

CDA® State Fact Sheet TEXAS



CDA® Credentials Awarded in
Texas: **83,263***

CDA® Credential Types Awarded in
Texas:

Infant-Toddler **24,488** | Preschool **55,563** |
Family Child Care **2,913** | Home Visitor **468**

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

Partnership

The **Texas Head Start State Collaboration Office** is permanently housed at the Children's Learning Institute office at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. The Collaboration Office exists to facilitate collaboration among Head Start agencies and entities that carry out activities designed to benefit low-income children from birth to school entry, 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

- **National CDA Training - Texas:** National CDA Training provides Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA training using a scenario-based method. National CDA Training also offers training for the Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA renewals.
- **ProSolutions Training - Texas:** ProSolutions offers online training for the Infant-Toddler CDA, Preschool CDA, Family Child Care CDA, and Home Visitor CDA, and online CDA Renewal Training.
- **National CDA Training - Texas:** National CDA Training provides Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA training using a scenario-based method. National CDA Training also offers training for the Infant-Toddler CDA and Preschool CDA renewals.

State Scholarship Opportunities

- **T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Texas Scholarship Program:** The Texas Association for the Education of Young Children administers T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Texas that offers the CDA Assessment Fee Scholarship to assist in paying the assessment fee. The CDA Assessment Scholarship also pays a bonus to the recipient once they receive their CDA Credential.

Meet: Lekessia Jones - Texas

Lekessia is an early childhood teacher and trainer at Children's Courtyard, which partners with the Council to help teachers earn their Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™. "When I first started the journey to become a CDA, I did not realize how much I would grow and how much better I would understand children," Lekessia says. But it opened her eyes as both a professional and a parent, she explains. She's now raising five children of her own besides taking care of other people's children. And each day is a new chance for her to learn as she leads children in morning aerobics or outside adventures like hunting bugs.

She also cherishes how much the children give back to her as they grow and progress. "The joy of watching a toddler when they first grasp the concept of 'I can serve myself' or learn how to use the potty is a great experience," she says. "I've seen how much the children teach me in return. And to think all this came from earning my CDA. Now I have a great career that I enjoy"—and the expertise to guide young kids on their own journey through life.

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.