

## Value of CARF Accreditation

**Today, accreditation is more important than ever for human service programs.**

In a market where persons served can make choices, how do you know they will choose you? More and more, persons served look for accredited organizations as a sign of quality before choosing a service. Accreditation assures persons served that an organization is committed to encouraging feedback, continuously improving services, and serving the community.

For a provider, accreditation demonstrates its commitment to enhance performance, manage risk, and distinguish itself from competing organizations.

**When you decide to become accredited, choosing the right accrediting body is essential.**

You need an accrediting body that is the best fit for your unique blend of services. You need an accrediting body that is internationally recognized for its independent, external peer review in the human services field. You need an accrediting body that will not only accredit your services, but will also add real value to your organization. You need CARF.

CARF has been a leading, independent, nonprofit accrediting body of human services since 1966. With guidance from the field, including providers; funders; and, most importantly, the persons served and their families, we develop standards that are focused on outcomes and the satisfaction of the persons served. And, with no hidden charges or surprise interpretations of standards, our accreditation process is transparent.

**Perhaps you are wondering, “Is CARF accreditation worth the effort?” The answer is “Yes!”**

True, it is not as simple as paying fees and receiving a certificate. A rigorous set of internationally recognized organization and program standards are applied during an on-site survey. We are not, however, a policing commission. We work with you to help you meet the standards. The survey is distinguished by our hallmark approach that is consultative peer review rather than inspective. Accountability and quality are the objectives, yet our approach allows your organization to incorporate the standards into practices to reflect your unique mission, vision, and identity as a human service provider.

CARF accreditation is more than a certificate on the wall. It is evidence that your organization strives to improve efficiency, fiscal health, and service delivery — creating a foundation for continuous quality improvement and consumer satisfaction. Insurers, third-party payers, and governmental regulators are likely to see CARF-accredited services as a better risk. Ultimately, our greatest value is assuring the persons you serve, and their families, that your services are focused on their unique needs.



# Benefits of CARF Accreditation

Accreditation affords many benefits to an organization, persons served, and other stakeholders, including:

The Benefits of Accreditation:	Consumer	Provider	Payer	Regulator
Identification as an organization meeting internationally developed standards in the provision of quality services.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Confidence on the part of persons seeking such services for themselves or family members.	✓	✓		
Confidence on the part of funding sources, referral agencies, other providers, businesses, community leaders, and community resource and service organizations.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Guidance in the form of the CARF International standards for providing high quality services, implementing strategies for performance improvement, and developing specific policies and procedures in all areas, from the organizational structure to daily routines.		✓	✓	✓
Independent, external review to identify strengths and areas for improvement based on objective program expectations and guidelines that are common to all CARF-accredited organizations.	✓	✓	✓	✓
On-site education and consultation to help refocus business on the persons served and integrate business functions with service delivery.	✓	✓	✓	✓
An internal management tool promoting active, dynamic planning focused on positive outcomes for persons served and other stakeholders, the impact of strategies on these key groups, and organizational development of existing or new services to meet the needs and expectations of the community served.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased funding and reimbursement opportunities created by stronger relationships and partnerships with purchasers and regulatory bodies. Relationships are developed through the process of gaining input on program standards.		✓		
Participation in insurance programs that offer discounted premiums to eligible providers.		✓		

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<p>Practices that demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accountability</li> <li>- Positive outcomes</li> <li>- An interdisciplinary approach to service delivery</li> <li>- Teamwork within the organization</li> <li>- Ongoing professional growth of personnel</li> <li>- Networking with other providers and resources</li> <li>- Comprehensive financial management</li> <li>- An overall focus on service to the person served</li> </ul>		✓		
<p>Evidence of practice can be used in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marketing services to consumers and referral sources</li> <li>- Seeking grants</li> <li>- Conducting fundraising events</li> <li>- Advocacy activities</li> <li>- Public education</li> </ul>				
Ideas for management in designing and implementing organizational and financial systems that are well organized, cost efficient, effective, and based on outcomes and satisfaction of the persons served and other stakeholders.		✓		
Enhanced risk management, which may lead to reduced exposure and insurance premiums.	✓	✓		✓
Access to thousands of hours of corporate quality, tuition-free, on-line training in a variety of professional development and career related areas in EditU - the online campus for persons with disabilities and those who serve them. Annual membership to ARPCT ( <a href="http://www.arpct.org">www.arpct.org</a> ) of \$495 provides unlimited access to EditU and is an excellent return on investment and a cost-effective way to leverage resources.	✓	✓		