

What is Accreditation?

When a program or service is CARF-accredited, it means your organization has passed an in-depth review and meets rigorous CARF guidelines for service and quality—a qualified endorsement that it conforms to internationally recognized service standards and is focused on delivering the most favorable results for persons it serves. The human service field, including all stakeholders, develops the standards that are applied on CARF surveys.

Distinctions between certification and accreditation

Certification

- Awarded to a person
- Based on knowledge and instruction
- Involves continuing education
- Affects professional status of the individual

Accreditation

- Awarded to an organization
- Based on service results and standards conformance
- Involves quality improvement mechanisms

Why choose CARF?

CARF accreditation is a seal of approval announcing to persons served and their families that you provide services focused on their needs. It is a sign of assurance to third-party payors and governmental regulators that you have met internationally recognized standards, and it is a tool for quality improvement within your organization.

The value of accreditation is more than a certificate hanging on the wall. It is evidence that your organization strives to improve efficiency, fiscal health, and service delivery—creating a foundation for consumer satisfaction.

Organizations that have participated in an accreditation survey demonstrate:

- A higher degree of internal quality.
- Greater involvement of persons served in their services.
- Increased cohesion among staff members at all levels within the organization.
- Enhanced status of the surveyed services within the community.

When your organization is accredited, the public is assured that you are committed to continually improving the quality of your services and that your organization's focus is on service outcomes and customer satisfaction.



About CARF

Founded in 1966, CARF is an international, independent, nonprofit accreditor of human service providers and networks. The CARF group of companies includes CARF International, CARF Canada, and CARF Europe, and assist service providers in improving the quality of their services, demonstrating value, and meeting internationally recognized organizational and program standards.

CARF's mission

CARF's mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of persons served.

Accreditation areas

A provider earns accreditation by demonstrating conformance to CARF's internationally recognized standards. CARF accredits providers for specific programs and services, and many providers seek CARF accreditation in more than one area. CARF publishes standards manuals in the following accreditation areas:

- Aging Services
- Behavioral Health
- Business and Services Management Network
- CARF-CCAC
- Child and Youth Services
- Employment and Community Services
- Medical Rehabilitation
- One-Stop Career Center
- Opioid Treatment Program
- Vision Rehabilitation Services

enhancing
PEOPLE'S LIVES

Contact CARF

We welcome your comments and inquiries.

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