

# 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](http://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**.