



ACCREDITOR COMPARISON

Accreditation is a significant investment. In order to assist you, your colleagues and board in identifying the most suitable accretor, the Council on Accreditation (COA) has developed this comparison of COA, the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and The Joint Commission's primary attributes. In exploring accreditation, we encourage you to research how each accrediting body aligns with your organization's service delivery and identity in order to make the best decision for your organization and all of its valuable stakeholders.

PHILOSOPHY

COA

COA's Private, Public and Canadian Organization Accreditation require that all of an organization's services for which COA has an applicable service standard are brought through the accreditation process.

CARF

Accredits individual programs as well as the entire organization based on its areas of accreditation and standards.

THE JOINT COMMISSION

Evaluates health care organizations and programs for which The Joint Commission has applicable standards.

STANDARDS

All of COA's standards are available at no cost on COA's website. For a full list of all of COA's standards, please visit the Standards tab on the COA website:

<http://coanet.org/standards/standards-overview/>

CARF's standards are available for purchase on its website. To learn more, please visit the Quality Standards page CARF website:

<http://www.carf.org/Accreditation/QualityStandards/>

The Joint Commission's standards are available for purchase on The Joint Commission website. To learn more, please visit the Standards tab on The Joint Commission website:

https://www.jointcommission.org/standards_information/standards.aspx

ACCREDITATION SUPPORT

Accreditation Coordinator

An assigned primary contact throughout the process that answers all accreditation related questions and recommends tools, technical assistance, and trainings.

CARF Customer Connect Website

Using a password to securely log on to Customer Connect, providers can:

Manage their individual contact information

The Joint Commission Connect

The Joint Commission utilizes an online application called an e-App which organizations and programs are required to complete once.

ACCREDITATION SUPPORT

DURATION/ APPLICATION TIMELINE

COA

MyCOA Portal Account

A secure, user-friendly web portal designed to simplify work flow and facilitate an efficient and collaborative accreditation process.

Complimentary Tools and Resources

Accessible via MyCOA portal and COA's website

Trainings

A variety of trainings, in many formats, to assist organizations are available on COA's website at:

<http://coanet.org/trainings-resources/trainings-and-resources-overview/>

It is recommended that an organization apply when ready to begin implementing the standards and ready for a Site Visit within 14 months.

The accreditation process typically takes 12-18 months to complete from application and is dependent on the readiness of the organization, its size, and the number of services delivered.

To view all the COA Accreditation Steps, please visit:
<http://go.coanet.org/AccreditationGuidelines>

CARF

View **up-to-date information** about their organization' or program's survey(s)

Access information about the accreditation process

View and download organization and program-specific documents

Access the most recent CARF international **news and announcements**

It is recommended that an organization apply when ready for a survey within 3-6 months.

The steps to accreditation involve a year or more of preparation prior to the site survey and ongoing quality improvement following the survey.

To view all the CARF Accreditation Steps, please visit:
<http://www.carf.org/Accreditation/AccreditationProcess/StepstoAccreditation/>

THE JOINT COMMISSION

A **secure site** available to each organization and program which facilitates the completion of the e-App and PPR electronically and access to additional communications

Contains **information about the organization** or program including ownership, demographics, and types and volume of services provided

It is recommended that an organization apply when ready for a survey within 12 months.

Generally, The Joint Commission accreditation process takes 4-6 months via an organization or program evaluation and a subsequent survey.

To view all The Joint Commission Accreditation Steps, please visit:
<https://www.jointcommission.org/achievethegoldseal.aspx>

COST

VISIT/SURVEY

VISIT/SURVEY REPORT

COA

Fee information for all of COA's accreditation business lines are reflected on COA's website:

http://go.coanet.org/Fee_Information_Private_Canadian

Site Visit

Typically commences 9-15 months after application.

To learn more about COA Site Visits, please visit:

<http://go.coanet.org/AccreditationGuidelines>

Pre-Commission Review Report

Following the Site Visit, the organization receives a Pre-Commission Review Report (PCR), which summarizes important findings from the Site Visit. The PCR Report details the organization's strengths and opportunities as well as recommendations for demonstrating implementation of those standards that were not sufficiently implemented at the time of the Site Visit and that require full implementation in order to achieve accreditation. The PCR Report provides the organization another opportunity to demonstrate implementation of the standards.

CARF

Fee information can be obtained by contacting CARF directly.

Site Survey

Occurs approximately 3 months following submission of Intent to Survey.

To learn more about CARF Site Surveys, please visit:

http://www.carf.org/Prepare_for_your_first_survey/

Survey Report

The Survey Report provides a description of the organization's strengths, recommendations regarding standards that were not met, and suggestions about what could be done to comply with the standards.

To learn more about CARF's Survey Report, please visit:

<http://www.carf.org/Accreditation/AccreditationProcess/StepstoAccreditation/>

THE JOINT COMMISSION

A fee estimate worksheet is available on The Joint Commission website: https://www.jointcommission.org/pricing_worksheet_bhc/

On-Site Survey

Occurs typically within 12 months from the time the Application for Accreditation is submitted.

To learn more about The Joint Commission's On-Site Survey, please visit:

https://www.jointcommission.org/behavioral_health_care_on-site_survey_overview/

Survey Findings Report

During the organization's exit conference, the survey team presents a preliminary Summary of Survey Findings Report.

To learn more about The Joint Commission's Survey Findings Report, please visit:

https://www.jointcommission.org/facts_about_the_on-site_survey_process/

VISIT/SURVEY REPORT

REVIEWERS/SURVEYORS

ACCREDITATION DECISION

COA

The PCR Report provides the organization another opportunity to demonstrate implementation of the standards.

To learn more about COA's PCR, please visit:

<http://go.coanet.org/PCR>

Peer Reviewers

COA maintains an extensive volunteer network of Peer Reviewers for Site Visits. They are seasoned, skilled, knowledgeable, peer professionals and independent third parties that have expertise in current theory and practice. COA ensures that assigned Peer Reviewers are experienced in the services that will be reviewed.

To learn more, please visit:

<http://coanet.org/volunteers/volunteers-overview/>

The decisions differ for new applicant organizations and for those organizations pursuing reaccreditation.

First Time Applicants

Provisional Accreditation, Full Accreditation, Deferral, Denial or On-Hold

CARF

Surveyors

CARF utilizes paid peer practitioners from the field who are employed by CARF accredited service providers and who have experience in the programs and services that are being reviewed.

To learn more, please visit:

http://www.carf.org/Where_Surveyors_Come_From/?terms=surveyor

Three-year Accreditation

Substantial conformance to the standards. Demonstrated improvement from previous periods of CARF accreditation

One-year Accreditation

Areas of deficiency, but evidence of capability and commitment

THE JOINT COMMISSION

Surveyors

The Joint Commission uses part-time paid Surveyors that are highly trained experts such as doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, laboratory medical technologists, and other health care professionals.

To learn more, please visit:

<https://www.jointcommission.org/about/jointcommissionfaqs.aspx?faq#975>

Accreditation

Compliant with all applicable requirements at the time of the on-site survey

Denial of Accreditation

Organizations that do not successfully address all Requirements for Improvement (RFIs) within 45 or 60 days

ACCREDITATION DECISION

ACCREDITATION AWARD SPAN

MAINTENANCE OF ACCREDITATION

COA

Organizations Pursuing Reaccreditation

Accreditation, Deferral, Suspension,
Probation, Revocation or Denial

Four Years, Three Years or 18 Months

The accreditation cycle is typically
four years

A three year accreditation cycle is
available

An 18 month Provisional Accreditation
is available based on eligibility

Responsibilities for accredited
organizations include: completion of
an annual report; self-reporting of
changes or events; cooperation with
post-Final Accreditation Report
requirements; accreditation cycle
monitoring processes; and/or third
party complaint reviews, as specified
by COA.

CARF

Provisional Accreditation

One year, awarded only once, after
one year accreditation

Non-accreditation

Numerous and/or major deficiencies
in many areas. Serious questions
about program benefits, health
welfare, or safety

Three Years or One Year

The accreditation cycle is typically
four years

A one year Provisional Accreditation
can be granted under certain
conditions

Organizations are required to comply
with the applicable standards and all
updates to the standards.

CARF standards are updated annually
and are available for purchase on the
CARF website.

Organizations must submit a signed
Annual Conformance to Quality Report
and 90-day quality improvement plan.

THE JOINT COMMISSION

Three Years or Two Years

Accreditation is awarded for three
years, except for laboratory
accreditation, which is awarded for
two years.

Accreditation is continuous.

Organizations must be successful in an
unannounced site review every 18 to
39 months to maintain accreditation.

RECOGNITION OF ACCREDITATION

COA

Currently, COA is recognized in over 300 instances in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and China. To learn more, visit:

<http://coanet.org/accreditation/recognitions/>

CARF

For more information on CARF recognitions, please visit:

<http://www.carf.org/Payers/>

THE JOINT COMMISSION

To search The Joint Commission's recognitions, please visit:

https://www.jointcommission.org/state_recognition/state_recognition.aspx

If you have questions about this document or Council on Accreditation, please contact Devon Reichart, Public Affairs Associate, by email at dreichart@coanet.org.