



PATHWAY PROGRAM

FUNDED BY WKKF GRANT

The goal of the Pathway program is to shift the number and diversity of quality educators and leaders in the early childhood pipeline, leading to greater access and quality of early childhood education opportunities for children and families in Battle Creek.

Spring 2022

The New Grant

Currently the program is assisting 92 individuals with either a Child Development Associate (CDA) or an Associate degree in Early Childhood Education.

In February, Pathway found out that they were awarded a three year grant. This grant was expanded to assist up to 350 participants earn a CDA over the next three years. The new grant eliminated the funding of the associate degree and focuses on the entry level credential.

Extra funding was also set aside to market for the profession and recruit individuals interested in working in early childhood. All roads are leading to bringing interested individuals to our website for training and employment. If you are an ECE employer, keep adding those job postings and we'll continue to send people to it!

If you or someone you know are interested in working in the field of Early Childhood Education, check out the "Careers" page in careerszero2five.org

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Center Spotlights

Central Christian Head Start

In September 2021, Community Action Head Start opened at a new location. Central Christian center is located at 713 Riverside Dr. Currently there are 2 preschool classrooms operating in the building, with 7 staff. Two of the staff received their CDA through the Pathway program and another is now working on her CDA, hoping to be done by the end of summer.



Staff at Central Christian on 2/2/22 day!!

Welcome to our new Administrative Assistant, Sierra Moore. Sierra received her CDA with Pathway in August 2021. She will be assisting Navigator with Participant paperwork, answering questions about CDA, and generally keeping communication with our 92 current participants. So happy to have her help!!



Take A Break Child Care

Take a Break was founded in 1999 by Mary Lou Bax. Mary Lou was the Executive Director of Foster Adoptive Resources and the Family Enrichment Center. The center was initially used as a drop-in respite care center for foster families in the area.

The center now primarily enrolls children of working families in the Lakeview community. They serve children infants to preschool, housing a GSRP classroom as well. TAB also has before and after school care, as well as a summer camp. They are located at 415 South 28th St., across street from Lakeview Middle School.

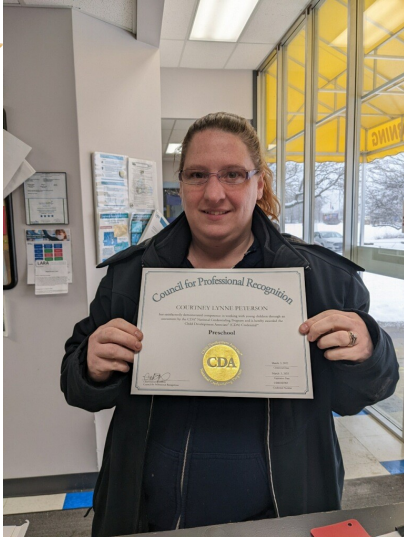
They have a team of 12-15 staff members who are all credentialed within the first year of employment. Two of their current staff completed their CDA through the Pathway program and a few others have utilized program for CDA renewals.

Meet our New Facilitator

Danielle Robertson has been working with Pathway since January. She has worked in field of ECE for 15+ years. She earned B.S. from Michigan State in child Development. In her career, she has worked as center director, taught kindergarten and served as director for a large before and after school program. She took time off to stay home with her boys but is excited to be back. We are so happy to have her!

Our CDA Stars

Since January, four CDAs were earned. CDA recipients were Blessing Runniseum, Khup Cing, and Sui Bor all from Catching the Dream. In Addition, Courtney Peterson from Learning Zone received hers. Read about her in our CDA Stars!



Courtney Peterson is a GSRP assistant teacher at Learning Zone. She has worked in the field of early childhood for 6 years. She said working with young children can be hard but rewarding. It gives you the opportunity to develop a new purpose each day. She said nothing is more gratifying than breaking through to a child and seeing them have that "ah ha" moment. Courtney said she likes helping people, is passionate, and a dreamer! Courtney said in the Pathway program, having a good facilitator is important. Someone that will help you through the process, assisting with portfolio. (Lisa's words...Verda you did a great job!!)

Marcus Austin obtained his CDA in December 2021. He is employed at New Level Sports Ministries and ELNC-BC. He has worked in the field for five years. He said he loves watching children learn and explore and learn new things about themselves. His goal is to be a part of the first all-boys preschool class, where he will make the learning experience fun and exciting for young African-American boys. Marcus enjoys watching sports in his free time. He said the CDA process was worth his time. He learned a lot and appreciated the support in the process!





Denise Rucker

Denise Rucker works as a Director of Home Based Providers through Early Learning Neighborhood Collaborative (ELNC-BC). She has worked in the field of early childhood for four years. Denise completed her CDA in October 2021 and continues to work on associates in ECE. She said she likes working with children, it is exciting and never a dull moment. She finds she learns something new everyday. Her future goals are to become childcare center director and family home provider. Denise is a BC Central graduate. She has a son and daughter and three toddler granddaughters. She loves to travel, shop, eat and spend time with family. She is Director of the Diaper Initiative and event planner. She has a BA in Business Management/Human Resources and MA in Organizational Management. Denise added that obtaining a CDA is first step to providing developmentally appropriate practices for children. (Side note from Lisa: Denise was a great help to other ladies working on CDA.)

For more info on the program, contact...

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**Early Childhood Education
Collective - Calhoun County**

For job openings...go to careerszero2five.org/careers/