

CDA® State Fact Sheet NEW MEXICO



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
New Mexico: **7,806***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
New Mexico:

Infant-Toddler **1,752** | Preschool **5,884** |
Family Child Care **103** | Home Visitor **67**

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

Partnership

- The **New Mexico Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Early Childhood Education and Care Department. As part of the new Department's aim to create a more cohesive, equitable, and effective early childhood system in New Mexico, the Head Start State Collaboration Office serves an important role in the coordination of programs. 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 - New Mexico:** 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. **New Mexico** Child Care Courses include CDA Credential and CDA Renewal training.
- **ProSolutions Training - New Mexico:** ProSolutions offers online training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA, and online CDA Renewal Training.
- **SafeGard Training Classes Online:** SafeGard offers a CDA Credential training curriculum in **New Mexico** for both the initial CDA as well as the CDA renewal.

Meet: Danielle Lansing—New Mexico

“I’ve always known the value of connecting with the community and its families,” says Danielle Lansing. She brings this conviction to her work as a faculty member at Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, NM. “SIPI is a tribal college, and all our students are members of federally recognized tribes,” she says. So, her mission is to provide these Indigenous educators with both teaching skills and cultural competence. The early childhood curriculum at SIPI gives rising teachers a grounding in mainstream educational theories and guides them in pursuing community-based projects that include developing Native language programs and culturally responsive curricula within the diverse tribal communities from which they come.

Cultural competence, as Danielle knows, is one of the topics covered in the coursework for the Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential™. “I teach courses that lead to the CDA® and value the way the credential helps students connect theory to practice,” Danielle says. “While the students pursue their CDA, they work in early childhood programs where they seem to do a good job of translating how the philosophies and theories that they get in class apply to real life,” she explains. “And I think that increases their motivation and sense of purpose.” Earning a CDA helps Danielle’s students connect to their communities through high-quality teaching.

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.