



District of Columbia
Office of the State
Superintendent of Education

Introduction to the CDA Training Scholarship and Promotion Program

CentroNía and Southeast Children’s Fund were recently awarded the CDA Training Scholarship and Promotion Program grant by the Division of Early Learning (DEL) in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential™ is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education. The CDA provides a foundation for building the essential competencies needed by entry-level early childhood professionals. The CDA process can take about 3 to 6 months to complete.



OSSE CDA Partners

CentroNía is a nationally recognized, award-winning educational organization that has been providing quality bilingual early childhood education to low-income families for more than 30 years. CentroNía has 18 years of experience providing CDA training programs. In 2017, CentroNía was awarded Gold Standard Training Certification by the Council for Professional Recognition based on high-quality standards met.

Southeast Children’s Fund (SCF) is a certified non-degree post-secondary institution and has been conducting CDA training programs for more than 20 years. SCF operates two National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited child development centers which have earned a gold-tier rating from the District’s Child Care Subsidy Program.

Both partners have rigorous preparation programs that offer:

- Classes throughout the year in English, Spanish, and Amharic
- Instruction on the six essential CDA Competency Goals
- Ongoing support in completing each step of the credential process
- Assistance with portfolio development, coordination of needed observation, and exam preparation support
- Scholarships to pay the application fee

Steps to Obtaining a CDA through OSSE-Sponsored Partners

1. Call CentroNía or Southeast Children’s
2. Complete an **application**
3. Write an **essay** (and/or interview) explaining why you are pursuing a CDA
4. **Attend classes** for at least 120 hours, as scheduled
5. While learning in instructional courses, clock at least **480 hours of work experience**
6. Develop a **professional portfolio** with the aid of the instructor
7. **Be observed** by a designated CDA Professional Development Specialist
8. Demonstrate content knowledge via the **CDA exam**

Contact Information

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