

Renewing your Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA has supported over 500 early care and education (ECE) professionals in obtaining CDA credentials since 2004. This process requires 120 hours of college credit/training in ECE and 5 steps to verify competence. Currently, over 800 Iowans are CDAs.

Once the credential is earned, it must be renewed within 3 years (and 5 years each renewal thereafter). The Council (for Professional Recognition) will not send out a reminder; they depend on you, as a professional, to maintain this credential.

REASONS TO RENEW

- ◆ Once your credential expires, you are no longer a CDA.
- ◆ Your employer and/or position may require a CDA credential. Those programs may include: NAEYC accredited centers, Head Start, Shared Visions, State Voluntary Preschool Programs, etc.
- ◆ Iowa's Quality Rating System (QRS) awards points for those who hold a current CDA credential.
- ◆ The CDA credential is a great stepping stone toward a degree. Until earning a degree, you may need a CDA credential to meet program requirements.
- ◆ Even after earning a degree, you may wish to maintain the credential to demonstrate ECE knowledge.

HOW TO RENEW

- ◆ During the 3 years after you receive your CDA credential (either A or B)
 - A. Earn 3 college credits in ECE
 - B. Earn 4.5 formal CEUs in ECE
- ◆ During your renewal year (12 months prior to expiration):
 - A. Order a CDA credential renewal packet from The Council
 - B. Complete the renewal application and:
 1. Join an ECE **professional organization** (i.e. Iowa AEYC, NAFCC)
 2. Obtain current certification in **first aid** for ECE
 3. Select an ECE professional to complete the **letter of recommendation**. This person:
 - a. **Can** be your supervisor, CCR&R staff, Head Start administrative staff person
 - b. **Can not** be a co-teacher, someone you supervise/employ, friend or relative
- ◆ Near the end of the renewal year, send to the Council:
 1. Application form
 2. \$50 renewal fee
 3. Copies of: first aid certification, proof of recent work experience, membership card from ECE professional organization, letter of recommendation, and transcript/CEU certificates



EXPIRED CDA CREDENTIALS

The Council allows you to renew for up to 24 months after it has expired. While you can not consider yourself a current CDA, they will not require you to complete the initial requirements. Do the renewal steps today, and be a CDA again!



T.E.A.C.H. can now help with renewing your CDA! Visit our website or call our office for more details! 515.331.8000 or www.iowaaeYC.org