

Gateways Professional Development Advisor Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Q. What is a Professional Development Advisor?

A. A Professional Development Advisor (PDA) is an experienced professional who will assist you with planning and achieving your career goals. A PDA can guide you through developing a Professional Development Plan and share information about colleges and universities in your area that offer coursework in early childhood. A PDA can also help you decide which certification could be best for you, or help you navigate various Gateways to Opportunity Programs.

Q. What kind of advisement is available through the PDA Program?

A. Both Individual Advisement and Center Advisement are available. During Individual Advisement, a PDA will work with a participant one-on-one. Center Advisement requires that the owner or director of an early care and education program submits a request so that a PDA can work with multiple employees at the same site.

Q. What is the cost of the PDA service?

A. PDA services are **FREE**.

Q. How can I connect with a Professional Development Advisor?

A. To request advisement, visit www.ilgateways.com/professional-development/pda, or call (866) 697-8278.

Q. I am just entering the field. Can a PDA help me?

A. Yes! A PDA has extensive experience and knowledge in the fields of: Early care and education, school-age, Head Start, and Early Head Start. A PDA can assist by guiding you to resources regarding specific licensing regulations for various types of programs and positions.

Q. I'm already in the field of early care and education or school-age care. How can a PDA help me?

A. If you would like to explore your career options, a PDA can help. With extensive experience, a PDA is a great resource for anyone who wants to learn more about early care and education or school-age care opportunities, including working in public schools.

Q. I would like to get a degree. How can a PDA help me?

A. A PDA is familiar with a variety of degree programs and is available to share their knowledge on how to earn a degree.

Q. I want to get a credential. How can a PDA help me?

A. A PDA can discuss the various credentials available and lead you to resources about how to obtain them.

Q. Can a PDA help me open a child care business?

A. No, however, technical assistance to open a child care business is available through your local *Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agency*.