

City of Columbus
Child Development Associate (CDA 2020) Pilot
Project Summary

Total: \$90,000
Project Period: 01/01/17 to 12/31/2017
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Academic Chair: Kirk Dickerson



By 2020, the State of Ohio is requiring all child care providers to be rated at least one star in Step Up to Quality (SUTQ), the State's tiered quality rating and improvement system. Providers who do not meet this deadline, will not be eligible to accept children receiving Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC). Currently, only 24 percent of child care providers in Columbus are SUTQ-rated.

A critical element of quality early childhood development is trained, quality teachers. Columbus State is well-positioned to provide this training for the childcare providers. Drawing on the expertise of its Early Childhood Development and Education (ECDE) faculty, Columbus State tested an accelerated model for CDA training through the city-funded *FastPath* program in 2015-16. Traditionally offered as a nine-month program, ECDE faculty condensed the curriculum into 12 weeks and offered the training in the evening to accommodate working teachers. Two cohorts completed the program with the following results: 49 enrolled; 45 completed (92%); 40 earned their CDA (89%).

In addition to these results, the dean, program chair and faculty have strong relationships with central Ohio childcare employers who seek ECDE graduates and promote the program to incumbent workers who need additional training. The CDA is the first credential on a career pathway leading to an Associate Degree in ECDE. As instructors continue their education they simultaneously advance their careers and further build the quality and capacity of childhood education providers in Columbus.

To address the critical need of CDA credentialed instructors in Columbus, Columbus State proposes to offer two CDA cohorts of 24 students each in early 2017. The cohorts would be offered spring semester (beginning in February 2017) in two community locations yet to be identified in the Linden and South Side neighborhoods. Total cost for the two cohorts would be \$90,000 for a per student cost of \$1,875. Successful graduates would earn nine (9) college credits and be prepared to take the CDA certification exam.

The overall goal of the proposed CDA 2020 is to increase the number and quality of early childhood development educators in Columbus and help to build the capacity of publicly funded child care providers in Columbus.

The proposal will target the following two objectives:

- To equip early childhood development educators in Columbus with the knowledge and skills to effectively prepare children for kindergarten.
- To expand the number and capacity of publicly funded providers in Columbus that receive at least one star in the Step Up to Quality system.

Outcome: Educate 48 child development associates and prepare them to earn a CDA credential.