

Login MyCOA VIP

Accreditation Standards Trainings & Resources Volunteers About COA 2016 Conference Report a Concern

Home Accreditation Accreditation Overview

- ACCREDITATION OVERVIEW
- PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ACCREDITATION
- PUBLIC AGENCY ACCREDITATION
- CANADIAN ORGANISATION ACCREDITATION
- CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ACCREDITATION
- MILITARY FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM ACCREDITATION
- HAGUE ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL

18:51

Jump to: What is Accreditation? | What is a Standard? | Value of COA Accreditation | Recognition Report | Testimonials | Accreditation Programs | Who is Accredited? | Contact COA

Accreditation Overview

What is Accreditation?

The formal evaluation of an organization or program against best practice standards. It is both a status and a process:

As a Status

It signifies that an organization or program meets standards of quality set forth by the accrediting body.

As a Process

It involves an in-depth selfreview of an organization or program against currently accepted best practice standards, an onsite visit by an evaluation team comprised of experts, and a subsequent review and decision by the accrediting body.

To top

What is a Standard?

A statement that articulates a level of quality developed by subject matter experts that will be implemented and maintained by an organization or program pursuing accreditation and an accredited organization or program.

To top

Value of COA Accreditation

Accreditation signifies that an organization or program is effectively managing its resources and providing the best possible services to all of its stakeholders.

WHO IS ACCREDITED?



Private Organization Accreditation

One Hope United offers a range of services aimed at our mission of "Protecting children and strengthening families" including early childhood education, early intervention and prevention, family preservation, foster care, residential, and adoption.

[read more >>](#)

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL



Ulysses Arteaga, I.C.S.W.

Volunteer Roles: Commissioner; EPPA; Marine Reviewer; Military Reviewer; Peer Reviewer; Team Leader

The Consuelo Foundation 2012 Peer Reviewer of the Year, Mr. Arteaga conducts two to three site visits a year, often volunteering for visits that require a Spanish speaking peer.

[read more >>](#)

Consumers

- Services meet best practice standards
- Services are delivered by appropriately trained staff
- Clients participate in the decision-making process of service delivery
- Services are provided in a safe and respectful environment
- Privacy is protected
- Services support positive outcomes
- Services are culturally competent

Staff

- Health and safety are protected
- Risk and liability are minimized
- Service environments are efficient, effective, and supported by a quality improvement-oriented culture
- Professional staff qualifications are defined
- Whistleblower Policy is in place
- Performance evaluation system is in place

Board

- Sound financial management practices are in place
- Practices are ethical
- Strategic plan is current, relevant, and monitored
- Effective performance quality improvement and risk management systems in place
- Policies and procedures address conflict of interests, preferential treatment, accountability, and delegation of authority

Donors, Funders, Regulators

- Validation of the delivery of high quality services
- Sound financial practices are in place
- Performance and quality improvement system is in place
- Organizational operations are efficient
- Risk management policies and mechanisms that prevent fraud are in place
- Can be used as a tool to identify grant recipients

[To top](#)

Recognition Report

We have pursued recognition of COA accreditation from entities that fund and/or license human service organizations and programs including:

- Government entities
- Foundations
- Managed care organizations
- Insurance companies

Currently, COA is recognized in over 200 instances in 47 states, the District of Columbia, two Canadian provinces, and China. View our Recognition Report for a complete listing of all COA's recognitions.

[To top](#)

Testimonials

Don't take our word for it – find out why over 2,200 organizations and programs have chosen COA.

[To top](#)

Accreditation Programs

COA accredits the full continuum of child welfare, behavioral health, and community-based social services. Please follow the links below for more information about COA's accreditation programs, including a list of services that are covered by each program and a description of the accreditation process.

We have separate Accreditation Programs for:

- **private organizations**
this includes nonprofit and for-profit entities
Private Organization Accreditation
- **public agencies**
this includes county and state administered systems
Public Agency Accreditation
- **Canadian organizations**
this includes nonprofit, for-profit and public agencies in Canada
Canadian Organization Accreditation
- **military family readiness programs**
this includes programs serving active duty, Reserve and National Guard military personnel and their dependents
Military Family Readiness Program Accreditation
- **child and youth development programs**
this includes after school, early childhood education and youth development programs
Child and Youth Development Program Accreditation
- **international adoption programs**
in accordance with the Hague Adoption Act and the Universal Accreditation Act
Hague Accreditation and Approval

[To top](#)

Who is Accredited?

Search accredited organizations and programs by service, region and/or name.

[To top](#)

Contact COA

Ready to apply for accreditation? Have questions? Get in touch!

[To top](#)

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About

- [About COA](#)
- [Behavioral Health Roadmap](#)
- [What's New](#)
- [Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative](#)
- [Sponsoring, Supporting and Partner Organizations](#)
- [Innovative Practices Award](#)
- [COA Staff and Board](#)
- [Careers](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Privacy Policy and Terms of Use](#)

Accreditation

- [Accreditation Overview](#)
- [Private Organization Accreditation](#)
- [Public Agency Accreditation](#)
- [Canadian Organisation Accreditation](#)
- [Child and Youth Development Program Accreditation](#)
- [Military Family Readiness Program Accreditation](#)
- [Hague Accreditation and Approval](#)
- [Request An Application](#)
- [Testimonials](#)
- [Recognitions](#)
- [Who is Accredited](#)
- [Report a Concern](#)

Standards

- [Standards for Private Organization](#)
- [Standards for Public Agency](#)
- [Standards for Canadian Organisation](#)
- [Standards for Child and Youth Development Programs](#)
- [Standards for Military and Family Readiness Programs](#)
- [Standards for Hague Agency](#)

Trainings & Resources

- [Trainings and Resources Overview](#)
- [Training Calendar](#)
- [Tools Search](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Solutions to FAQs](#)

Volunteers

- [Volunteers Overview](#)
- [Volunteer Profiles](#)
- [Request an Application](#)
- [VIP](#)