Accreditation Timeline

Elements of Accreditation

On-Site Survey
The survey process is rooted in peer review and networking. The on-site survey team of professional peers provides an impartial, external review of your organization’s conformance to the accreditation standards. They may provide confirmation of what you are doing well and offer consultation for ongoing quality improvement.

Survey Report
After the survey, CARF prepares a report highlighting strengths and areas for improvement based on your organization’s level of conformance to the standards.

Term of Accreditation
The accreditation award is based on your organization’s conformance to the standards. The CARF accreditation term may be for one or three years.

Quality Improvement Plan
Equipped with the survey report information, your organization prepares a quality improvement plan to address the areas for improvement. CARF reviews the plan for completeness and is available to assist you in developing the plan.

Annual Reporting
An accredited provider conducts an annual review of its practices to ensure ongoing conformance with the standards, including new or revised standards. The leadership of your organization sends CARF a signed commitment, called an Annual Conformance to Quality Report, stating that it is using the current CARF standards to guide the organization. Maintaining accreditation is a commitment to continuous quality improvement.

CARF International will
- Designate a resource specialist to provide guidance and technical assistance

Your organization should
- Contact CARF
- Determine desired time frame for on-site survey
- Choose programs and services seeking accreditation
- Obtain standards manual and survey preparation workbook
- Conduct self-evaluation
- Gather evidence of conformance
- Implement new policies, procedures, and practices, if necessary
- Request survey application from CARF
- Ensure all standards have been implemented and are in use
- Submit completed survey application and pay survey application fee to CARF
- Submit Quality Improvement Plan
- Maintain contact with CARF

This graphic a general visual representation of the steps to accreditation. The timeframes represented are approximate. Please read the full list of steps to accreditation at www.carf.org/StepsToAccreditation.

Contact us today for more information or to get started with accreditation.

WWW.CARF.ORG | 888-281-6531 | CYS@CARF.ORG
How are the standards developed?

The CARF standards have evolved and been refined for nearly 50 years. CARF convenes its International Advisory Council; advisory committees; and regional, national, and international focus groups to systematically review and revise standards and develop new standards. These committees and groups, which are composed of professionals with expertise and experience as well as persons served, make recommendations to CARF concerning the standards. This input is used to develop proposed new and revised standards, which are then made available for review by the public, persons served, providers, surveyors, national professional groups, advocacy groups, third-party purchasers, and other stakeholders.

CARF’s standards address:

**ASPIRE to Excellence®**
- Leadership/administration • Ethics • Assessment
- Human resources • Environment/safety
- Quality improvement processes • Access to services
- Consumer rights • Assessment • Service planning
- Transition/discharge • Cultural competency

**Foster Family and Kinship Care**
- Permanency planning for reunification/adoption
- Recruitment/selection of families
- Written agreements
- Foster family requirements
- Training for foster/kinship families
- Continuity of family relationships
- Support provided to foster/kinship families

**Specialized or Treatment Foster Care**
- Professional treatment team access
- Competency-based training for personnel and specialized/treatment foster care families
- Recruitment/selection of families
- Clinical supervision
- Plan for 24/7 supervisory staff for urgent situations

**Group Home Care**
- Competency-based training for personnel
- Access to professionals
- Engagement/involvement of family, as applicable
- Community living components
- Permanency plan involvement
- Supportive program activities

**Residential Treatment**
- Active treatment 7 days a week
- Supportive activities and experiences daily
- Professional treatment team requirements
- Community living components

The CARF standards are focused on creating a positive impact in the lives of persons who receive services from CARF-accredited providers.

Full list of accreditation programs and descriptions at www.carf.org/Programs

Contact us today for more information or to get started with accreditation.

WWW.CARF.ORG | 888-281-6531 | CYS@CARF.ORG