

*INFANT/TODDLER CREDENTIAL
FACTSHEET*



WHAT IS AN INFANT/TODDLER CREDENTIAL?

The National Infant & Toddler Child Care Initiative broadly defines the infant/toddler credential (ITC) as “any combination of requirements (e.g., training, courses, experience) that, when considered together, translate to formal recognition of individuals that work with infants and toddlers in child care programs.” Accordingly, an ITC is a qualification that asserts that the holder has specialized knowledge, skills, and professional achievement that serve as a foundation for high quality interactions and care of infants and toddlers. Within the context of this definition, 21 States offer an ITC (AR, CA, CO, CT, GA, IL, MA, ME, MT, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, SC, SD, UT, VA, WI, WY).

SINGLE-LEVEL OR MULTI-LEVEL INFANT/TODDLER CREDENTIAL

Infant/toddler credentials are either single-level or multi-level. A single-level credential is a one-time achievement, while multi-level credentials provide a pathway toward ongoing professional development with defined requirements for each level.

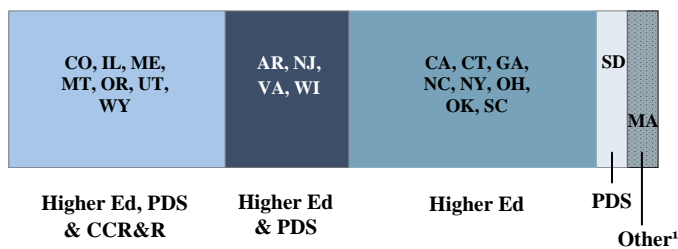
- 18** States offer a single-level credential (AR, CA, CO, CT, GA, MT, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, SC, SD, UT, VA, WI, WY).
- 3** States offer a multi-level credential (IL, MA, ME). These range from two—five levels.

EDUCATION/TRAINING FOR THE INFANT/TODDLER CREDENTIAL

Some States require education through credit-bearing institutions of higher education, non-credit based training, or both. Most States that offer the credential through higher education and have either a credit or mixed training requirement, also align with or incorporate the Child Development Associate (CDA) National Credential.

- 7** States offer the credential based on credit-bearing coursework ranging from 12 – 25 credit hours (CT, GA, NC, NY, OH, OK, SC).
- 3** States offer a non-credit training option (AR, SD, UT).
- 11** States offer a combination of credit, non-credit or other requirements (CA, CO, IL, MA, ME, MT, NJ, OR, VA, WI, WY).

INFANT/TODDLER CREDENTIAL DELIVERY SYSTEMS



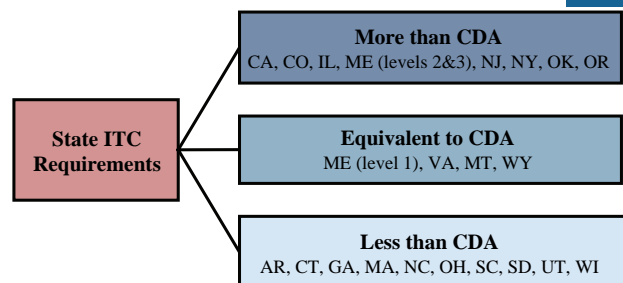
Professionals can earn an ITC through a variety of delivery systems; the most common systems are higher education, early childhood professional development systems (PDS) and Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). Ohio and Oklahoma offer the ITC and associate and bachelor degrees with an infant/toddler focus through the higher education system. The majority of States offer the credential through two or more systems. Ten States offer the ITC through only one system.

INFANT/TODDLER CREDENTIAL ARTICULATION

In some States the ITC coursework can be counted as credit towards a 2- or 4-year degree program. Seven States accept the ITC towards a 2-year degree (IL, ME, NC, OK, SC, VA, WI). Three States accept the ITC towards a 4-year degree (ME, IL, OK). Some States encourage articulation by offering financial incentives. For example, Illinois offers grants to higher education institutions, and Maine offers scholarships to individuals if the coursework articulates to higher education.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (CDA)

A number of States link the ITC to existing CDA training. An ITC may require more than, equivalent to, or less than the CDA requirements.² For example, Virginia and Maine ITC meet or exceed the requirements for a CDA for Early Head Start staff.

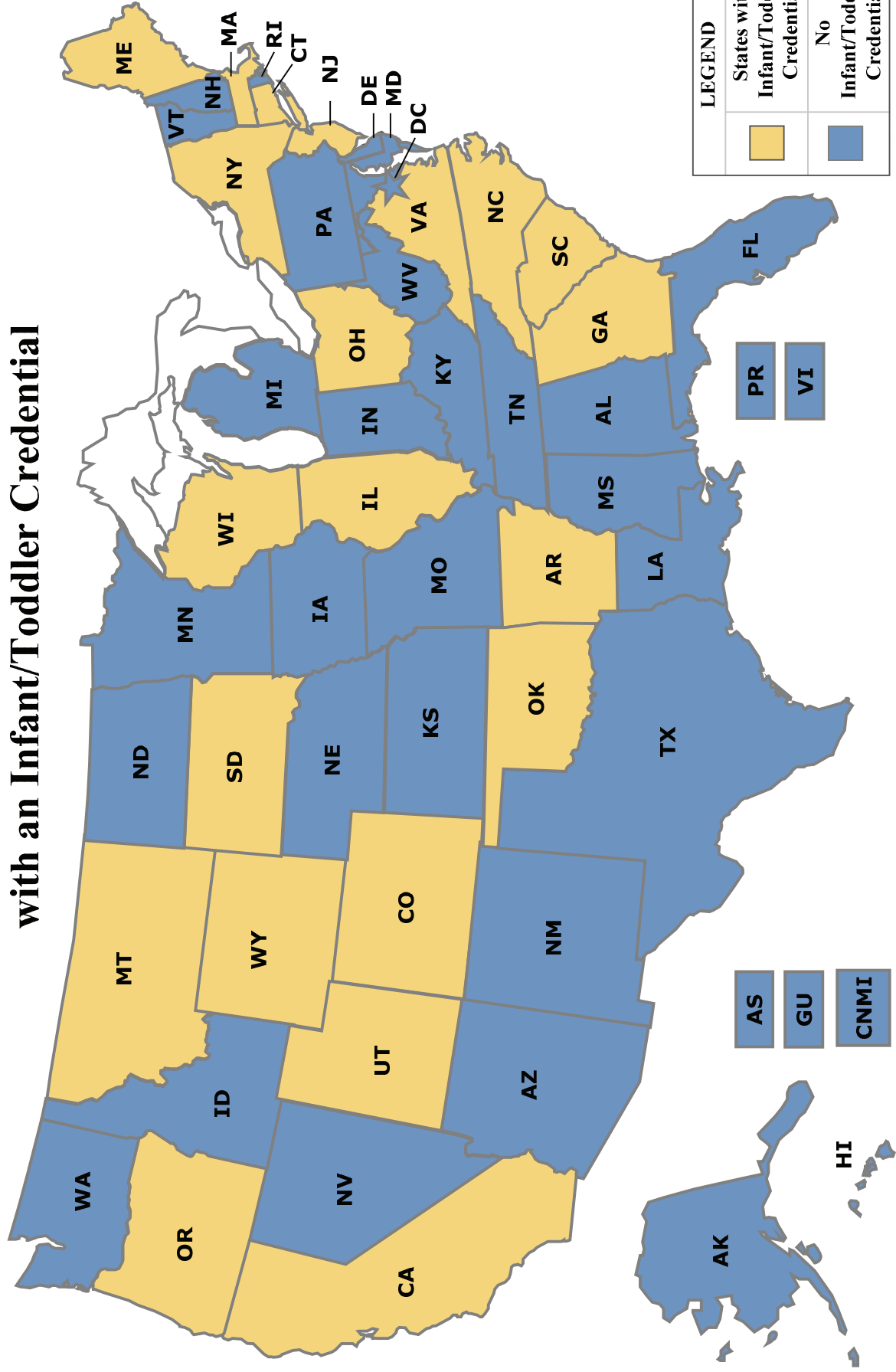


¹ The Massachusetts Department of Early Education offers two levels of I/T credentials with several pathways for each level.

² Several of the States that are in the less than category actually have training/education requirements higher than the CDA, but may not require as much experience or an observation/assessment.

INFANT/TODDLER CREDENTIAL

21 States and Territories with an Infant/Toddler Credential



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