

How do I start the process of evaluating my goals ?

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

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

Region 3 (SW/South Central Iowa)

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

Region 4 (Central Iowa)

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

Region 5 (SE Iowa)

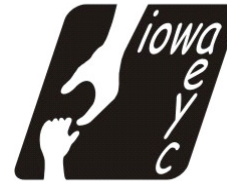
Jessica Dauscher—Child Care Resource & Referral, Community Action of Eastern Iowa, 500 East 59th St. Davenport, IA 52807, (563) 324-3236 (866) 324-3236, jdauscher@iacommunityaction.org

You may also reach the CDA coordinator:

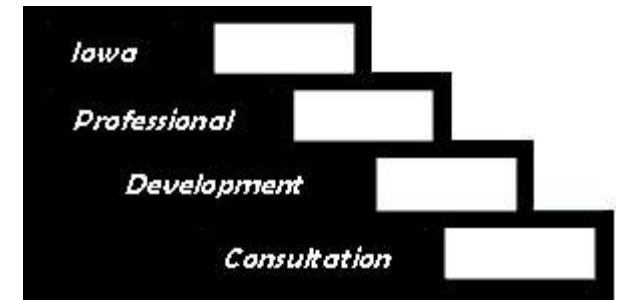
Stacie Steveson—Iowa AEYC
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(515) 331-8000, (800) 469-2392
stacie@iowaaeyc.org

The 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 this **new** consultation project?

What does it mean for me?

Why do we **need** it in Iowa?

Who can help **me**?

What is the Iowa Professional Development Consultation Project?

The Office of Empowerment's state-wide professional development funds have made it possible for the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (Iowa AEYC), Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), and Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (CCR&R) to develop an exciting and much needed collaborative partnership to provide professional development consulting for early care and education practitioners who work in the Pre-Kindergarten, Head Start, and child care programs throughout the state.

Professional development consulting services are available across the state for any early care and education practitioner who desires support and guidance with developing a professional development plan, obtaining a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, and completing degrees in early childhood related fields.

Ask yourself...

Where am I now?

Where do I want to be?

Do I need money?

How can this consultation help me?

Benefits for professionals in the field:

- ◆ Be connected with other professionals and will receive on-going technical assistance, frequent communication, and updates about the CDA credentials.
- ◆ Regional Professional Development Coordinators consult with practitioners to when they are interested in furthering their career
- ◆ Be assured that practitioners in your system have access to obtaining the knowledge and skills necessary to provide quality care and education
- ◆ An advisory committee is providing critical oversight and guidance in the development of this project
- ◆ The DHS Child Care Professional Development Program Manager will coordinate the project and provide leadership

Benefits for practitioners in the field:

- ◆ A system for using community-based training hours to obtain the CDA
- ◆ Referrals to community colleges for those interested in for-credit CDA courses
- ◆ Referrals to T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood IOWA[®] for those practitioners who wish to use college credit coursework to meet their CDA requirements and for support of all those with the CDA application fees
- ◆ Assistance with compiling resource files and completing the application
- ◆ Systematic access to CDA Advisors that includes providing reimbursement (limited funding is currently available)

Why do we need this?

Education is critical to having a quality early care and education workforce because the quality of care is related to both the formal education levels and the specialized early childhood training of teachers (Tout, Zaslow & Berry, 2006; NCIECPD, 2007).

The Iowa Professional Development Consultation Project is critical to supporting early care and education practitioners in obtaining the knowledge & skills necessary for quality care.

Often seen as a first step to formal education, the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential requires 120 hours of formal training, 480 hours of experience working with young children in the past five years, an objective assessment of the provider's skills, and a verification visit including written and oral exams.

The CDA meets requirements in programs such as Shared Visions, Title I, ECSE, and Head Start; on-site supervisors and directors of child care centers and home providers to meet regulatory requirements and the Quality Rating System (QRS) with the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS); and practitioner qualifications for accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC).

An estimated 400-500 practitioners need access to the CDA within the next two years & 1,000 practitioners will need access to the CDA within the next six years.

