

## How do I start the process of moving toward a CDA credential?

Those interested should talk with their regional Professional Development Coordinator about available options in your area.

### Region 1 (NW Iowa)

Sarah Dieck—Child Care Resource & Referral, Mid-Sioux Opportunity, 418 S. Marion St. Remsen, IA 51050, (712) 786-3429, (800) 859-2025 [sdieck@midsioux.org](mailto:sdieck@midsioux.org)

### Region 2 (NE Iowa)

Cathy Ketton—Child Care Resource & Referral, Exceptional Persons, Inc, 3675 University Ave. Waterloo, IA 50704-4090, (319) 233-0804 (800) 475-0804, [cathy.ketton@episervice.org](mailto:cathy.ketton@episervice.org)

### Region 3 (SW/South Central Iowa)

—Child Care Resource & Referral, West Central Community Action, PO Box 709 701 10<sup>th</sup> St. Harlan, IA 51537, (712) 755-7381 (800) 945-9778, [info@swiowachildcare.org](mailto:info@swiowachildcare.org)

### Region 4 (Central Iowa)

Jenny Anderson—Child Care Resource & Referral, Orchard Place Child Guidance Center, 805 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Des Moines, IA 50309, (515) 246-3591 (800)722-7619, [janderson@orchardplace.org](mailto:janderson@orchardplace.org)

### Region 5 (SE Iowa)

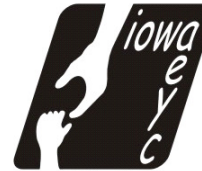
Jessica Dauscher—Child Care Resource & Referral, Community Action of Eastern Iowa, 500 East 59<sup>th</sup> St. Davenport, IA 52807, (563) 324-3236 (866) 324-3236, [jdauscher@iacommunityaction.org](mailto:jdauscher@iacommunityaction.org)

### You may also reach the CDA coordinator:

Stacie Steveson—Iowa AEYC  
5525 Meredith Dr Suite F, Des Moines, IA 50310  
(515) 331-8000, (800) 469-2392  
[stacie@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:stacie@iowaaeyc.org)

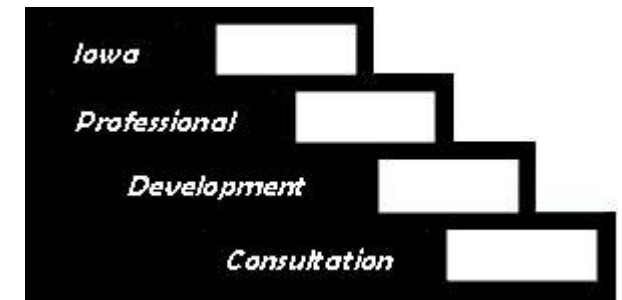
*The Iowa Professional Development Consultation Project is available to assist early childhood practitioners to provide quality services through achieving formal education and specialized training.*

### ***This project is supported by :***



*Additional agencies partner in the success of this project: Iowa AEA, Iowa Community College Early Childhood Education Alliance, Iowa Dept. of Education, Iowa Head Start, and United Way of Central Iowa.*

## What is the **Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential?**



### ***How do I get it?***

### ***Why do I need it?***

### ***Who has time and money to help me?***

## What is a CDA credential?

The CDA (Child Development Associate) credential is a nationally recognized credential awarded to individuals who have demonstrated the required competency through both experience and education in working with young children ages birth to 5. The CDA credential is awarded to infant/toddler child care teachers, preschool teachers, or family child care providers.

## What are the eligibility requirements?

Candidates for the CDA must:

- Be 18 years or older.
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Have 480 hours of experience working with young children within the past 5 years.
- Have 120 hours of formal child care education and training within the past 5 years in the CDA training content areas (contact your local community college)

## How do I earn a CDA credential?

In order to receive the CDA credential, an individual must meet the eligibility requirements and complete or facilitate the completion of:

- A professional resource file
- Parent opinion questionnaires
- A formal observation
- An oral interview
- A written assessment

## Who awards the CDA credential?

The Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition administers the CDA program.

## Why should I get the CDA?

This nationally recognized credential will help to increase your knowledge and level of professionalism. You may also receive an increase in wages.

## What is the cost of the CDA?

You will have the cost of the application packet (\$23), cost of coursework, and the \$325 assessment application fee. T.E.A.C.H. offers support for college coursework AND the fee for applying.

## How long will it take to earn a CDA credential?

The majority of your time spent will be on obtaining the 120 clock hours of training. Most individuals can complete the entire process in one year or less.

## 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, you may apply for renewal. Each CDA credential renewal is valid for an additional 5 years.

## Where can I learn more about the CDA credential?

Contact the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition in Washington, DC, (800) 424-4310 or go to their website at: [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org).



## What kind of support does T.E.A.C.H. IOWA provide?

T.E.A.C.H. provides counseling, scholarship, and administrative support. T.E.A.C.H. collects and reviews assessment application materials and submits them to the Council for you.

## How is the CDA Assessment Scholarship Program funded?

Funding comes from a variety of sources, primarily the Iowa Department of Human Services, Community Empowerment, and United Way of Central Iowa.

## What scholarships are available?

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA has degree scholarships to help you meet your educational and professional development goals. If you do not have the education required for the CDA credential, you may apply for an associate degree scholarship to help you with expenses for credit bearing CDA coursework.

## Who is eligible for the CDA assessment scholarship from T.E.A.C.H.?

Individuals working in a regulated preschool or child care program for at least 30 hours per week or when the preschool is providing care are eligible for the scholarship.

**For more information, call or write:**

**T.E.A.C.H.**  
**Early Childhood® IOWA**  
Iowa Association for the  
Education of Young Children  
5525 Meredith Drive, Suite F  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
(515) 331-8000

