

CDA Cost Checklist

Goal: Identify what you need paid for and who might cover it.

Before you begin:

Choose your CDA setting

☐ Infant/Toddler ☐ Preschool ☐ Family Child Care ☐ Home Visitor ☐ Birth to Five

Estimated costs to plan for

- **CDA application fee (paid to the Council):** \$_____

Online application: \$525

Paper application: \$600

(Fees can change, confirm current pricing before submitting.)

- **Training hours (120 clock hours):**

*Often **free**—\$500+ depending on scholarships/employer support*

Some programs cover tuition fully; others may require small course/material fees.

- **Portfolio materials:** \$_____

Usually \$0—\$50

Examples: printing, binder (if you want a hard copy), sheet protectors, labels.

Tip: Even though many items are digital, you may still print drafts or forms.

- **Exam/verification-related costs (if any):** \$_____

Usually \$0—\$50

Examples: travel/transportation, childcare coverage during an appointment, printing ID documents.

TOTAL estimate: \$_____



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Money-saver tip: The biggest cost is often the application fee + training
These are the items most commonly covered by scholarships, workforce programs, Head Start support, or employer reimbursement.



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