



Earn Your CDA

TEACH

CDA[®] Navigator

Iowa

A Program of Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

What is the CDA®?

The CDA® (Child Development Associate) Credential is a nationally recognized credential earned by those working in the early care and education field. It is based on a core set of competency standards and involves education, experience, and documentation.

Obtaining your CDA® demonstrates your knowledge, skills, and abilities in the early childhood field, as well as your commitment to career advancement and professionalism. A CDA® credential is good for three years and then will need to be renewed if an individual has not increased their level of former education.



Who are the CDA® Navigators?

The CDA® Navigators are a team from the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (Iowa AEYC) whose job is to support you in earning your CDA®! The Navigators offer free, step-by-step, personalized assistance with every step of the CDA® process, including the portfolio and exam.

The Navigators work across the state of Iowa and are free to meet with you in-person or virtually!



Why should I earn my CDA®?



1. Compensation

Earn up to \$1,900 for completing your CDA®!

Our CDA® Navigators work closely with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa, a comprehensive scholarship program designed to establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated, and stable early care and education workforce.

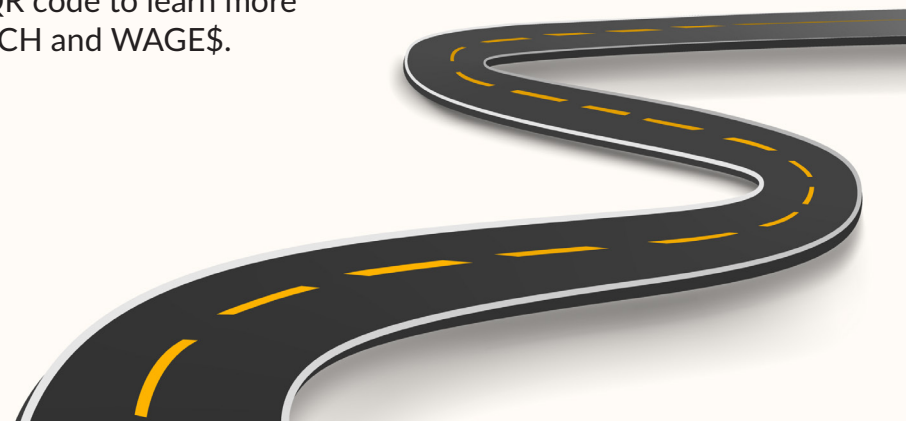
When you partner with a CDA® Navigator and receive a TEACH scholarship, TEACH will pay:

- \$475 of the \$525 CDA® assessment fee and
- \$800-\$1,000 bonus

In addition to your bonus from TEACH, earning your CDA® may also make you eligible for Child Care WAGE\$® Iowa! When you are eligible for and apply to WAGE\$ you could earn an annual bonus of:

- \$550-\$1,150 (if you earn your CDA® through training hours) OR
- \$800-\$1,650 (if you earn your CDA® through college credits)

Scan the QR code to learn more about TEACH and WAGE\$.



Why should I earn my CDA®?



2. Provide Higher Quality Care

Learn more about children's development.

In the process of earning your CDA®, you will gain skills for working with children in your specific setting and age group.

When you earn your CDA®, you'll complete training in the following areas:

- Planning a safe and healthy learning environment
- Advancing children's physical and intellectual development
- Supporting children's social and emotional development
- Building productive relationships with families
- Managing an effective program operation
- Maintaining a commitment to professionalism
- Observing and recording children's behavior
- Understanding the principles of child development and learning

Why should I earn my CDA®?



3. Advance Your Career & Education

You're on your way to an Associate Degree!

The CDA® is the only nationally-recognized early care and education credential that can be transferred between any state. It is widely regarded as the best first step to earning higher education in the early care and education field.

Earning your CDA® will put you ahead on the Early Care and Education Career Pathway as well as give your program IQ4K points.

Additionally, if you earn your CDA® through training hours, you may qualify for what is known as CDA® articulation, which is when you can take your training hours and turn them into college credits at a greatly reduced tuition rate. There are currently 10 community colleges in Iowa that offer CDA® articulation.

Scan the QR code to learn more about colleges that participate in CDA® articulation!



How do I earn my CDA®?

Eligibility

Before you can earn your CDA®, you'll need:

- High school diploma/equivalent
- 480 hours of experience working with young children within the last three years

Partner with a Navigator

Work together with a TEACH CDA® Navigator for free step-by-step, personalized assistance with the CDA® portfolio and exam process

Earn Your Education

CDA® candidates are required to earn at least 120 hours of early childhood training in the eight subject areas listed on page 3, or complete 12 early childhood college credits.

Here is the Iowa Community College Early Childhood Alliance's recommended coursework: ECE 103, ECE 133, and ECE 243. Along with one of the following courses: ECE 158, ECE 159, or ECE 221.

Complete Your Portfolio

The Council requires a number of different documents for your professional portfolio, including:

- Summary of Education
- Family Questionnaires
- Reflective Statements of Competence
- Resource Collection
- Professional Philosophy statement

Apply

Once your portfolio is finished, you have two applications to complete: the application to the Council and the application for a CDA® Assessment scholarship through TEACH. The TEACH scholarship will pay more than 90% of the CDA® Assessment fee.

PDS Visit and Exam

This is the assessment portion of the CDA® process. Schedule your verification visit and exam in your CDA® Council account.

Earn!

Earn your CDA®, receive a bonus from TEACH, and potentially become eligible for additional bonuses from WAGE\$

Start your CDA[®] today!

Contact the CDA[®] Navigators:

cda@iowaaeyc.org

515.331.8000

or scan the QR code for more information!

