



Website: <http://northernlightscdc.org>

Application for a Career Ladder Level IV Certificate

Information:

Detailed information about each Level of the Career Ladder and the applications are on the Northern Lights website: <http://northernlightscdc.org> see CAREER PATHWAYS: EARLY CHILDHOOD CAREER LADDER.

The **3** requirements for a **Career Ladder Level IV certificate** are:

1. **completion of education requirements** – for either IV-A or IV-B (see below);
2. **a minimum of two years of experience** working with young children (0-8) in a group setting; and
3. **a current Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP)** written or updated in the last 3 months.

Instructions: Applications are accepted anytime. Provide complete information in order to process your application. The information you supply in this application will be verified. If you have any questions about any aspect of this application, please contact Northern Lights at the contact information above.

1. Contact Information. Please type or print clearly.

BFIS Credential Case ID¹: _____ Name²: _____

^[1] *About BFIS Credential Account: When you work in regulated child care, you may already have an account in the Bright Futures Information System (BFIS) called a Credential Account. This account has a number called your Credential Case ID. A BFIS Credential account is a free, online way to document and track the training, education, credentials and coursework you have completed. You can also create and maintain your Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) in your Credential account. For information on accessing your account, go to: http://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/pdf/cdd/care/BFIS/How_To_Log_Into_BFIS.pdf*

^[2] *Name as it appears in your BFIS account.*

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Current Workplace: _____ Location: _____

If you work in regulated child care, Licensed or Registered program Certificate # _____

I am applying for **Level IV-A** **Level IV-B**

2. Education

Level IV-A: (check one) and attach to this application^

- Bachelor of Arts or Science Degree in the field of child development, human development, education (including early childhood, elementary or special education), or child and family studies related to children ages birth to eight, and earned at any time OR
- Bachelor of Arts or Science Degree NOT in the fields listed above, with 30 related college credits in at least 3 of the VT Core Knowledge areas (see page 2*) earned at any time OR
- Bachelor Degree in an unrelated field AND documentation of my Waldorf or Montessori Accreditation

OR

Level IV-B: and attach to this application^

- Bachelor of Arts or Science Degree AND Vermont State Education teacher licensure with an early childhood, early childhood special education or elementary education endorsement

^NOTE: college credits and degrees MUST be documented by a transcript (or a copy) issued by the college Registrar. Contact the college to request one. My Transcript is already in my BFIS Credential Account

*** Education: Related Credits**

Related credits outside of your degree, must earn C- or higher, and they must meet BOTH Criteria A and B:
A) Sample academic areas related to work with children ages birth to 8 (see ‘What are Related Credits?’ list on the Northern Lights website: Early Childhood Career Ladder page)

- Child or human development
- Education, including special education
- Health, including nutrition and nursing
- Psychology/ mental health/ child and family studies
- Sociology/human services/social sciences/social services
- Business / administration (related to instruction in early childhood or afterschool program management)

B) AND covers at least three of the 5 Core Knowledge areas: 1) Families and Communities, 2) Child Development, 3) Healthy and Safe Environments, 4) Teaching and Learning, 5) Professionalism and Program Organization

3. Experience

Level IV requires at least **two years** of accumulated professional work experience working with children in a group (licensed, registered, legally exempt child care program or other group care setting). Work experience may include student teaching, and be a full-time or a part-time commitment (but not as an occasional substitute). *Please list, printing clearly where you accumulated work experience. Add additional pages if needed.*

Name of program/registrant As it appears on the child care license certificate, if known	Name of supervisor (or name of Resource Development Specialist)	Current phone number of this workplace	start date	end date
			Total number of years or months	

4. Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP): *must be current within the last 3 months*

Please attach your IPDP which includes: a) self-assessment, b) goals for future professional development, c) strategies and resources, d) time line. Samples and blank forms are available on the Northern Lights website at <http://northernlightscdc.org> under CAREER PATHWAYS: IPDP. If you create your IPDP in your BFIS Quality & Credential Account (see page 1) you don't have to send it with this application.

My IPDP is in my BFIS Quality and Credential Account. My BFIS Quality Case ID # is on page 1.

5. Statement of Truth and Accuracy

With my signature below, I attest to the truth and accuracy of all of the information provided in this application.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

I applied for this Level certificate because (check all that apply):

- gain recognition & certificate CDD Recognition Bonus Other: _____
 STARS application score required for my job

6. Mail complete application to the Northern Lights address on page 1, and include:

- this completed 3-page application with your signature on pages 2 & 3
- documentation of your education and related documents as checked on page 1
- your current IPDP (or see number 4 above)

NOTE: You may be eligible for a Recognition Bonus from the Child Development Division, too! To speed up processing, please print, fill out and mail a completed Federal W-9 Form and send it with your completed application to Northern Lights; we will forward it with your certificate to CDD. The form can be found on the side bar of the Northern Lights Career Ladder webpage (<http://northernlightscdc.org>) and also on the CDD website (<http://dcf.vermont.gov/>); put "W-9 Form" in the search bar. **Please read and sign the next page.**

When you Achieve a Level IV Certificate
You may also receive a \$500- 1700 bonus from the Child Development Division!

CDD Bonus: Level IV \$1200

VT educator licensure with *early childhood or early childhood special education* endorsement: \$500

Once a Level achievement is approved, here are the next steps:

- Northern Lights creates and signs a certificate which is forwarded (along with your application) to the Vermont Child Development Division (CDD). The certificate will be signed and mailed to you along with a recognition pin. The time frame to receive the certificate and pin is typically 2-3 weeks from when the application was received.
- The CDD will review your application to determine if you are eligible for a Recognition Bonus for your achievement. It can take up to 2 months from the time you receive your Level Certificate before eligible recipients receive a Recognition Bonus. If awarded the \$1200 CDD Recognition Bonus, it will be issued in two payments, 6 months apart.
- Individuals receiving Level Award achievements are recognized in the next Northern Lights Atlas e-Newsletter.

These are the requirements for a Recognition Bonus from the Child Development Division:

- ✓ You have worked in a Vermont regulated child care program for the past six months;
- ✓ You are a Vermont resident or the children you serve live in Vermont;
- ✓ The education requirement in this application has been completed in the last two years;
- ✓ You are not a public school employee paid on the teacher salary schedule;
- ✓ You plan to stay working in regulated child care for at least one year from the date of this application;
- ✓ The program where you work meets regulatory requirements (see below);

Recognition Bonuses are only available for the highest level for which you are qualified. If you receive two Level Certificates that qualify for a Recognition Bonus within 6 months, only a Recognition Bonus for the total of the highest Level will be issued.

For questions about the Child Development Division Recognition Bonus contact:
Lynne Robbins: 802-241-0823 or 800-649-2642

I certify that the information contained in this application is true and correct. I also certify that the following statements are true:

1. My program will comply with applicable eligibility criteria of the Child Care Development Fund including not discriminating or barring participation on the basis of race, religion, sex, color, handicap or national origin.
2. I plan to work in regulated child care or afterschool care setting serving Vermont children for at least 1 year after receiving any grant funds from the CDD.
3. I am a Vermont resident.
4. I am not a public school employee who is paid on the teacher salary schedule for my work in the regulated care setting.
5. My program, or the program with which I am employed: (choose one)
 - Is in good regulatory standing with the Child Development Division, which means that I also certify that within the past twelve months all regulatory violations are corrected, no "Parental Notification letter/s" have been mailed and the program does not have a pattern of repeated regulatory violations with the CDD. OR
 - Has received the following violations, but no Parental Notification Letter violation in the previous 12 months. *I have attached a statement detailed the violations(s) and what I am personally doing to make sure the violations do not happen again.*

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date** _____