



Well-Educated Caregivers  
Create a Strong  
Child Care System  
in Minnesota.



A Strong Minnesota  
Needs a Strong  
Child Care System.

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## MINNESOTA CDA SUPPORT PROJECT

**Helping Child Care Providers  
on the Path to a  
National Child Development  
Associate Credential**



## How can the Minnesota CDA Support Project help Child Development Associate candidates?

The Minnesota CDA Support Project offers financial support and guidance to child care professionals—including licensed family child care providers, child care center staff and Head Start staff—who are working toward their National Child Development Associate Credential (CDA).

National CDA candidates may apply for financial support (up to \$300) to pay for the services of a qualified CDA advisor. The role of the advisor is to observe the candidate working with young children in an eligible setting. The purpose of the formal observation is to provide evidence of the candidate's actual, hands-on skills working with children. The candidates are also eligible to receive the guidance of a knowledgeable counselor trained to provide support throughout the credentialing process.



***Funding has been set aside for caregivers working with infants and toddlers.***

### To apply for financial support:

Contact the Minnesota Child Care Resource & Referral Network, 651-290-9704, ext. 108. Interested candidates will be provided with an application and list of qualified National CDA advisors.

### To receive guidance on the credentialing process:

Contact Resources for Child Caring at 651-641-6653 or Bemidji State University at 218-755-3779.

### What is a National CDA?

- A National CDA (Child Development Associate) is a national credential issued by the Council for Professional Recognition.
- It is received after completing the National CDA assessment.

## Eligibility requirements for a National CDA

- High school graduate/GED
- 18 years or older
- 480 hours of experience working with children within the past five years
- For more information on the CDA, including application materials, go to [www.cdacouncil.org](http://www.cdacouncil.org).

## Benefits of earning a National CDA

- Gain the knowledge and skills needed to meet the specific needs of children.
- The CDA is a respected, national credential.
- Eligibility to receive higher reimbursement rate from Child Care Assistance.
- Eligibility to apply for the REETAIN program and earn an additional annual grant of \$1000 (if awarded).

