

**What is a CDA Credential?**

The CDA Credential is a nationally recognized credential awarded to individuals who have demonstrated competency through both experience and education in working with young children ages 0-5. The CDA Credential is awarded to infant/toddler childcare teachers, preschool teachers or family childcare providers.

**Who awards the CDA Credential?**

The Council for Professional Recognition (The Council) administers the CDA credentialing program and awards the CDA Credential.

**What are the CDA eligibility requirements?**

Candidates for the CDA must meet the following four criteria: be 18 years or older, have a high school diploma or equivalent, have 480 hours of experience working with young children within the past five years and have 120 hours of formal child care education and training within the past five years in the CDA training content areas completed through Quorum/Teaching Strategies CDA training.

**How do I earn the CDA Credential?**

To receive the CDA Credential, an individual must meet the eligibility requirements and complete or facilitate the completion of the following: a professional resource file, parent opinion questionnaires, a formal observation, an oral interview and a written assessment.

**Where can I get the CDA Credential Assessment application?**

The CDA assessment application can be completed online through the YourCouncil system, accessible through the Council for Professional Recognition’s website at [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org) . It can also be found within the CDA Competency Standards Booklet which can be ordered through the Council’s online bookstore.

**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, an individual may apply for renewal. When renewal is granted, the Credential becomes valid for an additional 5 years.

**Who administers the CDA Assessment Scholarship Program?**

The CDA Credential Scholarships are made available through the TEACH Early Childhood® North Carolina Scholarship Program and is administered by Child Care Services Association.

**Who is eligible for a CDA Assessment Scholarship for Quorum/Teaching Strategies Members?**

Teachers working in an NC PreK classroom or early care and education licensed setting at least 20 hours per week and completing CDA training through Quorum/Teaching Strategies are encouraged to apply.

**What will the CDA Credential Assessment Scholarship cover?**

The CDA Assessment Scholarship will cover 100% of the CDA book and assessment fee for authorized scholarship recipients.

**Will I be compensated for earning the CDA Credential?**

Yes. Child Care Services Association (CCSA) will award a \$200 bonus to individuals participating on the scholarship program who attain the CDA Credential.

**What kind of commitment is required of recipients of the CDA Assessment Scholarship?**

Scholarship recipients are asked to remain in an NC PreK classroom or with their current employer for an additional 6 months after compensation is issued.

**What kind of support does Child Care Services Association provide?**

CCSA provides counseling and administrative support. CCSA authorizes payment of CDA book and assessment fee and awards a bonus upon completion of the CDA.

Scholarship	Education	Compensation	Commitment
100% CDA book	Complete CDA training through Quorum/Teaching Strategies and direct assessment through the Council.	\$200 Bonus upon award of CDA	6 months in NC PreK classroom or current employer.
100% Assessment fee			