

CDA® State Fact Sheet PENNSYLVANIA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Pennsylvania: **37,810***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Pennsylvania:

Infant-Toddler **14,160** | Preschool **21,585** |
Family Child Care **1,432** | Home Visitor **645**

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

Partnership

The Pennsylvania Head Start State Collaboration Office is located at the Pennsylvania Key in Harrisburg and is funded federally by the Office of Head Start in a grant to the Department of Human Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning. The Collaboration Office works to create a visible partnership at the state level to support the development of multi-agency and public/private partnerships. These partnerships are intended to assist in building early childhood systems and access to comprehensive services and support for all low-income children. 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

- **Care Courses - Pennsylvania CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.
- **Successful Solutions Professional Development CDA Training:** Successful Solutions offers two Online Training Delivery Methods: self-study and Virtual Classroom. **Pennsylvania** Child Care Courses Options include CDA Credential, CDA Competency, and CDA Renewal training.
- **National CDA Training - Pennsylvania:** 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.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **The Pennsylvania Key:** The CDA Voucher Program covers the full CDA Assessment Fee and also offers a voucher to cover a CDA Renewal Fee. Application for the CDA Voucher is completed in Pennsylvania's Professional Development Registry.

Meet: Emily Hoff – Pennsylvania

Emily believes “disability shouldn’t define a person.” She passes on the message at Children of America, where she’s an assistant toddler teacher. “I teach my students about diversity and acceptance every day,” she says, “because it matters every day”—a belief she’s held since she was a teen. She picked up her passion for inclusion while a student at Lower Moreland High School, and it inspired her long-term goal to work with special needs children. But first, she felt she needed a strong foundation in early childhood education, so she decided to get her Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™.

“My school didn’t have the program, so I became the first Lower Moreland student to go out of the district to take a course,” she says. “I worked out a plan with my school that allowed me to gain all the class credits and hours of experience needed to earn my CDA, and I was ready to work with young children right after graduation,” she says. Now she’s working toward her BA with the plan to become a life skills teacher. It’s a job that demands a lot of patience and persistence, but Emily has a passion to help all children reach their promise.

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.