

CDA® State Fact Sheet MONTANA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Montana: **3,343***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Montana:

Infant-Toddler **795** | Preschool **2,285** |
Family Child Care **235** | Home Visitor **28**

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

Partnership

- The **Montana Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in and overseen by the Early Childhood Services Bureau of the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Though the Head Start State Collaboration Office's focus is to advocate for Head Start within state government, through information sharing and strategic design of initiatives, the Collaboration Office is also actively engaged in preparing for the future of early childhood to best meet the needs of low-income children, 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

- **National CDA Training – Montana:** 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. **Montana** Child Care Courses include CDA Credential and CDA Renewal training.
- **ProSolutions Training – Montana:** ProSolutions offers online training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA, and online CDA Renewal Training.

- **Care Courses – Montana CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.

Meet: Gina Linsebigler—Montana

It took persistence for Gina to earn her Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential™ during the pandemic. COVID led to delays for Gina in the CDA Verification Visit, as it became hard for visitors to enter centers. Still, she stayed determined until she was finally able to show her competence with young children. The skills Gina displayed at her verification visit allowed her to earn the CDA® and be promoted to the position of teacher.

By then, Gina had several years of experience working with young learners at Early Childhood Services in Pablo, MT. And she earned her colleagues' praise as she took on a larger role at the center. They described her as a highly competent teacher who knows how to help children thrive at the most critical time in their lives. And earning a CDA enhanced Gina's skills by giving her more knowledge of how to nurture young children's development and growth.

Gina cares about the children and they're among the folks to whom she attributes her professional advancement. "The experience I've had at Early Childhood Services has been great," she says. "I've worked with amazing teachers and children who have taught me so much. They inspired me to persist during the pandemic and succeed in earning my CDA."

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.

03/2023