

**Questions and Answers for Monday, August 26, 2024, through Friday,
August 30, 2024
DUE Tuesday, September 3, 2024**

DATE	QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
8/30/2024	Final Step 5 clarification: What does this final step mean for the admin/director and staff involved in achieving CDA? Do we get accredited as an apprenticeship program and does that entail additional standards/guidelines?	If this question is referring to the USDOL graphic pictured on page 4 of the RFP, these items are not sequential steps. These are the five components of apprenticeship. Centers do not get accredited as apprenticeship sites.
8/30/2024	Center Policies: Would we include this program, if approved and selected to participate, as a part of the employee benefits? If it can be, can we list it as first come first serve or base it on seniority for current employees in order to be able to participate in the program (since there is a max of 5 employees participating a year)?	<p>If the question is whether you provide benefits to apprentices, you would provide whatever you provide to any W2 staff because these staff would be hired as your employees.</p> <p>OEC has not set a maximum for the number of apprentices at a site; the budget is a template with sample numbers put in for illustrative purposes to demonstrate how the budget calculated. You will put in the number of apprentices you wish to host at your site to set the budget template to calculate correctly for your budget.</p>
8/30/2024	Qualifications for Mentors: Would the only mentors in the program be the director OR can assistant directors be included, and what would be the eligibility for the director to be a mentor would be a	As apprenticeship is an employer program, the employer would deem who is qualified to be a mentor. The CTDOL registered apprenticeship for center-based early childhood educators requires that the apprentice to mentor ratio is no more than 2:1. Please see the CTDOL Appendix A included with the RFP for more information.

	certain x amount of years in childcare etc.?	
8/30/2024	Re Teachers who already have CDA: I noticed this program can help with ESL classes in the presentation. Teachers who speak very limited broken English, are they allowed to participate in ESL classes even though they have just acquired their CDA?	If employees have already obtained their credentials, they are not eligible for the program or supports offered.
8/30/2024	Can a 501 c3 apply and can they apply for both pathways?	Yes. Per #6 Eligibility on Page 7 of the RFP, employers who apply to both pathways would submit two separate applications for each path.
8/30/2024	I am in the process of collecting the required attachments for the RFP opportunity and most are quite large. Based on the required size limitation of the documents we can send with the grant, please advise on how I can remain compliant with the grant requirements and meet the file size requirement for the state of CT. system? By the way, are an existing OEC grantee, the department already has most if not all of the required documents for this RFP.	Applicants must submit the required documentation in accordance with the instructions of the RFP. OEC will not accept or download files from a shared site such as drop box.

8/30/2024	<p>The OEC currently offers CDA scholarships to those who qualify, however, the applicant must pay for the access to the Professional Council and then the OEC will reimburse after CDA is complete. With Apprenticeship program, will the onboarding process include financially covered access to the Professional Council so apprentices can access the CDA coursework? Or should this be accounted for in wraparound support budgeting? The upfront cost is prohibitive.</p>	<p>Please propose what your site needs to fund in order to have a successful registered apprenticeship program, including all costs associated with completing the CDA credential which includes professional council fees. If you plan to use OEC Registry scholarship, please note that in your proposal. Please refer to the guidance in the justification column of the budget template for assistance in completing the budget.</p>
8/30/2024	<p>Do intermediaries recruit the apprentices and then send them out to programs with interest in hiring the apprentices?</p>	<p>The apprentices need to be hired staff before they can register as apprentices, so the intermediary would not be able to recruit apprentices without having a position at a center for them to fill.</p>
8/30/2024	<p>Can intermediaries partner/collaborate with agencies and if so, would both the intermediary and the agency need to both submit an application?</p>	<p>The intermediary will need to partner or collaborate with one or more centers in order to be able to support the apprentices who work at the center(s). If a center is not interested in applying for funding but would like to hire an apprentice and use an intermediary to support their apprentice, the center would not need to submit a proposal.</p>
8/30/2024	<p>Would credentialing fees for the apprentices be added into the budget workbook if the</p>	<p>Please include all expenses in your budget necessary for your proposal to be successful. If the intermediary or the centers you are working with plan to use other sources of</p>

	intermediary handled apprenticeship support in applying to the CDA Council, or would apprentices use the OEC Scholarship fund to apply for a voucher for the CDA?	funding, such as OEC Registry scholarship, please note that in the proposal.
8/30/2024	We are a license-exempt program. Does this disqualify us from applying for this RFP?	Pathway A is an opportunity for licensed centers and group homes. If you have the infrastructure to be an intermediary for licensed centers, and you are eligible under #6 Eligibility on Page 7 of the RFP, you may apply under Pathway B.
8/30/2024	Does an intermediary need to submit proposals for each of the centers they want to work with?	The intermediary would submit one proposal and in the program proposal, the intermediary would speak to their plan for working with centers (see RFP page 24, #1 under the Program Proposal section: Apprenticeship Outreach and Recruitment")

*Answers to questions submitted **Monday, September 2, 2024**, through **Friday, September 6, 2024**, will be answered and posted **Tuesday, September 10, 2024***