

Accreditation

In September 2015, Gov. Brown signed AB 403 that requires that Foster Family Agencies (FFAs), group homes and Short-term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) must be accredited by a national accrediting body as a condition of licensure and in order to receive a foster care rate.

Consistent with California law, the California Alliance also requires that all member agencies be accredited by an Alliance recognized national accrediting body including the Council on Accreditation (COA), The Joint Commission (TJC) and the Commission for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

The California Alliance is proud of the reputation for quality services earned by our members over the years. Members believe that the process of becoming accredited and maintaining accreditation improves the quality of agency services, administration, and operations. Accreditation involves a comprehensive evaluation of an agency’s operating systems based on nationally accepted standards of governance, finances, personnel, safety and of best practices in specific service areas, and includes on-site reviews by teams of executives and specialized staff.

Accreditation, as a prerequisite for membership, has been an Alliance requirement since its formation in 2000, and dates back to the late 1960s as a requirement of one of the founding associations.

Alliance Accreditation Requirement

Organizations that are already accredited may join as full “General Members” of the Alliance. Organizations not yet accredited join as Provisional Members and retain that status until they have completed accreditation.

Provisional Members are required to complete national accreditation within three years of being accepted for membership. To that end, the Alliance Membership Committee requires that Provisional Members select an accrediting body within 12 months of being approved for membership. ***However, the state requirements may differ from Alliance membership deadlines so please see information below and consult with the state for clarification.***

Accreditation Status

Please complete the following information regarding the accreditation status of your organization and submit it with your application. Please check all that apply.

Accrediting Body	Your Organization’s Accreditation Status		
<input type="checkbox"/> CARF <input type="checkbox"/> COA <input type="checkbox"/> TJC	<input type="checkbox"/> Currently accredited <input type="checkbox"/> Currently accredited <input type="checkbox"/> Currently accredited	<input type="checkbox"/> Selected and applied <input type="checkbox"/> Selected and applied <input type="checkbox"/> Selected and applied	<input type="checkbox"/> Considering <input type="checkbox"/> Considering <input type="checkbox"/> Considering

If your agency has selected an accrediting body and is in the process of becoming accredited, please complete the sentences below:

My organization’s expected start date (i.e., signed agreement and fee paid) is _____

My organization’s site visit is scheduled for _____

The target date for my organization to complete accreditation is: _____

Background/Deadlines:

FFAs:

- FFAs that were licensed prior to Jan. 1, 2017 have up to 24 months or until Dec. 31, 2018 to obtain national accreditation.
- FFAs that are newly licensed after Jan. 1, 2017 have up to 24 months from the date of licensure to obtain national accreditation.
- For FFAs that are not nationally accredited during the required time period, “DSS may revoke a FFA’s license for failure to obtain accreditation within the timeframes specified.”

(Authority Cited: Health and Safety Code 1506.1, Welfare and Institutions Code 11466.01 and the FFA Interim Licensing Standards, page 70.)

Group Homes:

- Group homes paid under the RCL system that were that were licensed prior to Jan. 1, 2017 needed to request an extension to receive the RCL rate for up to two years or until Dec. 31, 2018 under certain circumstances. Time needed to obtain national accreditation may be one of the reasons for the extension request.
- The California Department of Social Services may grant group homes an additional extension for a provisional rate beyond Dec. 31, 2018 if they meet the statutory requirements. Obtaining national accreditation is not listed as one of the reasons for an extension past Dec. 31, 2018.

(Authority Cited: Welfare and Institutions Code 11462.04 and 11466.01.)

STRTPs:

- STRTPs have up to 24 months (two years) from the date of licensure to obtain national accreditation.

(Authority Cited: ACL 16-79 page 5, Health and Safety Code 1562.01 and Welfare and Institutions Code 11466.01.)

Agency Information:

Agency Name

CEO/ED

Executive Director/CEO signature

Date