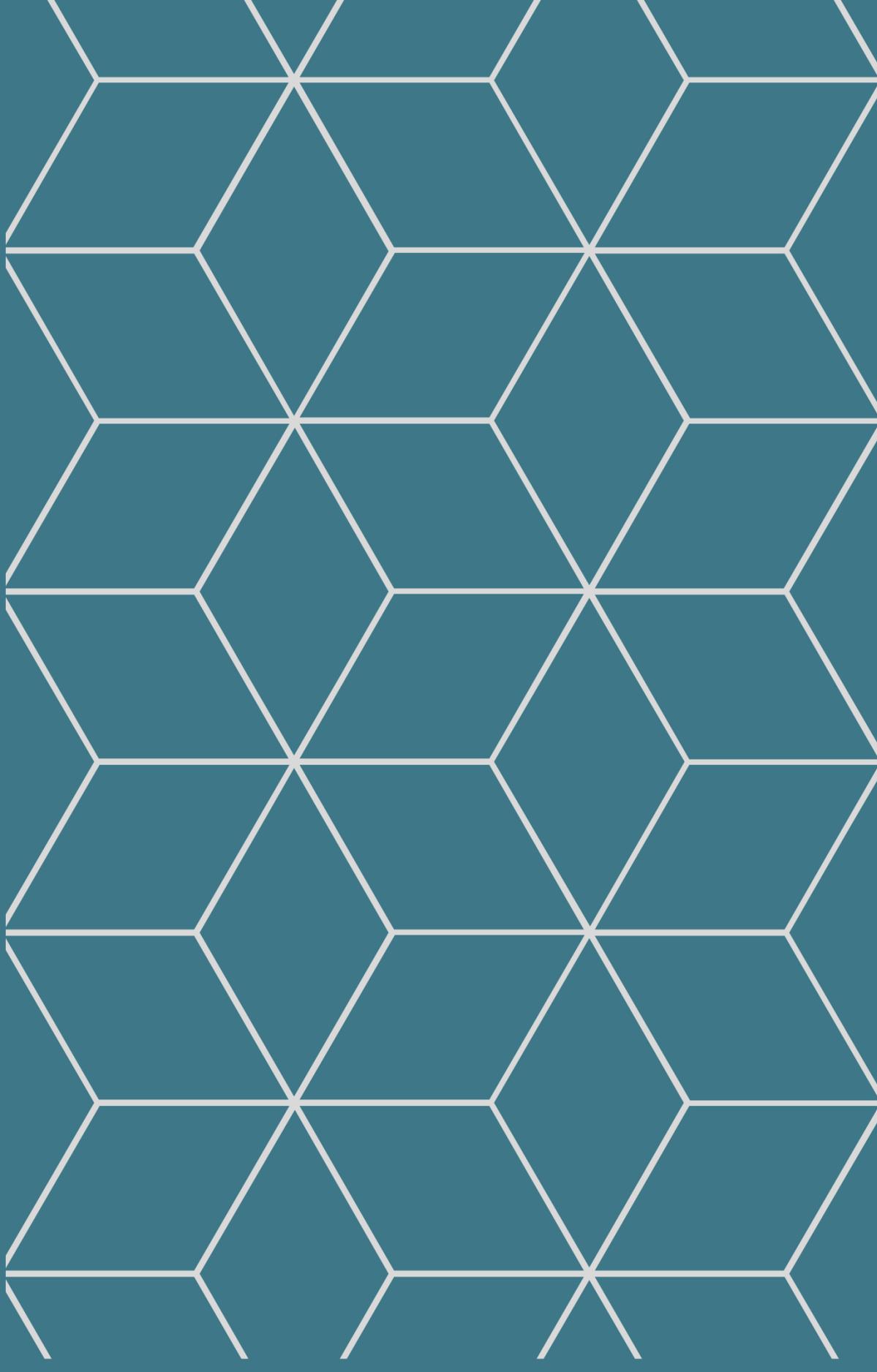




Become a PD Specialist

Mackenzie Pelland
Vicci Rydzinski

2025



Objectives

- Identify the PD Specialist role in the CDA® credentialing process.
- Define the role and responsibilities of a PD Specialist.
- Identify the Council's most recent updates.

Who We Are



Mackenzie Pelland
Director of ECE
Observation Systems



Vicci Rydzinski
Manager of ECE
Observation Systems



The CDA® Process and the Professional Development Specialist

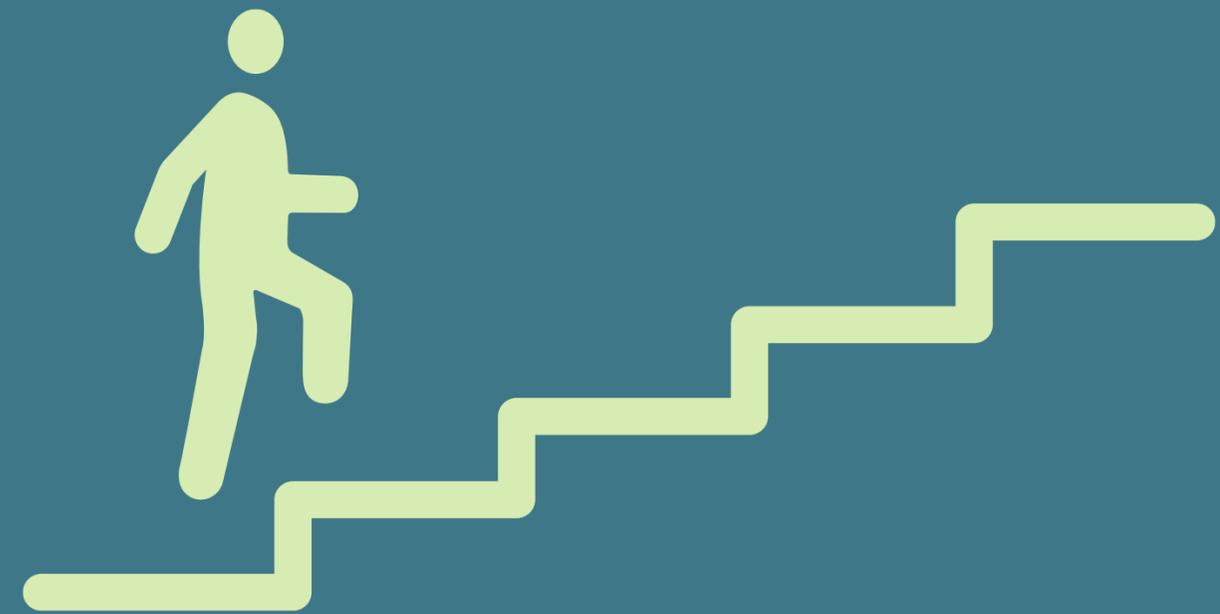
The Best 1st Step



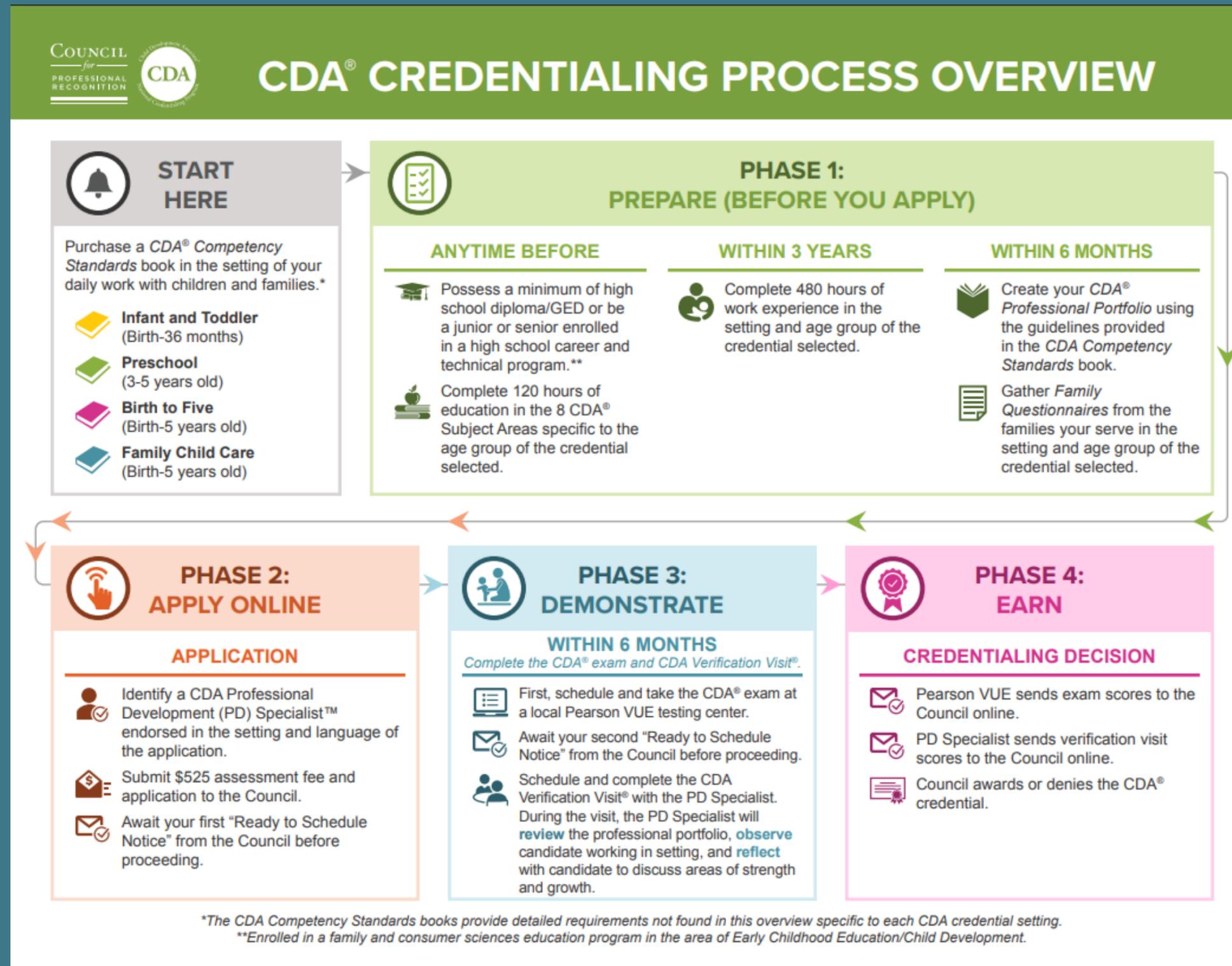
Nationally Recognized

Transferable

Competency-Based



CDA Credentialing Process



The Role of the PD Specialist



Verification Visit

Pre-Visit Verification Checklist

Review

Reviews one (1) hour the candidate's Portfolio, transcripts, questionnaires, certificates, resource collection, etc.

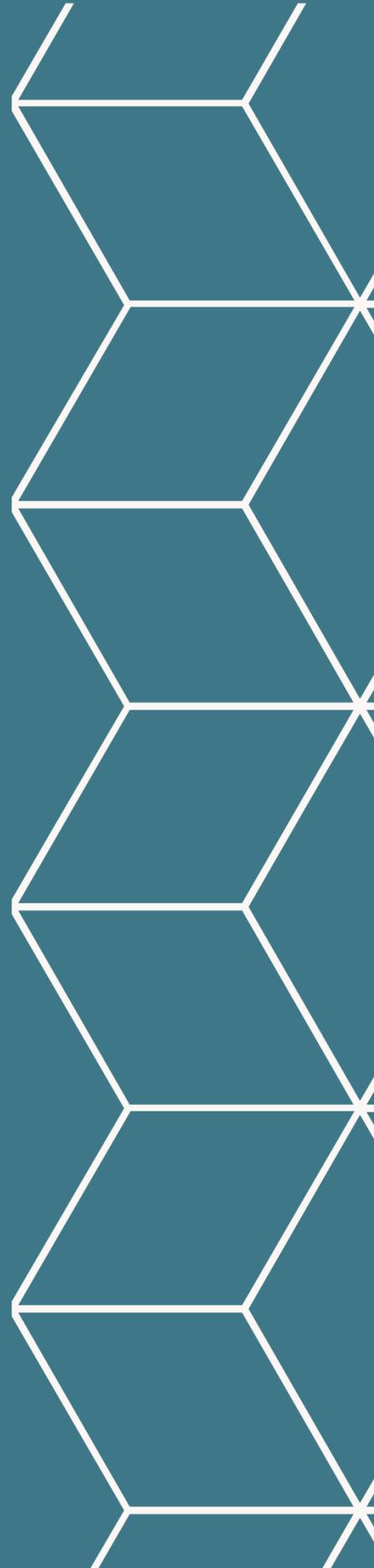
Observe

Conducts two (2) hour observation of the candidate working with children. Records findings.

Reflect

Engages in approximately **one (1) hour Reflective Dialogue**

Enter Scores into YourCouncil



Remote Travel



PDS Verification Visit- Travel Reimbursement Request Form

Please utilize this form to submit details of your potential upcoming Verification Visit requiring travel reimbursement. Visits are eligible for reimbursement that are over 50 miles one way.

Note that this **does not guarantee reimbursement** of your travel expenses. You will receive an email with additional information upon staff review and approval.

* Required

PDS Information

1. PDS Name *

2. PDS Endorsement Number *

Verification Visits requiring travel over **50 miles one way** are eligible for mileage reimbursement upon approval

Mileage is now reimbursed at the federal \$0.70 rate and per diem/lodging (only eligible for trips over **100 miles one way** upon approval) are now based on federal GSA rates at the location of the Verification Visit

Important Updates

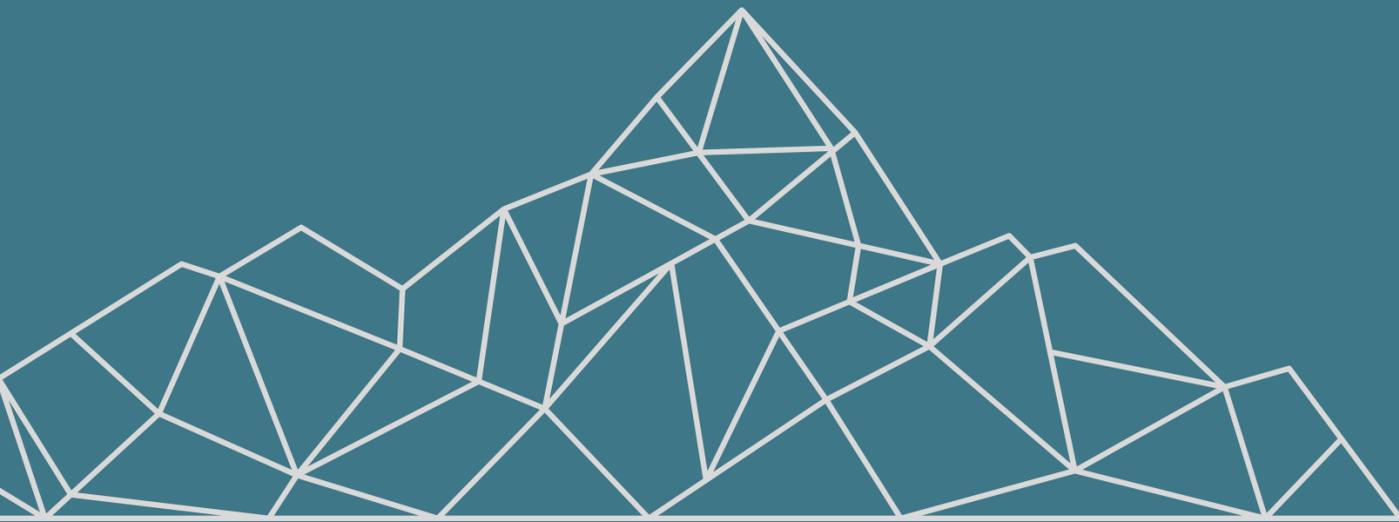


Honorarium Increase



\$200 per completed
Verification Visit

Increase will begin in January 2026

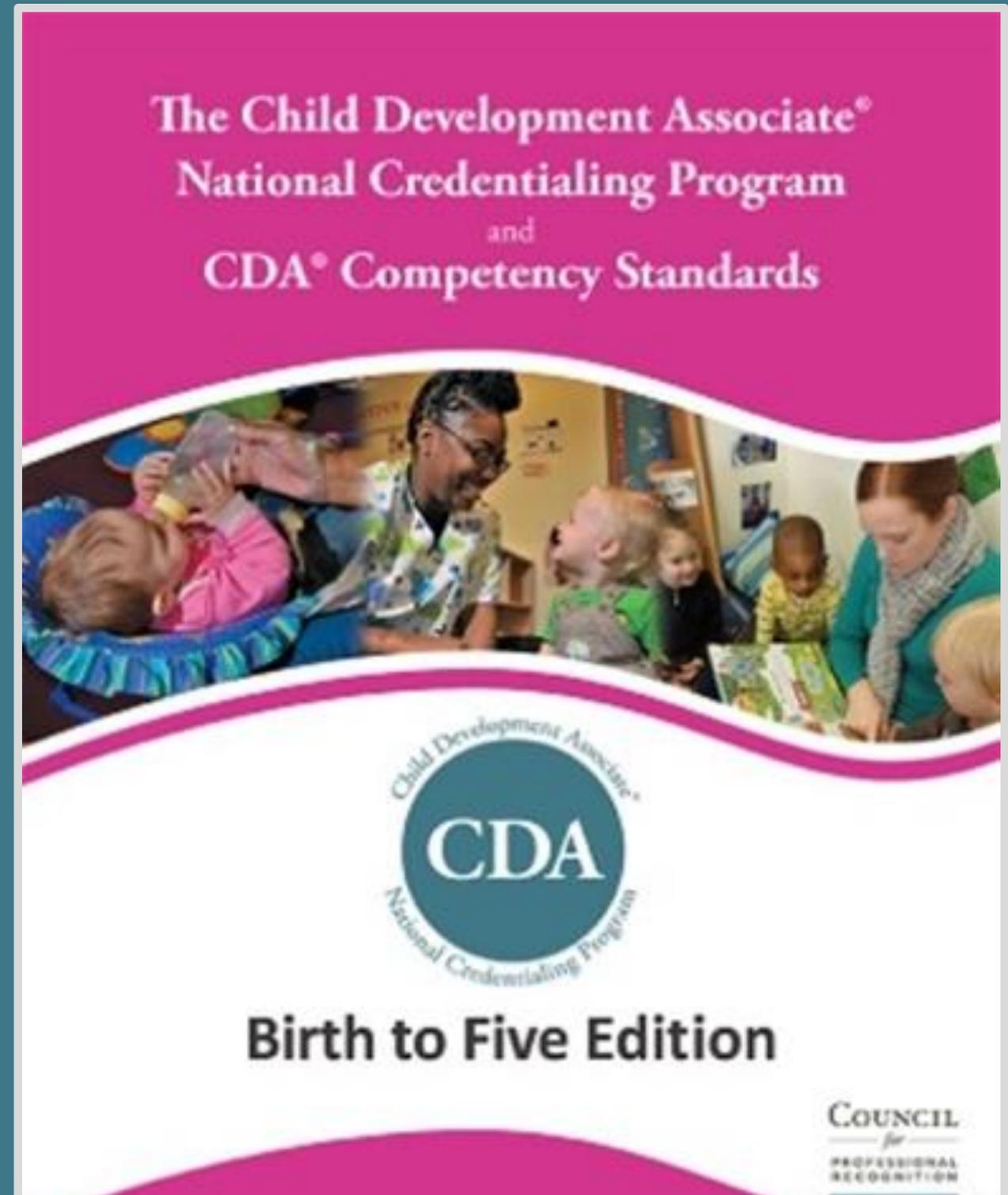


Birth to Five



The Council's Birth to Five CDA® credential officially launched on August 1st

Become endorsed in the Birth to Five setting by first being endorsed in Infant/Toddler and Preschool



Improved Exam Sequence

As of August 1st, candidates are now required to complete the exam before their verification visit

Important: The exam and verification visit must be completed within the 6-month timeframe.



Council Alumni Network



New and improved platform

- Wellness Challenges
- Coffee Breaks from various departments across the Council
- Mobile Friendly
- PD Specialist Community



Resources



PDS Community Page



Visit the PDS Community Page to find resources and tutorials

COUNCIL
for
**PROFESSIONAL
RECOGNITION**

Child Development Associate
50
years
1975 2025
National Credentialing Program

Español Sto

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ORGANIZATIONS** **POL**

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Apprenticeship
Pathways

Become a CDA
Professional
Development Specialist™

Related Links

CDA PD Specialist™
FAQ

PDS Community Login

YourCouncil Login



Join the new...

Council Alumni Network

Join the Council Alumni Network (CAN) today and take full advantage of opportunities for you to stay engaged and connected to your colleagues and other Council alumni participants. Don't miss access to special events and promotions!

Learn More & Join Here:

councilcan.org



Learn More & Stay Connected

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Questions &
Answers

