

Credentials for Child Care Careers (C4) Grant FAQ

1. Are only school districts eligible to apply?

Yes, only districts with secondary schools currently providing or planning to begin providing an Early Childhood Education or Family Consumer Science CTE strand are eligible to apply for the grant.

UPDATED 11/12/24:

Iowa school districts and accredited, non-public schools, who currently provide or are planning to begin an Early Childhood Education or Family Consumer Science CTE strand, are eligible to apply for a Credentials to Child Care Careers Grant.

2. Are accredited, non-public schools that serve secondary students eligible to apply?

No. Accredited, non-public schools are not eligible to receive federal funding.

UPDATED 11/12/24:

Yes, accredited, non-public schools are eligible to receive the Credentials to Child Care Careers Grant in Round 3 of application collection.

3. What is the minimum/maximum award amount that can be requested?

Districts and accredited non-public schools may apply for a grant award between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to use across the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

4. What is the timeline for the grant period? When will funds be available to grant recipients?

The grant period is December 18, 2024, to June 30, 2026. Funds will be made available beginning December 18, 2024. In Year One, the Grantee will have one-third of the total grant award available for reimbursement of expenses on or about December 18, 2024. In Year Two, the Grantee will have another one-third of grant funds available for reimbursement of expenses upon submission and approval of the Year One end-of-year report. On January 2, 2026, the remaining one-third of funds will be available; contingent upon submission and approval of the Year Two mid-year report.

5. When do funds have to be expended?

Funds must be expended no later than June 30, 2026.

UPDATED 11/12/24:

Funding must be expended no later than November 30, 2026.

6. When is final reporting due?

A final report will be due each year approximately 30 days past the end of the grant period with the exact date being set by the Department.

7. We have an existing Early Childhood CTE program, are we still eligible to apply?

Yes, Iowa school districts and accredited non-public schools with an Early Childhood Education or FCS career and technical education program (including consortia members) are eligible. Iowa school districts and accredited non-public schools planning to start an Early Childhood Education or FCS career and technical education program (including consortia members) are also eligible to apply.

8. Where can I find out more information about the CDA?

More information can be found at: [CDA Council | Credentialing Excellence for ECE Competence.](#)

9. Who can assist us with locating child care programs that may partner with us?

You may locate licensed child care centers at [Child Care Client Portal](#) or contact the local Child Care Resource and Referral partner for assistance: [Staff List - Iowa CCR&R.](#)

10. I am not seeing any registered childcare businesses for our county based on the following link: <https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/ClientPortal/ProviderSearch.aspx> How do I find the needed information?

When using the link to search for child care in your area, use the Search by Location section and only select the desired county. Leave all other areas as they appear upon opening the page. You should get results for the county selected.

11. Does this align to our community college courses already established? We offer concurrent classes taught by district teachers aligned with our community college courses.

Yes, this grant can build upon existing collaborations with community college staff and teaching staff to align curriculum, assignments, tasks, etc.

12. Regarding the barriers and transportation, could funding be used to pay for drivers to get students to childcare centers?

Funds may be used to address transportation barriers.

13. Does the FCS teacher have to have extra credentials in order to teach these CDA courses? Or can they be provided the curriculum and teach with their teacher credential they already have?

Current FCS teachers are able to deliver the coursework. The CDA curriculum is in addition to the Department's existing partnership with the Curriculum Center for Family and Consumer Sciences at Texas Tech University. Iowa teachers that are NOT on the current registry can request access through Texas Tech by creating an account utilizing their work/school email. Select community college staff that plan to teach the curriculum can request access and be added to the registry.

14. Can you offer more information about the curriculum the students need to take?

The CDA curriculum is in addition to the Department's existing partnership with the Curriculum Center for Family and Consumer Sciences at Texas Tech University.

15. Is hiring personnel to teach the curriculum an allowable expense?

No, this is not an allowable expense.

16. Are there specific CIP codes for CTE FCS courses that the CDA aligns to?

13.121

17. Regarding start date, is there a formal start? Do teachers need to be available?

Teachers would need to be available to teach the courses during the 2024-2025 and/or 2025-2026 school years.

18. Can you give details of the classroom and apprenticeship hours required for the CDA?

The CDA curriculum is designed to be delivered over 3 semesters. HHS required training (15 hours) must be completed within the first 3 months of employment. The required training is part of the course curriculum. The CDA requires a total of 480 working hours, however the CDA is not required for course completion. As such, this grant does not indicate minimum hours of work.

19. This is for a school to apply for, correct? And all funds go to the school? Childcare's involvement is just that we would be a partner for the students to attend work?

Yes, school districts and accredited non-public schools serve as the Grantee and will apply for reimbursements in accordance with the application instructions.

20. What is the cost of the courses?

The CDA curriculum is provided at no cost.

21. What is the three-semester time frame based on? What does that translate into via periods/blocks each term?

This includes 120 clock hours of instruction, in addition to the required HHS trainings. The CDA curriculum was created for a secondary Fall and Spring school calendar year. Specific time durations for each topic/unit and strategies can be combined to meet the needs of the class/program.

22. Community college courses we offer by the common course number are: ECE133, ECE221, ECE158, and ECE170. Do these community college courses align with the CDA curriculum?

The CDA curriculum is designed to align with existing community college courses and agreements. A tutorial/training webinar can be scheduled with the curriculum provider to assist in planning a semester or school year unit of instruction.

23. We are concerned about low enrollment numbers and securing enough students to warrant offering these courses for a limited number of students. Can schools apply regionally and offer these courses through a virtual academy to ensure higher enrollment numbers?

The courses are created for face-to-face facilitation but materials can be modified by the teacher/facilitator for online use as all aids can be downloaded.

24. Our local community college offers the CDA courses, and our local high schools offer a child care ready certificate program to prep them for that program. This seems like a redundant program of what local community colleges are already offering. Can you explain the reasoning for the specific focus on CDA at the high school level?

The goal of the grant is to address the shortage of childcare workers. This is an opportunity for high school students to gain competencies and experience, in addition to a stipend while they learn. Only high school students are eligible to participate in the program.

25. Is it possible to see the curriculum in order to review it prior to applying?

The following link offers a preview of the curriculum: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/ccfcs/current-digital-catalog.php>.

- 26. Can I get more details about the following: “1. Utilize the State-approved 3-semester curriculum aligned to attaining a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential”? Are these all online courses that students take? Or are there meeting times? Or are these courses asynchronous? Are they for college credit?**

The CDA curriculum is provided at no cost. The following link offers a preview of the curriculum: <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/ccfcs/current-digital-catalog.php> If there is an agreement in place with a community college, students can earn college credit.

- 27. We are working on filling out the C4 Grant application and we were wondering if we could use some of the funds from that grant to offer Child Care Resource and Referral Credit training. We are unsure of the cost however we wanted to make sure it was an option before we planned for it.**

All training necessary for participants will be embedded within the state-provided curriculum and coursework. If additional training is desired, it can be added to the budget in the Professional Materials or Other Expenses line items.

- 28. We are looking into the C4 grant and wondering if our district preschool classrooms and/or community partners would count as a licensed child care center to provide service/practice hours to participating Career and Technical Education (CTE) students. Could you help to clarify this expectation?**

Partner locations for the C4 Grant are required to be a licensed child care center. Therefore, state-funded preschool programs, such as a SWVPP classroom, may not be considered as a placement for participating students to obtain service/practice hours as part of the C4 Grant. If a state-funded preschool program has classrooms offering child care outside of the state-funded program, those classrooms may be considered.

- 29. The last time we were denied because we didn't have that program within our FCS. Right now we have the culinary strand, is there a different strand that we should be using so we could be eligible to get this grant? I don't know if there is a general FCS strand or do we need to have the 3 units and start a strand specific to child care?**

The grant is applicable to FCS strands in early childhood. The coursework addresses knowledge and skills of participants (high school students) to serve as child care providers in an early childhood setting. The long-term goal is to perhaps have these participants identify serving as a provider as

part of a long-range career aspiration. The grant requires an Early Childhood Program to be in place or in development with a defined start date at the time of the application submission.

30. Can I get 'guest' access account to the CDA curriculum that is used by the State of Iowa for CDA certification please? I am looking at the FAQs for this grant and see a link but it does not work.

The link in this FAQ which provides access to the sample curriculum has been updated.

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/ccfcs/current-digital-catalog.php>

31. It looks like this question was asked in the FAQs previously but there is really not much information there or on the website from Texas Tech about

1) Which courses are they offering for Iowa C4 Grant?

2) How can we log in and take a look at the courses or see course outlines?

This link should take you to sample curriculum:

<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/ccfcs/current-digital-catalog.php>

The CDA course covers 8 content areas (see attached handbook pages 61-62) that will make up the 120 hours.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10zKIYpuHlmj1b5aGL6BfAeBR2xW5O9z7/view>

32. If we were to develop these courses, is the curriculum available through the state? If not, can you point me in the right direction? I would like to get the resources in front of my teacher so she can start designing what the classes will look like.

A state approved and purchased curriculum is provided for awarded grantees, with some additional requirements of courses addressing health and safety topics accessible through IHHS.

33. Another entity will be opening a childcare center in town about a year from now. Is this something that would be potentially a good fit for the spirit of this program? My initial concern is that we aren't technically licensed yet as we aren't yet open. That being said, with the ability for these funds to be used in 2025-2026, we would be licensed by that point.

The district or accredited non-public school could apply and list the child care center as a partner with the anticipation of licensure by the fall of 2025. Student placements and the required 480 hours could only occur at the location if HHS licensure is achieved. Please refer to the Council for Recognition High School Fact Sheet and/or Get a CDA in High School for further information on requirements to achieve the CDA certification.

- 34. During the last round of C4 grant funding, it was shared with me that accredited non-public schools were not identified as a school district that could apply for the grant, I believe because the dollars were funneled through the Perkins funds or at least through a funding source that is not open to accredited non-publics. I wanted to ask if it makes a difference that the funding stream for this round of grants is funded through the American Rescue Plan of 2021 as accredited non-publics have had access to those dollars.**

More details regarding this topic and question will be coming soon.

UPDATED 11/12/24:

Accredited, non-public schools who currently provide or are planning to begin an Early Childhood Education or Family Consumer Science CTE strand are eligible to apply for a Credentials to Child Care Careers Grant.

- 35. Is the goal for implementation to start the second semester of this school year or for the next school year?**

The intent of the C4 grant is to utilize the funds in a manner to start and support students to complete the CDA process. This process will take 3 semesters. The current grant opportunity concludes in June 2026. However, grantees will be notified should an extension become available. Funding must be fully expended by December 2026.

UPDATED 11/12/24:

Funding for the C4 Grant is available until November 30, 2026.

- 36. I'm hoping you can help me learn more about the grant to help students obtain their CDA. We're working on opening a childcare center for select age groups within a few elementary classrooms in a few months, then building a new building right next to our elementary to help even more families. We're hoping this grant could help us answer the common question for how we will find staff!**

- **I see the list of past grant recipients, but could you give me a list of districts that already offer the CDA program as an option? I'm specifically interested if there are small districts like ours that are making it work. Our FCS teacher has looked into this grant previously, but couldn't figure out a way to offer all of the classes needed since she is shared between our middle school and high school.**
- **It sounds like the stipend option is fairly flexible within the guideline of helping to "remove barriers to participation", but we wanted to ask if that could include a stipend for our FCS teacher to learn the curriculum specific to the CDA classes? (Since this would require her to teach her current classes differently or create new classes.)**
- **We are also exploring ideas with the connections our district has with the Waterloo Career Center and Hawkeye CC. In reference to this in FAQs... Community college courses we offer by the common course number are: ECE133, ECE221, ECE158, and ECE170. Do these community college courses align with the CDA curriculum? The CDA curriculum is designed to align with existing community college courses and agreements. A tutorial/training webinar can be scheduled with the curriculum provider to assist in planning a semester or school year unit of instruction."**
- **How would we go about a tutorial/training webinar with the curriculum provider? Is that a connection that you can help us with?**

Since there are several providers of the CDA curriculum at the national level, there is not a comprehensive list available of Districts in Iowa offering a program leading to a CDA Credential.

An applicant may utilize the Other Allowable Expenses category of the budget to propose using grant funds for stipends to support additional work by the FCS teacher.

A recorded tutorial webinar was posted for equitable public availability and access. The Department is not scheduling separate or additional webinar sessions at this time.

37. If awarded, does the class need to be up and running for the 2025-2026 school year, or do we have time to develop the program and roll it out for the 2026-2027 school year? Our Program of Studies has already been submitted for next school year, and I am unsure if we can add another course at this time. Any clarification you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

The current grant opportunity concludes in June 2026. However, grantees will be notified should an extension become available. Funding must be fully expended by December 2026.

38. Is there a minimum age requirement to take the assessment? This will help me in determining at what grade I should have the students start taking the courses so they can get the CDA.

High School age students are eligible for this grant and designed coursework. Please refer to the Council for Recognition [High School Fact Sheet](#) and/or [Get a CDA in High School](#) for further information on the CDA assessment.

39. How do accredited, non-public schools complete the current application form in IowaGrants?

Accredited, non-public schools who are interested in applying for the C4 Grant will complete the application with some considerations of terminology/language changes. For example, applicants will substitute “school” for “district.” Also, specific directions for accredited, non-public entities for the Assurances form are also provided in the IowaGrants system.