

Accreditation Timeline

This graphic is 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.

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.

