

What is a CDA Credential?

The CDA Credential is a nationally recognized credential awarded to individuals who have demonstrated competency through both experience and education in working with young children ages 0-5. The CDA Credential is awarded to infant/toddler childcare teachers, preschool teachers or family childcare providers.

Who awards the CDA Credential?

The Council for Professional Recognition (The Council) administers the CDA credentialing program and awards the CDA Credential.

Who administers the CDA Credential Assessment Scholarship Program?

The CDA Credential Assessment Scholarship is made available through the TEACH Early Childhood® North Carolina Scholarship Program and is administered by Early Years.

Does the CDA Credential have to be renewed?

Yes. The CDA Credential is valid for 3 years from the date of award. At the end of that period, an individual may apply for renewal. When renewal is granted, the Credential becomes valid for an additional 5 years.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Candidates for the CDA must meet the following four criteria: be 18 years or older, have a high school diploma or equivalent, have 480 hours of experience working with young children within the past five years and have 120 hours of formal child care education and training within the past five years in the CDA training content areas.

Who is eligible for a CDA Credential Assessment Scholarship?

Individuals who have already received their CDA certificate, work in a licensed childcare center or a registered family childcare home for at least 20 hours per week, and earning \$18 or less per hour are encouraged to apply.

How do I earn the CDA Credential?

To receive the CDA Credential, an individual must meet the eligibility requirements and complete or facilitate the completion of the following: a professional resource file, parent opinion questionnaires, a formal observation, an oral interview and a written assessment.

Where can I get the CDA Credential Assessment application?

The CDA assessment application can be completed online through the YourCouncil system, accessible through the Council for Professional Recognition's website at www.cdacouncil.org. It can also be found within the CDA Competency Standards Booklet which can be ordered through the Council's online bookstore.

What will the CDA Credential Assessment Scholarship cover?

The CDA Assessment Scholarship will reimburse the recipient or facility for 85% of the assessment fee, based on receipt information.

What kind of commitment is required of recipients of the CDA Assessment Scholarship?

Scholarship recipients are asked to remain with their sponsoring programs or in the field for an additional 3-6 months after compensation is issued.

Will I be compensated for earning the CDA Credential?

Yes. Early Years will award a \$200 bonus to individuals who attain the CDA Credential.

What kind of support does Early Years provide?

Early Years provides counseling and administrative support. Early Years reviews assessment application materials and processes reimbursement and bonus claims.