

Assignment 2a

Why Get a CDA?

CDA, Louisiana Pathways, and the School Readiness Tax Credit

CDA is one of the steps on the career ladder which is documented by Louisiana Pathways. Louisiana Pathways also provides scholarships for much of the cost of the CDA assessment. Pathways documents your progress in working toward your CDA.



CDA is the first step on the Louisiana Pathways career ladder which qualifies one for the school Readiness Tax Credit. This state tax credit is worth \$1,500 every year. If you owe, for example, \$2,000 in state taxes and are eligible for the tax credit, you will pay only \$500, so you save \$1,000 that you do not have to pay. If you owe \$500 in taxes and are eligible for the tax credit, you will receive a refund for \$1,000. And what's more, you get this benefit each year as long as you work in the child care field and meet all the requirements.

Here are some more benefits having a CDA brings to you:

- It establishes you as a professional in the early care and education field
- Part of one way you can become eligible to be a center director or work in Head Start—or even to own your own center
- Parents love it and feel good about knowing their child's caregiver meets standards.
- It gives you the knowledge to improve your skills in the classroom
- CDA is nationally recognized – you can use it to get a job if you move, even to another state
- It puts you on the cutting edge – many people are working on a CDA or already have it. You become part of a community of learners.

