

ACCREDITATION FOR QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Under the Family First Prevention Services Act, all Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) must be licensed and accredited by one of three approved agencies: The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (TJC), and the Council on Accreditation (COA). None of the organizations list costs on their websites. Cost estimates in this table are taken from a [2017 review published by Brown Consulting](#). **For current cost information, contact the accrediting organization.**

Accrediting Organization	Background	Process & Length of Accreditation	Cost	Contact Information
Council on Accreditation (COA)	International nonprofit organization in operation since 1977. COA has accredited over 1,600 organizations.	<p>The entire process takes 12 to 18 months for private organizations and 18 to 48 months for public agencies. Organizations impacted by FFPSA may qualify for a phased accreditation approach to help meet deadlines.</p> <p>Accreditation trainings tools, and resources are available on the website. COA offers information specific to FFPSA.</p> <p>After the site visit, COA sends a summary of findings that provides recommendations and offers an opportunity for further information. After review of new information, COA creates a final accreditation report with ratings for all standards.</p> <p>Accreditation period: 4 years</p>	<p>Application fee: \$750</p> <p>Accreditation fee: minimum of \$7,392; depends on organization size; members of sponsoring organizations are eligible for a 25% discount</p> <p>Site visit fee: flat fee of \$2,200 per reviewer for a two-day review plus \$475 per day per reviewer for additional day</p> <p>Maintenance of accreditation fee: \$400 per year</p>	<p>Phone (212) 797-3000</p> <p>Fill out the electronic form for information and questions</p>

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The Joint Commission (TJC)	Among other health care programs, offers accreditation for behavioral health care for mental health, addiction treatment, ID/DD, and child welfare services. TJC was founded in 1951 and has accredited and certified over 22,000 health care organizations in the US.	Requires 4 to 6 months of preparation, with the on-site survey occurring a year after completion of the application. Webinars and manuals are available for guidance. Organizations can apply for a free 90-day trial of the accreditation manual. Accreditation period: 3 years	Deposit: \$1,700 Fee estimates vary based on services and service volume Annual fees are prorated based on the organization's service and service volume	Phone (630) 792-5800 Fill out the electronic form for more information
Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)	International, nonprofit group in operation since 1966. CARF has accredited 61,052 programs and services.	Requires 6 to 9 months of preparation time, plus time to conduct the on-site survey and prepare reports and plans. An on-site survey is required; a survey preparation workbook is available for purchase. CARF provides a written report of strengths and areas for improvement; at that point, the provider prepares a quality improvement plan. After accreditation, providers submit annual reports. Accreditation period: 1 or 3 years, depending on results of the survey. Organizations may also receive preliminary or provisional accreditation.	Application fee: \$995 Survey fee: \$1,670 daily fee per surveyor	Phone (520) 325-1044 Fill out the electronic form for information and questions