

CDA® State Fact Sheet **WASHINGTON**



CDA® Credentials Awarded in Washington: 16,439*

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in Washington:

Infant-Toddler **5,798** | Preschool **9,215** |
Family Child Care **1,305** | Home Visitor **119**

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

Partnership

Washington State Head Start Collaboration Office: Located in the Department of Early Learning (DEL), its mission is to develop, implement, and coordinate system oversight of early learning policies and programs that create safe, nurturing learning experiences for all Washington 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 - Washington CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.
- **ProSolutions Training - Washington:** ProSolutions offers online training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA, and online CDA Renewal Training.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **Preschool Development Grants:** Preschool Development Block Grants (PDBG) were awarded to states through the federal government for the sole intention of improving upon 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 \$5,270,656 of 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 \$22,953,427 in PRG opportunities.

Meet: Debra Walter - Washington

Earning a CDA helped Debra Walter take her career to a higher level. She had been running her family child care home, Puddle Jumpers, for nearly two decades and always strived to make young children feel cherished. But “I didn’t take my career that seriously,” she admits, until about 10 years ago. That’s when the Early Achievers Grant program came to Washington State. The program gave her the financial aid she needed to start taking classes and earn her CDA. “My life,” as she recalls, “was changed forever.”

In the years since then, Debra has come to see herself as a true professional in the early childhood field—and she’s earned the state’s kudos for her sense of zeal. Her child care home in Olympia, WA, has received its second rating of 4, nearly the highest score in the state’s Quality Rating and Improvement System. Debra also heads one of the Professional Leaders Community groups for Early Achievers, and she uses this platform to promote the CDA as a pathway to success. “The CDA was a milestone for me because it focused my attention on becoming a professional and maintaining goals,” Debra says. She knows that the CDA jump-starts great careers.

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.