

Quality Care For Kids Newsletter

June 2026 | Early Childhood Workforce Supports

Written by Lauren Linnenbrink, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (Iowa AEYC)


The workforce supports below are administered by Iowa AEYC.



Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (TEACH)

TEACH is a comprehensive scholarship program that provides the early childhood workforce with access to educational opportunities and helps establish a well-qualified, fairly compensated and stable workforce for our children. The next TEACH application deadline is July 15, 2026.

Contact TEACH to talk with a counselor about scholarship and college options.

 teach@iowaaeyc.org  (515) 331-8000

Watch the “What is TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa?” video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1VVrL2TYzxE



Child Care WAGE\$® Iowa (WAGE\$)

Child Care WAGE\$® Iowa is a salary supplement program offered by Iowa AEYC. WAGE\$ works hand-in-hand with TEACH Early Childhood® Iowa. WAGE\$ offers salary supplements (also called stipends) to the early care and education workforce based on the individual’s level of formal education and commitment to their program.

Watch the “2026 What is WAGE\$?” video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=j194asaPVLU



Take the WAGE\$ quiz to see if you may be eligible

iowaaeyc.org/programs/wages/eligibility-quiz/



Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™

Child Development Associate® (CDA) Credential™ is a nationally recognized credential earned by those working in the early care and education field. The credential is based on a core set of competency standards and includes an assessment process by the Council for Professional Recognition. The CDA Credential is nationally recognized in child care regulations. It is included in Iowa’s Quality Rating System (IQ4K®) and is required to achieve some accreditation standards. This credential is the best first step to earn more education in the early childhood field.

CDA® navigators work side-by-side with CDA candidates to support and facilitate the CDA process. They also build partnerships with community colleges and other training entities that provide education and training for the early childhood workforce. Navigators are located throughout the state and can meet in person or virtually.

Contact a CDA navigator to talk about the CDA Credential.

 cda@iowaaeyc.org

Watch the “How to Earn Your CDA® Credential in Iowa!” video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Egghzn4owK4



Scan the QR code to find your local CCNC or visit online at <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/programs-and-services/child-care/hcci>



Health and Human Services

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