

# Renewing Your Child Development Associate Credential: Requirements and Supports for Early Educators

## About the Child Development Associate (CDA)

The Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education. Holding a CDA signifies that an early childhood educator has mastered the essential competencies needed by entry-level early childhood professionals. The CDA is administered by the Council for Professional Recognition, a national organization that sets standards for CDA conferral and confers the CDA on applicants who meet the standards. The CDA is not an associate degree—it can be completed without ever enrolling formally in an institution of higher education. It is also a competency-based credential, meaning that completing coursework alone is not sufficient to obtain a CDA—early childhood educators must also demonstrate mastery through experience in the field, an assessment and completion of a portfolio and observation.

## CDA Renewal Requirements

Unlike an associate or bachelor's degree, which once conferred are held for life, early childhood educators who hold a CDA must renew their CDA every three years from the award date in order for the CDA to remain up to date. In order to renew a CDA, current CDA holders must complete requirements related to professional development, continued work with children and safety:

CDA RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS	
Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued professional education (i.e., 45 clock hours of training in early childhood education [ECE] and/or child development)</li><li>Membership to a national or local early childhood professional organization</li></ul>
Continued Work with Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minimum 80 hours working with young children</li><li>Recommendation from an <a href="#">ECE reviewer</a> (e.g., center director, supervisor, etc.)</li></ul>
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First Aid and infant and child CPR certification</li></ul>

Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)-sponsored grantees can support early childhood educators to complete all CDA renewal requirements (see more information below). The Council for Professional Recognition recommends that current CDA holders begin the renewal process at least **six months** prior to their CDA expiration date, which can be found on the certificate issued by the Council for Professional Recognition.

## Supports for Renewal through OSSE-Sponsored Partners

Resources and supports are available to help early childhood educators renew their CDA! These include CDA renewal scholarships through OSSE's CDA training and preparation program grantees, Southeast Children's Fund (SCF) and CentroNía Institute as well as virtual training for early childhood educators to renew their CDA through [Quorum E-Learning](#). SCF, CentroNía Institute and other OSSE partners can support early childhood educators to complete all components of the CDA renewal process.

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For more information on CDA renewal scholarships or to be connected with a CDA renewal program, contact the ECE Help Desk, SCF or CentroNía Institute.

### OSSE's ECE Help Desk:

Email [ECEHelpDesk@dc.gov](mailto:ECEHelpDesk@dc.gov) or call (202) 478-5903

### SCF:

Complete the [SCF CDA interest form](#) or call (202) 406-0422



SCAN for the SCF CDA Interest Form

### CentroNía Institute:

Complete the [CDA interest form](#) or call (202) 332-4200, ext. 1142 or ext. 1021.



SCAN for the CentroNía CDA Interest Form