

CDA® State Fact Sheet WASHINGTON, DC



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Washington, DC: **11,701***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Washington, DC:

Infant-Toddler **5,833*** | Preschool **5,384*** |
Family Child Care **462*** | Home Visitor **22***

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

Partnership

- The **District of Columbia (DC) Head Start State Collaboration Office**, within the Division of Early Learning, promotes improved linkages between Head Start and local agencies that provide services in the areas of health care, welfare, education, community, family literacy services, disabilities, homelessness, professional development, and child welfare. 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

- **CentroNia and Southeast Children's Fund:** Through the CDA Training Scholarship and Promotion Program grant awarded by the Division of Early Learning, CentroNia and Southeast Children's Fund offer classes throughout the year in English, Spanish, and Amharic to meet the CDA requirements.
- **ChildCare Education Institute (CCEI):** CCEI provides online child care director and staff certificate programs that meet the training requirements of the CDA Credential and CDA Renewal.
- **Quorum:** Early childhood professionals who are employed at a licensed child development facility in DC can earn the 120 hours of instruction required for the CDA online via Quorum. The DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education sponsor's free subscriptions to a Quorum training platform.
- **National CDA Training – Washington, DC:** 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

- **CentroNia and Southeast Children's Fund:** Through the CDA Training Scholarship and Promotion Program grant awarded by the Division of Early Learning, CentroNia and Southeast Children's Fund offer scholarships to pay the CDA Application fee.

Meet: Sebawit Yirsaw – Washington, DC

Sebawit didn't have much support when she came to the U.S. as an immigrant and a single mom. One of her greatest concerns was how to raise her two small kids since the Ethiopian culture from which she comes expects extended family members to guide new moms. Her journey from concerned parent to early childhood professional began when she enrolled her children at CentroNia, a multicultural child care center that offers Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ classes for free.

Sebawit earned her CDA while working as a substitute teacher for CentroNia. "It was challenging," she recalls, "to study and work while I had two young children, but I didn't feel the weight of the challenge because early childhood was becoming my passion. Earning a CDA was very enlightening for me from the first day of class." And it inspired her to also earn her associate, bachelor's and master's degrees. She went on to become an instructional coach at CentroNia and teach CDA classes to other Ethiopian women. "When they took the course with me," she says, "they had many aha moments. The CDA opened up opportunities for people who reminded me of myself and allowed them to succeed in the ECE field."

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. **Close to one million 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.