-study and Virtual Classroom. **Oklahoma** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.
- **Care Courses - Oklahoma CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Scholars for Excellence in Child Care:** The Scholars program provides a scholarship to assist eligible child care professionals with the assessment

fee for the national CDA or CCP credential. The Scholars program also ensures that eligible child care professionals have an opportunity to attend a technology center or community college to further their education while earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, Certificate of Mastery, Director's Certificate of Completion, and/or an associate degree in child development.

Meet: Betty Wolford – Oklahoma

What's the secret to a long life? Ask 91-year-old Betty, who's been working with children since she was 13 years old. She began by teaching Bible class at her church, and 78 years later, she's still working at Kae Dee Day Care, the center she built in Lawton. "All her life has been about kids," says Betty's daughter, Daniele, who now runs the center along with her husband.

Kae Dee succeeded because Betty gave children just what they need: chances to learn, enough time to play and the feeling that they were at home. All the food was home-cooked, including her chicken vegetable soup, always a big hit with the children.

Daniele has continued making that soup ever since she took charge. But Betty still teaches every day and Daniele recently helped her renew her Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™, which Betty first earned at age 75. "As long as she's alive," Daniele says, "I want to continue helping her work with children because it's so important to her." And it's important to Daniele, too, so she and her husband have improved the center by putting in a gymnasium and pool. But it's still the same place. And it still offers that same sense of home.

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.