



**WY QUALITY COUNTS!**  
AWARENESS & TRAINING FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE

Are you thinking about getting your CDA?

We can help find the training and pay for it!

### What is a CDA?

A Child Development Associate (CDA) is an individual who has successfully completed the CDA assessment process and has been awarded the CDA credential. CDAs are able to meet the specific needs of children and work with parents and other adults to nurture children's physical, social, emotional, and intellectual growth in a child development framework.

### Who can get a CDA?

Candidates seeking to apply for CDA assessment in any of the three settings (center-based [preschool or infant-toddler], family child care, and home visitor) must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Hold a high school diploma or GED
- Have 480 hours of experience working with children within the past five years
- Have 120 clock hours of formal child care education within the past five years

Candidates applying for a Bilingual Endorsement must meet the above requirements and be able to speak, read, and write well enough in both English and another language to understand and be understood by both children and adults. All candidates must also be able to identify an appropriate setting where they can be observed working as the lead caregiver.

### Who can help me apply for the training and funding?

The Career Development Program at the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance in partnership with WY Quality Counts program can help. Call Career Development at 1-800-400-3999 and ask for Rose Kor. Answers to questions, help with the process and the paperwork are only a phone call away.

### Where do I start?

The first step is deciding if you have the time and commitment to training required to earn a CDA, an associate's degree or beyond. The CDA program in Wyoming is offered through two of our community colleges, Northwest College in Powell and Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne. Both colleges offer the two courses required for the CDA program on-line.

Answer the following questions:

- Am I committed to completing this work?
- Do I have access to the internet?
- Do I feel comfortable learning over the internet?

If you can truly answer yes to these questions then do the following things:

Call WCAA or STARS at 1-800-400-3999 and visit about what you would like to do.

- Get help with deadlines for WY Quality Counts scholarships and the forms you need to complete.
- Get help with the steps for registering at the college you choose.
- Get support for tracking your progress through the Wyoming Career Development Ladder.

#### How long does it take?

It takes nine to 12 months to complete the entire process of getting your CDA. The first step is taking the two required college courses. The second step is submitting your completed training information from the college work, your previous training and your observations from the classes to the Council for Professional Recognition. At this point, the Council will schedule an assessment visit for you. This may take three to six months. After the Council assessor visits you and observes you working with children. All of your work and observations then result in a recommendation on the award of a certificate.