

CDA® State Fact Sheet MARYLAND



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Maryland: **13,696***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Maryland:

Infant-Toddler **5,494** | Preschool **7,072** |
Family Child Care **1,044** | Home Visitor **123** |

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

Partnership

The **Maryland Head Start State Collaboration Office** is located in the State Department of Education and is overseen by the Division of Early Childhood Development. The mission of the Maryland Head Start Collaboration Project is to establish partnerships and collaborative efforts to build an effective early care and education system that works to achieve positive outcomes and results for children and 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

- **Smart Horizons - Maryland:** 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.
- **ProSolutions Training - Maryland:** ProSolutions offers online training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA, and for CDA Renewal.
- **Successful Solutions Professional Development CDA Training:** Successful Solutions offers a self-study, self-paced Online Training Delivery Method. The **Maryland** CDA Training Program includes online CDA Credential and CDA Renewal training.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **State Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood CDA Funding:** Funding is provided to support child care providers with obtaining the CDA Credential by covering the cost of the initial online CDA assessment fee, the CDA renewal online application fee, and the CDA Competency Standards Book for the Preschool, Infant-Toddler, or Family Child Care settings.

Meet: Crystal Barksdale – Maryland

Crystal's family child care business has come a long way. She began Little Rugrats 24 years ago in an apartment and now has a big house where she cares for eight young learners. She has also expanded her knowledge of the early childhood field by earning her Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. "After I was in the business for about 10 years, another child care provider told me about the CDA," Crystal says. It seemed like a good idea though she worried that it would take a lot of time. It turned out to be worth the effort as Crystal found herself gaining new knowledge and building a network of colleagues. Meeting them made her think about how she could contribute to her profession—and she has by serving on the Maryland Office of Child Care Advisory Council. Among the ideas the council members supported was helping folks earn their CDA, a suggestion the Maryland State Department of Education came to act on this year. And that was great for the educators in her state. "Getting a CDA helps educators enhance their professional growth and learn how to run their business," Crystal explains. "I know that completing my own helped me succeed in my career."

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. **Over 800,000 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.

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