

CDA® State Fact Sheet SOUTH DAKOTA



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
South Dakota: **4,179***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
South Dakota:

Infant-Toddler **1,128** | Preschool **2,534** |
Family Child Care **260** | Home Visitor **257**

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

Partnership

- The **South Dakota Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the Department of Education Division of Special Education and Early Learning. A strategic goal of the Collaboration Office is to have both Head Start grantees and state-wide early childhood programs be more aware of each other's services to help strengthen the desired outcomes for young children and their families. 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. **South Dakota** Child Care Courses include CDA Credential and CDA Renewal training.
- **ProSolutions Training - South Dakota:** 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 - South Dakota CDA Training:** Care Courses CDA training program includes online CDA Credential Training and online CDA Renewal Training.
- **South Dakota Department of Social Services - South Dakota Child Development Associate (CDA) Training Project:** The CDA Training Program, coordinated by the South Dakota Early

Childhood Enrichment System, is designed to provide the formal training and/or education required to complete the national CDA assessment process.

- **Smart Horizons - South Dakota:** Smart Horizons offers online CDA Credential Training for the Infant-Toddler setting and Preschool or Family Child Care setting. Also offered is online CDA Credential Training with Portfolio Assistance for the Infant-Toddler and Preschool settings, and online CDA Renewal Training.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **South Dakota Department of Social Services, Division of Child Care - South Dakota Pathways Scholarship Program:** Pathways Scholarships for eligible recipients include the CDA Training Scholarship, CDA Assessment Scholarship, and CDA Renewal Scholarship if enrolled in or completed/completing required CDA training in the South Dakota CDA Training Program or online CDA Training through Smart Horizons.

Meet: Shannon Weaver—South Dakota

Shannon has enjoyed working with children for more than 20 years, the last seven of them at the Northern Hills Alliance for Children in Deadwood, SD. In 2019, she was promoted to lead teacher, a role she filled with a sense of competence and commitment. She has won the respect of everyone at the school for the way she mentors new teachers, oversees training for all teachers and guides them in advancing their education.

Many of the staff, Shannon included, obtain their Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential™, as she explains. “At the Northern Hills Alliance for Children, we are encouraged to earn the CDA® to better serve the children in our care.” And a big part of that is making sure the young learners are school ready, an effort in which Shannon has enjoyed outstanding success.

Her achievements have gained the attention of her local district school board, and she now plays an important part for them in kindergarten transition planning. District officials value the way she puts her knowledge to work to make her community better, and Shannon credits much of her success to the young students who she’s taught. “I have learned as much from them,” she says, “as they have learned from me.”

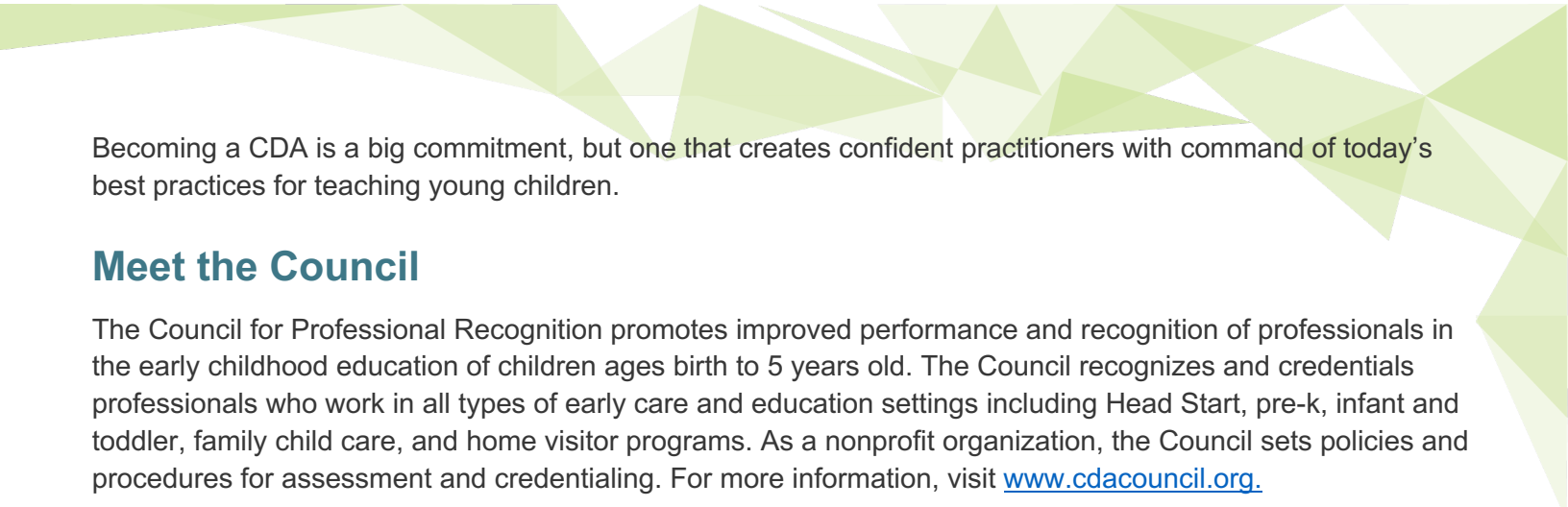
What is the CDA®?

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.