

CDA® State Fact Sheet VIRGINIA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Virginia: **19,003***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Virginia:

Infant-Toddler **6,378** | Preschool **11,107** |
Family Child Care **1,298** | Home Visitor **218**

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

Partnership

The **Virginia Head Start-State Collaboration Office** located in the Virginia Department of Social Services, Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Development. Their mission is people helping people triumph over poverty, abuse, and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families, and communities. 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

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

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program, Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education:** Offers annual scholarships to assist providers working with young children to obtain their CDA Credential. VAECE will reimburse half of the direct assessment credentialing fee, or half of the renewal fee paid by candidates.
- **Virginia Department of Social Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Development:** The Scholarship Program will pay for either 8 undergraduate college courses or a maximum lifetime award amount of \$3,570 whichever occurs first.

- **Preschool Development Grants:** The Preschool Development Grants (PDBG) were awarded to states through the federal government for the sole intention of improving states' early childhood systems. The grants focus on three major activities: maximizing parental choice, improving transitions within early care and learning programs and with elementary schools; and improving overall quality of childcare programs. In 2019 the state received \$9,900,948 in PDBG funding.
- **Perkins Reserve Grant:** Perkins Reserve Grants (PRG) are awarded to states through the federal government to boost the career and technical skills of students who elect to enroll in career and technical education programs. In 2019 the state received \$28,310,494 in PRG opportunities.

Meet: Aaron “Buddy” Rhodes - Virginia

Aaron “Buddy” Rhodes is a role model for men who are thinking about getting into the early childhood field. He knew he loved teaching since he was in high school and volunteered in his mother’s third-grade classroom. After working with young children for three years, he earned his CDA, and this achievement inspired him to go on for his college degree. Since then, he has worked with many different age groups. He has also held a wide range of jobs before reaching his current position as educational site coordinator at the Campana Center, which runs the Head Start program for the city of Alexandria, VA.

This role gives him the chance to train early childhood teachers and make a lasting impact on children. It also gives him a sense of purpose since he believes in Head Start’s mission to get all young children school ready, regardless of their families’ income. Equity in early education is a foundation of the CDA. So is competence in the classroom, and Buddy considers the credential to be the key to his success. “The CDA gave me the confidence to advance my career,” he says. “Without the CDA, I don’t think I would be where I am today.”

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