



THE COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION

FACT SHEET

CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

MISSION AND VISION

The Council on Accreditation (COA) partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards.

COA envisions excellence in the delivery of human services globally, resulting in the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

HISTORY AND ACTIVITIES

- Founded in 1977 by the Child Welfare League of America and Family Service America (now the Alliance for Children and Families).
- Originally known as an accrediting body for family and children's agencies, COA now accredits 39 different service areas, including substance abuse treatment, adult day care, services for the homeless, foster care, employee assistance programs, and credit counseling services.
- COA's current 8th Edition Standards are available to the public online at www.coastandards.org.
- In July 2006, COA was named by the U.S. State Department as the only national accreditor for Hague Accreditation and Approval (for intercountry adoption providers).

SIZE, COMPOSITION, AND REVENUE

- Over 1800 organizations serving more than 7 million persons are currently either COA-accredited or engaged in the accreditation process. A complete listing can be found on www.coanet.org.
- COA has a \$10 million annual budget and is supported primarily by organizations' (re)accreditation fees.
- Accreditation fees are calculated on a sliding fee scale, based on an organization's annual gross audited revenue. Fees for the entire four-year accreditation cycle start at \$6,720.
- Thirteen national membership organizations sponsor COA.

WHO IS ACCREDITED BY COA

- Although most of COA-accredited organizations are private not-for-profit agencies, COA also accredits for-profit companies and public agencies at the state, county, and municipal levels.
- The majority of organizations are multi-service social service and behavioral health care providers.
- At present, five state-administered child welfare systems—Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana and West Virginia—have been accredited by COA, while another five are in process.
- Some 34% of COA-accredited agencies have a budget of less than \$2 million; the budget of another 25% is between \$2 and \$5 million.
- While most organizations are located in the United States, they can also be found in Canada, Puerto Rico, Bermuda, England, and the Philippines.