



WCAA Updates

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STARS is a program of the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance. Other programs include Kids Count, Providers Empowering Providers and Pathways for Professional Development

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What is a CDA Certificate?

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Certificate is an entry level skills certification awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, DC. The certificate is recognized in most states in the US and is required for employees by some child care programs such as Head Start.

There are many ways to earn a CDA certificate. In Wyoming, some of the most common ways include in-house employer training programs, the community college based CDA program hosted by LCCC and NWC and the Pathways for Professional Development classes. WY Quality Counts offers scholarships for the college-based program and funds the Pathways for Professional Development classes.

Employer-based programs are typically hosted by large organizations which have child care programs in several communities. These programs vary widely and you must work in the program to participate. The community college-based programs each include two on-line courses taken at the same time which provide most of the required training and support the creation of the required professional portfolio. This program requires one semester of class time to complete the training portion with the portfolio and several more months to complete the application process with the Council for Professional Recognition.

The Pathways for Professional Development is a series of three classes spread over three semesters or about 18 months. All of the 120 hours of required training and support in constructing the professional portfolio are included. Then the application process with the Council for Professional Recognition requires several more months.

The application with the Council for Professional Recognition is simple but has long wait times between steps. If you have questions about the CDA Certificate you can call the Career Development Program at 1-800-400-3999.

Need training hours? Check the STARS Training Calendar!

- Check the training calendar at www.wykids.org by the county in which you live to see what is coming up in your area.
- In Sheridan, Centsible Nutrition is offering a series of classes at the Senior Center on Wednesdays from Jan. 9 through Feb. 27. See the details on the Training Calendar or call Sandy Koltiska at 674-2980.
- Eastern Wyoming College is again offering classes for child care providers. The classes are live at EWC in Torrington and connected to high schools in northeastern Wyoming via the compressed video system (WEN). Contact Vicki Kutsch: EWC Workforce Development Office, 307-532-8328. Check the training calendar for Goshen County to see all the classes and times.



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WY Career Development Ladder FAQs

Q. What are the components of the Wyoming Professional Development Ladder?

A. The Wyoming Career Ladder is a statewide computerized registry that documents practitioners educational and professional accomplishments. Practitioners can use the program to accumulate an accurate record of their education and to receive recognition for their professional commitment.

Q. What is the purpose of the career ladder?

- A.
- To recognize individuals who make a commitment to continued professional development related to their work with children.
 - To increase the number of quality care and education programs developing a knowledgeable and skilled workforce.
 - To develop an awareness among parents, employers and other community members of the important roles that child care and early education practitioners play within communities across Wyoming.
 - To document a complete record of early childhood training and education for each practitioner.

Q. Who may participate in the Career Ladder?

A. Anyone working in a licensed child care setting or a legally exempt facility which is a paid member of the registry can participate in the Wyoming Career Development Ladder. The ladder includes people from entry level to those with university degrees.

STARS Can Help With Renewal of CDA certificates

If you have earned a Child Development Associate certificate from the Council for Professional Recognition, STARS can help you track your training and timing for renewal of your certificate.

The first renewal period for all CDA certificates is three years, second renewals extend the time period to five years. If you share a copy of your current CDA certificate with STARS, the data system will remind you one year before your expiration date that you need to begin planning for renewal.

In addition, within your STARS account, you have the option of running a CDA training transcript. Putting in the dates of your certificate will allow you to see which of the trainings you have completed are eligible for credit in renewing your CDA certificate. The Council for Professional Recognition does not accept clearinghouse or conference training credit for acquisition or renewal of CDA certificates. Renewal requires 45 eligible hours or 4.5 CEUs of training in addition to other requirements set out by the Council for Professional Recognition. Check their website at www.cdacouncil.org for all the details.



*Start the new year with a plan
to develop your career skills and
professional profile.*

